

The Acts of Ascension



Through
My
Window

By: Pastor
Jim Sprengle



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

“²⁵ I have become [the Church’s] servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ,” (Colossians 1:25-28, NIVO).

I recently attended a retreat for Northwest District Circuit Visitors. We spent two days together addressing a number of topics that affect congregations throughout Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. During our time together, several pastors presented on Paul’s letter to the Colossians. A theme emerged that we might miss without someone bringing it to our attention: Christ in you. As Jesus became both God and human (flesh and blood), He bridged the gap between heaven and earth. God was no longer a far off, spiritual Being, but lived among us. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that same Jesus is in us – continually forgiving and blessing us with His presence. All this is to say that our everyday lives matter to God as we live them out with the presence of Jesus in us. Martin Luther especially encouraged Christians to remember their vocations (as parents, children, workers, etc.) are ways that we can share the love of Christ and make His presence known to the world around us.

How does the presence of Christ in you change the way you think about today? Where is God calling you to join Him as His instruments of good, of change, of mercy? How does it make you feel that God has chosen you, forgiven you, and empowers you? So, as you go about the ordinary work of each day, remember the extraordinary mystery: Christ in you.

Blessings,

Pr Jim

¡Gracia y paz a ustedes, de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo!

“²⁵ De ésta llegué a ser servidor [La Iglesia] según el plan que Dios me encomendó para ustedes: el dar cumplimiento a la palabra de Dios, ²⁶ anunciando el misterio que se ha mantenido oculto por siglos y generaciones, pero que ahora se ha manifestado a sus santos. ²⁷ A éstos Dios se propuso dar a conocer cuál es la gloriosa riqueza de este misterio entre las naciones, que es Cristo en ustedes, la esperanza de gloria. ²⁸ A este Cristo proclamamos, aconsejando y enseñando con toda sabiduría a todos los seres humanos, para presentarlos a todos perfectos en él,” (Colosenses 1:25-28, NVI).

Recientemente asistí a un retiro para los Visitadores de Circuito del Distrito del Noroeste. Pasamos dos días juntos tratando diversos temas que afectan a las congregaciones de Alaska, Washington, Oregón e Idaho. Durante nuestro tiempo juntos, varios pastores hicieron presentaciones sobre la carta de San Pablo a los Colosenses. Surgió un tema que fácilmente podríamos pasar por alto si nadie nos lo señalara: Cristo en ustedes.

Al hacerse Jesús verdadero Dios y verdadero hombre, de carne y hueso, Él unió el cielo y la tierra. Dios ya no era un Ser espiritual lejano, sino que vino a habitar entre nosotros. Ahora, por el poder del Espíritu Santo, ese mismo Jesús está en nosotros, perdonándonos continuamente y bendiciéndonos con Su presencia. Todo esto quiere decir que nuestra vida cotidiana le importa a Dios, porque la vivimos con la presencia de Jesús en nosotros. Martín Lutero animaba especialmente a los cristianos a recordar que nuestras vocaciones, como padres, hijos, trabajadores y muchas otras, son maneras en las que podemos compartir el amor de Cristo y hacer visible Su presencia en el mundo que nos rodea.

¿Cómo cambia la presencia de Cristo en ustedes la manera en que piensan acerca del día de hoy?

¿Dónde los está llamando Dios a servir como Sus instrumentos de bien, de cambio y de misericordia?

¿Qué significa para ustedes saber que Dios los ha escogido, los ha perdonado y les da poder para servir? Así que, mientras realizan las tareas ordinarias de cada día, recuerden este misterio extraordinario: Cristo en ustedes.

Bendiciones,

Pr Jim



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Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Web site:

www.alcportland.org

Our Mission Statement:

Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement:

Take part...

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FAITH

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Mount Vernon, Washington, is celebrating a remarkable milestone—100 years of “Generations of Faith”!

The celebration begins September 13, 2026, with the first of four special events taking place throughout the year. It promises to be a joyful and memorable year as Trinity celebrates a century of God’s faithfulness and the generations of people who have been part of its story. The festivities will include a special reception in Trinity’s Fellowship Hall.

Do you have a connection to Trinity’s history? Perhaps a relative was a founding member, helped establish a ministry, or played a role in constructing one of Trinity’s buildings. We would love to hear your story!



NewsLetter
DEADLine

Thursday, Sept. 24

**Please submit
 articles on time.**

PASTOR'S REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

- None to report

Marriages –

- Barbara Wheeler and Nate Williams, wedding date TBA

Baptisms –

- Teresa Morgan, Sunday, 9/6

Transfers, New Members, etc. –

- None to report

Latino Membership –

- Hana Brandt was commissioned and installed as Deaconess, Lutheran Latino Ministries at a service on August 9 at 3pm. Ascension will not be her supervising entity, but she will continue serving in her current capacity as a volunteer for Youth and Family Board and Sunday school. Congratulations, Hana!

Circuit Visitor Info –

- Immanuel, Hood River – Pastor Luke Shirley from Faith, The Dalles, will fill in on Sundays while Immanuel calls a new pastor
- Immanuel, Sandy / Peace, Estacada [Dual Parish] – Reverend Michael Hahn was installed Saturday, August 22 by President Michael Von Behren
- Holy Cross, Portland – Pr Larry Locke is continuing the vacancy duties as the congregation seeks different options for calling a pastor. They are considering possibilities of a dual parish agreement or working with other congregations to share pastoral responsibilities
- Trinity, Oregon City – Various pastors rotating to cover services
 - ◇ The call issued on June 28 was returned, so Trinity will seek more candidates to interview in order to call another pastor

Miscellaneous –

• Safety Committee

- ◇ Randy Bryant is leading a Safety Committee to review procedures, training, and building design for Ascension
- ◇ A draft emergency quick reference guide is in progress, which will include color coded references to quickly find

information on procedures and phone numbers during a variety of emergencies (e.g., fires, medical, disruptions)

• Wyatt Brown (seminarian)

- ◇ Wyatt did exceptionally well in his summer Greek class
- ◇ Wyatt went through new student orientation on August 21, and his fall classes began on August 24
- ◇ Continue to pray for Wyatt's formation at Seminary, along with Katherine to adjust to their new area

• Property Management

- ◇ After receiving several bids for concrete under the shelter of the old playground area, we are looking into other options for this space
 - * The most practical use of this area is a gravel lot for overflow parking
 - * The space could still be used for tables, chairs, and gatherings outside, but the costs associated with covering the space with concrete, landscaping tiles, or other materials become very high
 - * We are seeking a bid to determine the cost of making the area compacted gravel that could double as a gathering area for outdoor church activities and overflow parking when needed
- ◇ Energy Trust of Oregon approved our application for LED lighting, and Cox Electric installed many new light fixtures throughout the church
 - * The fixtures are motion activated, so leaving the lights on is no longer a problem, and when you walk into the room the lights will turn on automatically
 - * The entire project was no cost to us!
- ◇ A work party is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, from 9am-noon - rain or shine
 - * Many bushes and trees need trimming, so be prepared for outside work if possible

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

Scott Fabbri	Sept. 1
Teresa Morgan	Sept. 7
Kaye Beaulieu	Sept. 9
Dustin Schaffer	Sept. 9
Peggy Hall	Sept. 11
Kysa Schaefer	Sept. 11
Jonathan Mundo	Sept. 12
Karen Zahursky	Sept. 14
Josie Latter	Sept. 16
Whitney Latter	Sept. 16
Chenery Whittier	Sept. 17
Stan Chapulis	Sept. 18
Paul Walter	Sept. 18
Heather Gulde	Sept. 21
Norma Dillon	Sept. 22
Olive Sylvia	Sept. 24
Arielle Reinert	Sept. 25

*God's blessings to all who are celebrating special days in September.
Did we miss your special date?
Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!*

SEPTEMBER

Baptisms

Karen Arronson	Sept. 1
Taylor Osgood	Sept. 3
Barbara Conway	Sept. 9
Karen Rivera	Sept. 9
Jim Eckart	Sept. 10
Jonathan Mundo	Sept. 14
Chenery Whittier	Sept. 18
Carlyn Staudt	Sept. 19
Avi Ritchie	Sept. 20
Grace Fogarty	Sept. 25
Norma Dillon	Sept. 26
Kysa Schaefer	Sept. 27

SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

Larry and Janice Hart	Sept. 3, 1961
Wayne and Debbie Noonan	Sept. 7, 1979
Joe and Rosemary Knox	Sept. 23, 1989
Mark and Cynthia Jacobsen	Sept. 23, 1985
Tom and Barbara Patch	Sept. 25, 1971
Tyler and Keilah Woods	Sept. 26, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7 (Mon) — **Labor Day**—Office Closed

OCTOBER

Oct. 4 (Sun) — **LWML Sunday**
 Oct. 11 (Sun) — **Stewardship Sunday**
 Oct. 18 (Sun) — **Commitment Sunday**
 Oct. 25 (Sun) — **Reformation Sunday**
 (observed)

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1 (Sun) — **All Saints' Day**
 Nov. 25 (Wed) — **Thanksgiving Eve Service**
 (7:00pm)
 Nov. 26 (Thu) — **Thanksgiving Day**—Office Closed
 Nov. 29 (Sun) — **First Sunday in Advent**

DECEMBER

Dec. 3, 9, 16 (Wed) — **Midweek Service**
 (3:30 and 7:00pm)
 Dec. 24 (Thu) — **Christmas Eve** (7:00pm)
 Dec. 25 (Fri) — **Christmas Day** (10:00am)
 Dec. 31 (Thu) — **New Year's Eve** (7pm)

2026 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY





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)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Jaimie Bailey, Heather Gulde, Carolyn Shore, Mark (a friend of the Bryant's), Jim Eckart, Donald (David Grisham's brother), Aaryan (Chenery Whittier's son), Diana (sister-in-law of Randy Bryant), Riki Neagle, Gina Kreps, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

PRAY FOR OUR STAFF AND SERVANTS

Please remember to keep Pastor Jim and Michele, Brad and Jessica, Carrie, Ruberto and Colleen, and their families in your daily prayers. May the Lord strengthen and encourage them in their service, bless their families with peace and joy, and keep them rooted in His Word and love.

We give You thanks for the faithful hands and hearts of all who serve in Your church. Bless the workers in our congregation—the volunteers and leaders—who give their time, energy, and love to care for Your people. Strengthen them in their tasks, refresh them when they are weary, and remind them that their service is pleasing in Your sight. May their work bring glory to Your name and joy to those they serve. Keep them always rooted in Your Word and filled with the hope of Christ, in whose name we pray.

GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC

There are a number of ways to get involved in music here at Ascension. Have you ever wanted to learn or revisit the basics of music? Perhaps you wanted to learn how to sing with the choir, play handbells, learn the piano, organ, or some other instrument? We have many opportunities to join in.

- Choir practices are Thursday at 7:00pm, generally from September through June each year. Our first practice of this season is on Thursday, Sept. 3. If you want to join just show up!
- Handbells are each Sunday after late worship in the choir loft. Talk to Brad Hall if you are interested.

If you would like to be a part of any musical opportunities, please see or contact Brad Hall (503) 201-2129 for more information.





OREGON DISTRICT NEWS

Your Mite Offerings at Work

July 2026 - June 2028

LWML Oregon District Mission Grants, approved at our June 2026 Convention:

1. Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children, \$6,000
2. To Produce Supplies for Large Print Bibles & Christian Materials, \$6,500
3. Assisting LCMS Women to Attend LWML Oregon District Conventions & Retreats, \$3,500
4. Giving Greater Honor for the Least of These: Caring for People with Developmental Disabilities in the Dominican Republic, \$6,500
5. CTSFW Food Co-op to Purchase Coolers to Store Food for Seminary Students, \$6,500
6. Sowing the Seed in the Online World, \$5,500.
7. Prayer and Service: Support for Deaconesses, \$6,500
8. Gospel Access for Aging Adults, \$4,000
9. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreats, \$6,500
10. Project "Go" Share Jesus, \$5,000
11. Nourishing the Bodies and Souls of Children in Haiti-Trinity HOPE, \$6,000
12. Training Servant Leaders in Mission-Most Ministries, \$3,500



NOTE: Further descriptions of these Grants are posted on Ascension's LWML Bulletin Board at the Southeast entry to Ascension's Community Room.



LWML-OD Convention 2026 OFFERINGS:

1. Friday evening Service (Mites portion)	\$ 670.67
Offering #1 – Mites.....	\$ 2,484.41
Mite Walk / monies applied to 2026–2028 biennium.....	\$ 885.00
Purple Elephant Table / for 2026–2028 biennium.....	\$ 654.55
Sub TOTAL – MITES collected at Convention:	\$ 4,694.63
Other – Direct Offerings, to specific Ministries:	
2. Angels of Africa offering.....	\$ 1,533.00
3. Bethesda Lutheran Disabilities Ministries	\$ 1,655.00
Sub TOTAL – Specific Ministries:	\$ 3,188.00

Total Convention Offerings

\$7,882.63

Plan Ahead Upcoming LWML Meetings and Events

Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 - ALC LWML Group Meeting – **10am to Noon** - Ascension's Community Room.

Saturday, Oct. ?, 2026 Date to Be Announced– Mt. Hood Zone Fall Gathering at Trinity LCMS, Oregon City. **Times TBA** as soon as it is received. Ingathering items requested are for LOVE INC's shoe ministry for school kids (all sizes), or cash donations. Weather permitting, we will be exploring Trinity's trail park and doing a Bible Study there.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026 – LWML Sunday Services, and Fundraiser after services. Please donate baked goods (pre-priced) and small (gently used) items for our "Blessings Tables" that people can donate to LWML Mites and take the item home with them. We'll set up and advise you of some 'drop-off' times on the prior Saturday, or you can bring your donated items before church services.

Saturday, December 5, 2026 – Ascension's Community Room – Ladies Christmas Gathering – **10am to Noon**. Bring a snack or treat to share if you are able. We will also have a "\$10 or under" Gift exchange (or it can be a nearly new White Elephant Gift) for those who would like to participate in that. We'll have some fun too!

**All women in the Congregation are welcome to attend any of our functions;
bring your daughter and or a friend if you like!**

We appreciate all Mites and donations that our ladies AND gentlemen provide!!! THANK YOU ALL!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

God's Gifts to Us...Our Lives to Him



On Sunday, October 18, we will dedicate our commitments to the Lord, placing them in the offering chest on the altar. These commitments are not for others to see, but between you and God alone. If you can't attend that service, you may bring or send your commitment form any time before or after. Look for them in printed form on the table as you leave the Narthex and through email a couple weeks prior to Commitment Sunday.

May God grant us faith to trust His provision and the courage to serve Him boldly in this season of blessing.

Answering God's Call

Michael Hahn is installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sandy. Pastor Jim is pictured reading a blessing to Pastor Hahn.



Wyatt Brown has begun his studies at Concordia Seminary, and he has already conquered one of the first big hurdles of seminary life, "Summer of Greek"!

After successfully completing this challenging course, Wyatt joined his classmates in a time-honored seminary tradition by jumping into the Seminary fountain together!

Congratulations, Wyatt, on this accomplishment! We pray God's continued blessings upon you as you begin this exciting journey of preparation for the ministry.



Hana Brandt was installed as a Deaconess serving Lutheran Latino Ministries on Sunday, Aug. 9. The service and reception took place at Ascension. We wish Hana great success as she serves God in this calling.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Can you see me now? Cox Electric has replaced most of the fluorescent tube fixtures in the building with new LED fixtures. We expect the conversion to be completed in September as we are waiting on the rest of the fixtures to get in stock. The new fixtures will be able to turn on/off automatically and can be controlled with a phone app. There were also 2 security lights that are attached to the building upgraded to LED. This is a direct result of the money that is paid by us through our electric bills to Energy Trust of Oregon program and redirected to us through one of their grants.

A work party has been scheduled for September 12 from 9:00am to noon. The plan is to work outdoors to prepare the grounds for fall/winter. There are several trees that need trimming – including one that is blocking the “no parking” sign in front of the building. The arborvitaes in the south parking lot desperately need trimming also along with the berry vines on the south side fence. Also, on the “wish list”, is cleaning the outside of the windows – especially the ones on the east wall of the church.

The 3 toilets in two bathrooms have been replaced with 19” toilets. Two of the toilets that were removed were placed in a bathroom in basement and are waiting to be installed. If you are able/willing to perform this “throne” duty, feel free to reach out to me. The wax rings and new supply lines are waiting with the toilets. The 3rd toilet that was in the men’s room was disposed of as it was broken.

The Shredding Event that was held on August 1st and we filled about a quarter of the truck. Cars lined up to dispose of their bags and boxes of paper for shredding. The Christian Outreach Board which set up a table and we had about 3 cars from the community participate in the event and some people from the park next door come visit.

The old blue LW Hymnals are located under the mailboxes. Please feel free to take one if you so desire.

We have a lot of old and unwanted electronics all around the building. We are in the process of collecting it all and trying to dispose of it. There are old computers, monitors, A/V equipment, etc. If you are interested in any of it or know of a place we can dispose of it, please let us know.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has been able to put in the man power, time and funds to help us be good stewards of what God has given us!!

In His Service,

Laura Potter
Property
Management Chair



Help us on our next work day! Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

SEPTEMBER 2026 SERVANTS

Sept.	6	13	20	27
	Early Communion	Late Communion	Early Communion	Late Communion
ACOLYTE ELDER	Elder: 8:30 Randy Schroeder 11:00 John Hazen Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Herb Hoefler Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: 8:30 Bruce Blubaum 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 Randy Schroeder Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED
USHERS	8:30—Communion 1-John Aden 2-Mike Adams 11:00 1-Rich Bartell 2- NEEDED	8:30 1-Stan Chapulis 2- NEEDED 11:00—Communion 1-Rich Bartell 2-Matthias McInaney	8:30—Communion 1-Mike Adams 2-John Aden 11:00 1-Don Brown 2-Marcus Young	8:30 1-Duke Sheppard 2-Bryant Sheppard 11:00—Communion 1-Rich Bartell 2-Jae Evans
AV & PP	A/V: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Jae Evans PowerPoint: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 Caleb Zeebuyth	A/V: 8:30 Teresa Osgood 11:00 Luke Hodges PowerPoint: 8:30 Tom Osgood 11:00 Alex Hodges	A/V: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 J. E. Knox PowerPoint: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 Rosemary Knox	A/V: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter PowerPoint: 8:30 Debbie Rekdahl 11:00 John Hazen
READERS GREETERS	Greeters: 8:30 Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber 11:00 Riki Neagle Reader: 8:30 Karon Keup 11:00 J. E. Knox	Greeters: 8:30 Millie Edwards 11:00 Sue Lewis Reader: 8:30 Joann Schulz 11:00 Peggy Hall	Greeters: 8:30 Sheryl Maier 11:00 Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard Reader: 8:30 Sue Rotramel 11:00 Rich Bartell	Greeters: 8:30 Nancy Thomas 11:00 Heather Gulde Reader: 8:30 Carlyn Staudt 11:00 Mark Wheeler
COUNTERS FLOWERS ALTAR	Altar: Wendy Hazen Flowers: Sheryl Maier Counters: Sandy Kirchner and Cindy Reinert Sunday School: Audrey and Cynthia	Altar: Margo Bachhuber Flowers: Margo Bachhuber Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier Sunday School: Carrie and Carolyn	Altar: Barb Cochran Flowers: Klara Schmidt Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie Sunday School: Carolyn and Gina	Altar: Jan Oswald Flowers: NEEDED Counters: Stan Chapulis and Lottie Guericke Sunday School: Carrie and Carolyn

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00pm Elder Meeting	2	3 1:00pm Human Care Board Meeting 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	4	5 10:00am-12:00pm LVMIL Group Meeting
6 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	7 Labor Day 1:00pm NO Stewardship Board Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine OFFICE CLOSED	8 2:00pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm Council Meeting	9	10 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	11	12 9:00pm-12:00pm Church Work Party
13 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	14 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine	15	16	17 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	18	19
20 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	21 1:00pm Altar Guild Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine	22	23	24 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	25	26 8:00am Iron Men Devotion
27 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	28 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine	29	30			