



# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sermon Series ~ Mosaic - The Christian Life

Sunday, August 1, 2021

## Sermon Series for August 2021

### Mosaic – The Christian Life

**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!

**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 Lord's 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 Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians, (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine, (3) confess and repent of one's 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 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 ✠

### **Mosaic – The Christian Life**

Mosaics are a form of art that date back thousands of years. During a trip to the Holy Land, our group saw a number of large mosaics that formed beautiful scenes. Mosaics are usually made with small tiles or broken bits that, when put together in the right way, form something beautiful. Each person in the body of Christ is a small piece in a much larger scene. As we look at God's work in the end, we will see a beautiful picture made up of many pieces. Join us each Sunday in August as we examine the important pieces that make up our individual Christian life, and our place in the bigger picture of God's work in the body of Christ.

### **THE WORD**

**Theme: "Wise for Salvation"**

**As we gather:** The Word of God is central to our lives as Christians. The Word is God's way of revealing Himself to us. One way to describe God's Word is "performative." This means the Word is able to bring about tangible results in the lives of people, including bringing them to faith. As we spend time in God's Word, whether it be in personal Bible study, listening intently in worship, or small group Bible study, God is bringing about His will and work in our lives. We begin this sermon series with the Word of God and it's emphasis on Jesus Christ, the Good News of our salvation that is proclaimed and promised!

### **PRELUDE**

**"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

**"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"**

Herb and Carol Hoefer, Carlyn Staudt, Brad Hall, quartet

### **WELCOME**

## HYMN

### “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:6–10

- P** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,  
**C** **we lie and do not practice the truth.**
- P** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,  
**C** **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** If we say we have not sinned,  
**C** **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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, we thank you for the gift of Your Holy Word. May it be a lamp to our feet, a light to our paths, and strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve all people in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## PREPARATION TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

### “Thy Word”

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid,  
Think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear,  
As long as You are near;  
Please be near me to the end. **(chorus)**

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet,  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide,  
And hold me to Your side,  
And I will love You to the end. **(chorus)**

You're the light ----- unto ----- my path.

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:8-11 (ESV)

(God's Word goes out to accomplish His purpose)

<sup>8</sup> For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4 (ESV)

(Paul encourages Timothy, a pastor in the Church)

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. <sup>4:1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprenkle

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

(tune: “A Mighty Fortress”)

God’s Word is our great heritage,  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 1:1-5; 14 (ESV)**

(Jesus the Messiah is the Word)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN

### “Thy Strong Word”

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

**SERMON      "PROPHETS AND LOSSES"      2 Timothy 3:14-4:4**  
**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.)*

**(8:30)**

### **“Near to the Heart Of God”**

Herb and Carol Hoefler, Carlyn Staudt, Brad Hall, quartet

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

Eternal Father, O God our Creator and Redeemer, we thank You that You have drawn us to Yourself by the power of Your Word and our Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord. For Your promises of life and salvation, we give You praise and adoration as our God and Lord. Keep us in steady faith in You, guide our steps in the ways of Your life-giving Word, and make us to be ever more Your people of hope, love, and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord Jesus, grant to all servants of Your Word attentive hearts to listen to Your voice as they speak Your Word among people who do not yet know how much You love them. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We pray for the ill, the suffering, and all who mourn...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We pray for those who are celebrating...Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

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

**C** **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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.**

*(11:00am service, please turn to page 13 for the Benediction)*

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ  
in Holy Communion. Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness  
of all our sins.**

## 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

*(Jesus instituted, or established the Lord's Supper for us; 1Cor  
11:23-26; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20)*

## **PAX DOMINI**

*(Latin for "Peace of the Lord" - the response is, "Amen!", or "So be it!")*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **DISTRIBUTION SONGS**

### **"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

**(chorus)**

**When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (chorus)

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (chorus)

### **"Feed Us Now"**

Feed us now Bread of Life, In this holy meal  
Let us know Your love anew, We hunger for You.  
Feed us now Bread of Life, Come and live within  
Let Your peace be ours today, Lord Jesus we pray.

Piece of bread glass of wine, Lord this food is good  
Love and mercy come to us, Your promise we trust.  
Piece of bread glass of wine, Who can understand  
How His mercy works in these, Yet Lord we believe.

God is here, O so near, Nearer than our thoughts  
Stay with us where'er we go, Lord help us to grow.  
God is here O so near, In this heaven's meal  
May we always feed on You, On the Bread that is true.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
*Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## HYMN "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshipped here  
May all at last in Heav'n appear.



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## DISMISSAL

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS August 1, 2021

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## † WORSHIP AND A PICNIC LUNCH, SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, AUG. 29

Invite your friends and family to join us for worship and a picnic lunch in our **new Community Room**.

- **ONE** Church Service at 10:30 a.m. (in the sanctuary)
- Potluck Picnic in the Community Room will follow at about noon
- And...Brad will lead us in a sing-a-long!

Crispy fried chicken, drinks, and chips will be supplied. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to bring a main dish or salad or dessert to share.

Contact Margo Bachhuber or Debbie Rekdahl to volunteer for any of the following:

- One or two people to set up and lead outside games and prizes for the children
- People to set up the Community Room
- People to clean up the Community Room and Kitchen

Join us for worship and fellowship with friends, family, and good food.

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## † MILESTONES

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### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Travis Osgood	8/1	Barbara Schrader	8/5
Ashley Swanson	8/5	Tristan Swanson-Cromwell	8/5
Douglas Whittier	8/7	Trever Fogarty	8/1

### BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Osgood	8/2	Will Teyema	8/2
Jim Eckart	8/5	Trever Fogarty	8/6
Barbara Lewis	8/7		

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Eric and Celia Kreps	Aug 1, 1998
Karla and Tim Deal	Aug 4, 1979
Bill and Sylvia Guthrie	Aug 6, 1959

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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE Today, Aug. 1, 2021**

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	<u>8:30am</u>	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Eckart	<b><i>Can you help?</i></b>
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz (sound)	J.E. Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Elizabeth Alvarado/ Margo Bachhuber	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Readers:</b>	Karla Deal	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Altar Circle:</b>	Both Services	Margo Bachhuber
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bonnie Webber/ Rebecca Williamson
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	None

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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021**

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	<u>8:30am</u>	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Herb Hoefler	Bob Ritchie (WA)
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Matthias McInaney
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Taylor Osgood	Riki Neagle
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Teresa Osgood	Riki Neagle (Sound)
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sue Lewis/ Heather Gulde	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Readers:</b>	Travis Osgood	J. E. Knox
<b>Altar Circle:</b>	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Karon Keup / Sheryl Maier
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	None

**† PRAYER NEEDS?**

Contact the church office with any requests at 503-665-8821 or e-mail: [office@alcpportland.org](mailto:office@alcpportland.org)

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Ray Brown, Elly Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Bonnie Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Julie Williamson, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Sylvia Guthrie, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez,

Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, Rich Zahursky, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Dale Porath. \*Home Bound.

### **† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:**

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);

Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of Carrie Graham);

Alex Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Washington (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

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

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Air Force – Yokota AFB Japan (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION**

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### **THIS WEEK – August 1–7**

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#### **Sunday, August 1**

8:30am      Worship with Communion

9:45am      Adult Education

11:00am     Worship

6:00pm      Online Worship Posted

#### **Tuesday, August 4**

6:00pm      Elder Meeting

#### **Wednesday, August 4**

7:00pm      Online Bible Study Posted

#### **Friday, July 30**

6:30pm      Noche Familiar

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## **NEXT WEEK – August 8–14**

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### **Sunday, August 8**

- 8:30am      Worship
- 9:45am      Adult Education
- 11:00am    Worship with Communion
- 6:00pm      Online Worship Posted

### **Tuesday, August 10**

- 6:00pm      Church Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, August 11**

- 7:00pm      Online Bible Study Posted

### **Friday, August 13**

- 6:30pm      Noche Familiar

# STAFF

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**  
pastor@alcportland.org

**Ruberto Ek Yah, Vicar**  
vicar@alcportland.org

**Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator**  
worship@alcportland.org

**Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator**  
office@alcportland.org

**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers**  
treasurer@alcportland.org

**Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary**  
council@alcportland.org

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233  
Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750  
Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://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.