



Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Sunday, July 21, 2024

NINTH 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 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 comulgar 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 +

“The Good Shepherd”

As We Gather: Tending sheep is a mainstay occupation in many countries around the world. The American Sheep Industry Association includes more than 100,000 sheep producers from every part of the nation. Statewide associations are located across the nation from Maine to Hawaii. Some use the historic title of “wool growers” in their group name; others call themselves “Shepherds Federations.” In referring to Himself as the “Good Shepherd,” Jesus identified His ministry as one given to caring for and nurturing His precious lambs. One hymn states simply, “I am Jesus’ little lamb” (*LSB* 740:1). It is a faithful confession for people of all ages!

Prelude

Welcome

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Sanctuary, Thompson, John W. / Scruggs, Randy, © 1982 Whole Armor Music / Full Armor Publishing, CCLI
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Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, Name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
The way, the truth, and the Life,
Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.

Jesus, Name Above All Names, by Hearn, Naida. © 1974, 1978 Scripture In Song. Used by permission
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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.
- C** **We humbly confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of His creation and have not shared His bounty with others at all times. We have been heedless in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We strayed from His paths of righteousness and have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I 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.
- God of compassion, when You saw that we were like sheep without a shepherd, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to shepherd us. Keep alive in us Your spirit of compassion for the world, until all people come to know Your Shepherd's care; through the same 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

Jeremiah 23:1-6 (ESV)

¹ “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for My people: “You have scattered My flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³Then I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. ⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:13-22 (ESV)

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new Man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone, ²¹in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Holy Gospel

Mark 6:30-44 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, His disciples came to Him and said "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷But He answered them, "You give them something to eat." ³⁸And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹Then He commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.

⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And He divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Feeding The Five Thousand

tune: Kingsfold

A hungry throng, a wilderness,
A deep and gnawing need;
A single lunch from one small boy,
A crumb, a tiny seed;
But You, the Source of all, were there.
As Host, You broke the bread;
You lifted thanks, the Father blessed,
And all were richly fed.

This hungry world, this wilderness,
This deep and gnawing need;
A single Truth, a simple faith
Are such a tiny seed.
But You, the Life of All, are here,
Yourself, the Broken Bread.
You offer up Your life for all,
And all are richly fed.

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to You,
The lavish banquet spread,
The feast that satisfies the soul,
The true, eternal Bread.
With overflowing joy we dine
On life each moment new,
For all who trust will fully share
Forevermore in You!

Feeding The Five Thousand, WORDS: Ken Bible. © 2022 LNWhymns.com. Used by permission under CCLI 759893.

Creed and Luther’s Explanation

The First Article

P We have begun our worship this day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity and reflect on our confession of faith using the words written by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for Your compassion shown in Christ Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep and the righteous Son of David. Keep us trusting at all times in Your right hand, in whom true satisfaction is found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God of Israel, You promise to set caring shepherds over the sheep of Your pasture. Drive away deceitful shepherds who scatter Your flock, and gather Your sheep into Your heavenly kingdom by the hands of faithful men whom You send in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Father, in Jesus' compassion for the crowd, He provided bread and fish until all had eaten their fill and were satisfied. Give us our daily bread, according to Your will. Help us to use the gifts that You have given us to care for those who are hungry and in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly King, You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us good government and faithful rulers, while reminding us always that all provision comes from You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of compassion, we thank You for Your constant care and all we need to support this body and life. Attend to those in need among us...Free them from dismay and fear by the certainty that Christ is their righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Giver of all joy and blessing, we thank You for these good gifts celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Eternal Lord, we give thanks that You have made us fellow citizens with the saints in light. Keep us in the true faith for as long as You preserve us in this world, that we would hopefully and eagerly await the day when we stand in Your presence with them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

(11:00am 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 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

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION SONGS +

Lamb Of God

LSB550

- 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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Jesus Messiah

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **(Chorus)**

(Chorus)

**Jesus Messiah, Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from Heaven;
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **(Chorus)**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world. **(Chorus)**

Jesus Messiah, Chris Tomlin, Danielle Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves. CCLI Song #5183443 © 2008
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the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved www.ccli.com CCLI License #759893.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journey as we serve and follow our Good Shepherd faithfully all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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.)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB849

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.

Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness, Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955, Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.
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Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.

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† EXTREME TRANSFORMATION

YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT: Join us for an unforgettable evening of fun, fellowship, and transformation at our “Extreme Transformation” event! Based on Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” We’ll gather to renew our minds and spaces in preparation for the upcoming year.

 **Date:** Friday, July 26



Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Location: Community Room



Who: Youth (under 30) & Parents

Our agenda for the evening includes:



Fellowship: Connect with friends and make new ones as we work together.



Pizza Dinner and Games: Enjoy a delicious pizza feast with your church family.



Transformation: Help us “transform” the Youth and Family Room for a fresh start.

Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity to make a difference and have a blast!

† SCHOOL SUPPLIES FUNDRAISER!

The Human Care Board is raising funds and donations to give school supplies to children in our community and My Father’s House for the 2024-2025 school year. Our goal is to give 200 students school supplies this year. The donations will take place as free will offerings after church from July 7 to August 4. Here are some important dates when we will need your help:

- July 31: Wednesday at 2pm in the Community Room – Prepare bags with supplies
- August 10: Saturday from 1-3pm at the north parking lot – Hand out bags to the public

Please talk to Pastor Jim to support this much needed outreach.

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 4

Unfortunately, we must cancel our watch party on July 27. Let's get back on track for August! We will plan to watch on August 10 and 24.

† MEMORIALS

Carolyn Barendse Memorial, Saturday July 27 at 11:00am, luncheon to follow. All are invited.

† FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY AND ALL CHURCH WORSHIP

Invite your friends and family and join us Sunday, August 25 at 10:30am for our annual all church worship. A potluck lunch will follow in the Community Room. The church will provide the main course, drinks and dinnerware for all. The congregation is invited to supply their favorite sides and desserts! Remember just **ONE** service that day!

HOSPITALITY NEEDS HELPERS ON THE DAY OF THE PICNIC:

Contact the church office if you can help: Call (503) 665-8821 or email office@alcportland.org

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.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Carolyn Barendse, Karla Deal, The family of Bob Rekdahl, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Herb and Carol Hoefer, Mike Fogarty, 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.

† 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)

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Please e-mail: office@alcportland.org or call 503-665-8821

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JULY 21– SAT., JULY 27

Sunday, July 21	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Wednesday, July 24	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, July 25	6:00pm	NO Praise Team
Friday, July 26	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	5:30pm	Extreme Transformation Youth
Saturday, July 27	10:30am	NO The Chosen 4 this week
	11:00am	Carolyn Barendse Memorial

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JULY 28– SAT., AUG. 3

Sunday, July 28	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship w/ Communion
Wednesday, July 31	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	2:00pm	School Supply Preparation
Thursday, Aug. 1	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, Aug. 2	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group

† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, JULY 21– SATURDAY, JULY 27

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Gabrielle Webber	July 25	Ayde Alvarado	July 27
Jennifer Alvarado	July 27	Victor R. Alvarado	July 27
Keilynn Woods	July 27		

BIRTHDAYS:

Lorraine Haggard	July 25	Barbara Schrader	July 26
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WEDDINGS:

Chad and Audrey Zeebuyth July 26, 2003

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., JULY 21, 2024

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Marcus Young John Aden Mike Adams	Marcus Young Paul Walter
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle	J. E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Norma Dillon Jean Dillon	Margaret Hubbard Esperanza Gutierrez
Readers:	Julie Williamson	Johnnie Driessner
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Margo Bachhuber	
Flowers:	Both Services: NEEDED	
Counters:	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
Sunday School	9:45am: Carrie Graham and Michele Sprengle	

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., JULY 28, 2024

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Jim Eckart Mike Adams	Marcus Young Matthias McInaney Eric Kreps Neil Zeller
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Michele Sprengle	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier Nancy Thomas	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Bonnie Webber
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Karen Zahursky	
Flowers:	Both Services: Gertrud Bublies	
Counters:	Both Services: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson	
Sunday School	9:45am: Hana Brandt and Gina Kreps	

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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