

John came as a witness,  
to bear witness  
about the Light

John 1:7



Ascension Lutheran Church

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

Sunday, December 17, 2023

## Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023

**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 comulgan 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 +

### Theme: “Not an Impersonator!”

**As We Gather:** “Advent” literally means “coming.” This sacred season is for the purpose of Jesus coming to us and coming for us. As we count down the days until Christmas, our hearts are getting ready to celebrate Jesus’ initial arrival, His first advent, when He entered into our world as the babe of Bethlehem. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for His second advent, His final coming, when He will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead and to give eternal life to all who trust in Him. Our Readings for today remind us of the special ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God’s plan to save the world; no, John’s life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to save us. In many ways, we are invited to be like John: to trust in Jesus, our Savior and King, and then let the world know He is coming to the rescue of His people.

### Prelude

## Welcome

### The Advent Of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.
  - 2 The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.
  - 3 O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.
  - 4 As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- △ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

The Advent Of Our King, Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt., Text: Public domain

### Invocation

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

### Opening Sentences

Psalms 40:1–3

- P** I waited patiently for the LORD;
- C** He inclined to me and heard my cry.

**P** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
**C** **and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

**P** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
**C** **Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

**P** That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.” Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### **+ Lighting Of The Advent Candles +**

#### **The Candle Of JOY**

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today, we light three candles. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of peace. Today, we light the candle of joy. One thing that sometimes happens as we get ready to celebrate Jesus’ birth is that we expect to be happy all the time. Joy is not the same as happiness. True joy is found only in God, a gift from Him that helps us know that He loves and cares for us. Joy is remembering that God sent Jesus

to redeem us and draw us to Him because of His great love for us. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know the joy that gift brings to all people. When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy. God promised to send a Savior to the people. Today, we will read from the Gospel of John. In the Scripture, we read that John was sent by God not to be the light, but to testify to the light. This reminds us that Jesus brings light to the world. And where there is light, there is joy and peace and assurance. When the world seems dark, scary, and frightening, we are reminded that Jesus brings light, and that brings joy.

## Light One Candle

**Light one candle for *hope*,  
one bright candle for *hope*,  
He brings *hope* to ev'ry heart,  
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for *peace*,  
one bright candle for *peace*,  
He brings *peace* to ev'ry heart,  
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for *joy*,  
one bright candle for *joy*,  
He brings *joy* to ev'ry heart,  
He comes! He comes!**

Light One Candle, Text: Natalie Sleeth, 1930-92. Copyright © 1976, Hinshaw Music, Inc. All rights reserved.  
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## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers.  
Embolden our witness to the true light that overcomes our  
darkness; for You live and reign with the Father 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 61:1-3, 10-11 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. . .

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful  
headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

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

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

## Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

## Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (ESV)

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

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." <sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

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



## **Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered**

### **Sing Praise to the God of Israel**

- 1 Sing praise to the God of Israel!  
Sing praise for His visitation!  
Redeeming His people from their sin,  
Accomplishing their salvation,  
Upraising a mighty horn within  
The house of His servant David!
  
- 2 God spoke by the prophets long ago,  
His promise on oath recalling—  
To Abraham made in former years:  
Of vanquishing foes appalling,  
That those He delivered from their fears  
Might gladly and truly serve Him.
  
- 3 You, child, will go on before the Lord  
As prophet, His way preparing;  
To speak on behalf of God Most High,  
His counsel of truth declaring:  
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby  
Iniquity is forgiven.

Sing Praise to the God of Israel, Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955, Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin.  
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**Sermon**  
“A JOYFUL WITNESS”

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **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.)*

**(8:30)**

#### **“The Coming of the Lord”**

words and music by Pepper Choplin

#### **Ascension Choir**

*Lift up your heads, O gates, and make the highway straight,  
Prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord.  
Your waiting soon will end, God’s glory will descend,  
Rise up and welcome in the coming of the Lord!*

*Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!  
The ancient words foretell, God with us, He will dwell,  
Christ, our Emmanuel, and all will see the glory of the Lord!*

*(O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.)*

*And then the deaf will hear, the blind will see Him clear,  
The mute will find their voice, the lame will leap for joy,  
Prepare the way of the coming of the Lord!  
Prepare the way of the Lord! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, our God will  
come to us.*

*Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!*

The Coming Of The Lord, © Copyright 2010 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. Used by permission under OneLicense #A-729093 All rights reserved.

### **Prayer of the Church**      1 Thessalonians 5:16–17; Psalm 105:1–4

**P** Because it is our Father’s will for His children to pray, let us “rejoice always, pray without ceasing,” giving thanks in all circumstances.

**P** Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Great Physician of body and soul, take great care of all those who are suffering in physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships. Comfort Your people who are sad and lonely. Warm all troubled hearts with the assurance of Your never-failing presence. Grant wholeness and healing to those in need, *especially*...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for Your goodness and for those things celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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 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 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**

- 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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### **Be Unto Your Name**

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time,  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

### **Chorus**

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain,  
Highest praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name, Be unto Your name.**

We are the broken, You are the healer,  
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save,  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name. **(chorus x2)**

Be Unto Your Name, Gary Sadler | Lynn DeShazo. CCLI Song # 2177476© 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music  
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## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

1 Thess. 5:16-18

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, Your Word says to us: "Rejoice always, pray  
without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

**C** **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."**

**P** We joyfully give You thanks for the blessings offered to us in the  
body and blood of our Savior.

**C** **May we go forth to witness to others of the wonders He has  
done!**

**P** We pray in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ, who lives  
and reigns with the Father 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## Announcements

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

## Hark The Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

Hark The Glad Sound, Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, Text: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God!

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 17, 2023

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## † ADVENT DINNER WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

Dinners at 6:00pm followed by worship at 7pm. Dec. 20 is Mexican potluck. Bring an item to share.

## † JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Everyone is invited to join us December 17 in singing Christmas carols and sharing the love of Jesus to those who may not be able get out and enjoy the season. We will meet in the narthex following the late service. You can let Brad Hall know if you will be able to attend at: [worship@alcportland.org](mailto:worship@alcportland.org) or call the church office at: 503-995-8821.

## † CRAFT DAY STOCKING STUFFING

Wednesday Dec. 20 at 2:00pm all are welcome to help stuff the stockings for My Fathers House!

## † WOMEN'S RETREAT! HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

Sign up right away as registrations are coming to an end! Seaside Oregon Beach Retreat, 2937 Sunset Blvd., Seaside, OR, the driveway is in the back of the house. Join us Friday, Jan. 12 through Sunday, Jan 14, 2024. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Space is limited to 14 participants. Talk to Jan Oswald for more details.

## † OUTREACH HOT CHOCOLATE AND DONUTS!

Saturday, Dec. 23 the Outreach board will be handing out hot chocolate and donuts in the parking lot between 8:30 and 11:00am! Want to help? Email the office at: [office@alcportland.org](mailto:office@alcportland.org)

## † 2024 FLOWER CHART

The 2024 Flower Chart is up and waiting for you to choose your special day. Check out the new chart across from the mailboxes and pick your date early!

## † CHRISTMAS CHORALE-YOU ARE INVITED!

**Concordia University Alumni and Friends Christmas Chorale**

**WHEN:** Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. *And you can join! Practices will take place Friday, Dec. 15, 7-10 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 16, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.*

**WHERE:** St. Michael's Lutheran Church: 6700 NE 29th Ave., Portland, OR 97211 (across from Concordia's former campus)

**WHO:** Concordia alumni and friends are welcome to participate. Everyone is invited to attend the event!



## † MAILBOXES

Mailboxes for members and regular attenders are available! If you are not sure if you have one, check the list on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes, to see if you are listed. If you need one, let the office know. Please check your mailbox often.

## † PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail: office@alcpportland.org or call 503-665-8821.

## † PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

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

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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 2023

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	8:30am	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Bruce Blubaum	Dan Parshall
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis Randy Schroeder	Marcus Young <b>NEEDED</b>
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Rebecca Williamson	Rosemary Knox
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	Michele Sprengle
<b>Greeters:</b>	Norma Dillon Jean Dillon	Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard
<b>Readers:</b>	Carlyn Staudt	J. E. Knox
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:45am</b>	Carrie Graham and Michele Sprengle

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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

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<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Randy Schroeder
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Stan Chapulis
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Rosemary Knox	Rosemary Knox
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	J. E. Knox	J. E. Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Readers:</b>	Karon Keup	
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Wendy Hazen and Debbie Rekdahl
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Altar Guild
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

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## EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 17 – SAT., DEC. 23

<b>Sunday, Dec. 17</b>	8:30am	Worship with Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 19</b>	6:00pm	3:10 Group
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 20</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together – Stuffing Christmas stockings
	3:30pm	Midweek Advent 3 Worship
	6:00pm	Advent Dinner- Mexican Food Potluck
	7:00pm	Midweek Advent 3 Worship
<b>Thursday, Dec. 21</b>		Newsletter items Due
	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Dec. 22</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group
<b>Saturday, Dec. 23</b>	8:30am	Outreach Event – Donuts and hot Chocolate handout
<b>Sunday School</b>	9:45am	Carrie Graham and Michele Sprengle

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**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., DEC. 24 – SAT., DEC. 30**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 24</b>	11:00am	Worship with Communion
Christmas Eve	1:00pm	Spanish Christmas Eve Worship
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
<b>Monday, Dec. 25</b>	10:00am	Christmas Worship
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 27</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, Dec. 28</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Dec. 29</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group

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**† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, DEC. 17 – SATURDAY, DEC. 23**

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**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:**

Sean Ritchie	Dec. 17	Linda Tatum	Dec. 21
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**BIRTHDAYS:**

Jerry Bangs	Dec. 21	Brandy Weber	Dec. 21
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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

None

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The family of Judy Blubaum, The family of Miki Etzel, The family of Audrey Bauch, Karla Deal, Jim Eckart, Carol Hoefler, Jordan Saunders, Gina Kreps, Cindy Linnemann, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Alma Bangs, Randy Bryant's brother, Eileen Hatley, Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Kevin McInaney, \*Larry Hart, \*Mike Hatley, \*Lorraine Haggard, \*Carolyn Barendse, \*Home Bound.

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · 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.

## **STAFF**

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**  
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**Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**  
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