

The Acts of Ascension



Through My Window

By: Pastor Jim Sprengle



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

As we begin a new year together, it is fitting that we start not with our plans, resolutions, or aspirations, but with what God gives. As believers, before we do anything, we receive. By grace through faith we are saved as a gift, (Ephesians 2:8-9). So, the Lord gives us life before we begin living for Him. It seems good to highlight the word “living” as the gift God provides us and how we respond. Our first and foundational goal for the coming year is simply: Living from the Word.

Scripture teaches us that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ,” (Romans 10:17). This means that the Christian life does not begin with our commitment to God, but with God speaking to us. Through His Word, the Lord creates faith where there was none, strengthens faith where it is weak, and comforts faith where it is burdened. The Word of God is not merely information about God; it is God’s chosen instrument by which He is actively at work among His people.

In a world filled with constant noise, opinions, and distractions, it is easy for even faithful Christians to drift from the steady voice of Scripture. We may assume we already know what God’s Word says, or we may slowly replace it with other voices that seem more urgent or influential. Yet Scripture remains what it has always been: “breathed out by God” and given “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,” (2 Timothy 3:16).

To live from the Word is not simply to own a Bible. It is to place ourselves where God has promised to meet us – through the reading and hearing of Scripture in worship, through study and catechesis, and through daily engagement with God’s Word in our homes. When we put ourselves where God promises to meet us, we are not accomplishing an amazing feat or following through on a New Year’s resolution, we are simply receiving what God loves to provide for us.

This goal is not about checking spiritual boxes or comparing ourselves to others. It is about trust – trust that God actually does what He says He will do through

His Word. It is about humility, acknowledging that we are always in need of God’s instruction, correction, and comfort. It is also about confidence, knowing that the same Word that forgives sins and gives eternal life is also able to guide us through both the ordinary and the challenging times of daily life.

As we move into 2026, everything else we do as a congregation flows from this foundation. Discipleship, service, fellowship, and witness all depend on God first speaking to us. May this year be one in which we place ourselves more intentionally under His Word, trusting that He will accomplish His good and gracious purposes among us. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Living from the Word,

Pr Jim

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

Al comenzar juntos un nuevo año, es apropiado que no iniciemos con nuestros planes, resoluciones o aspiraciones, sino con lo que Dios nos da. Como creyentes, antes de hacer cualquier cosa, recibimos. Por gracia somos salvos mediante la fe; esto no procede de nosotros, sino que es un don de Dios (Efesios 2:8-9). Así, el Señor nos da vida antes de que comencemos a vivir para Él. Por eso es bueno resaltar la palabra “vivir” como el don que Dios nos concede y también como la manera en que respondemos a ese don. Nuestro primer y fundamental objetivo para el año que viene es simplemente este: Vivir de la Palabra.

La Sagrada Escritura nos enseña que “la fe viene por el oír, y el oír por la palabra de Cristo” (Romanos 10:17). Esto significa que la vida cristiana no comienza con nuestro compromiso con Dios, sino con Dios hablándonos a nosotros. Por medio de Su Palabra, el Señor crea fe donde no la había, fortalece la fe donde es débil y consuela la fe cuando está cargada. La Palabra de Dios no es solamente información acerca de Dios; es el instrumento que Dios ha escogido para obrar activamente entre Su pueblo.

En un mundo lleno de ruido constante, opiniones y distracciones, es fácil que incluso los cristianos fieles se aparten poco a poco de la voz firme de la Escritura. Podemos suponer que ya sabemos lo que dice la Palabra de Dios, o podemos reemplazarla lentamente con otras voces que parecen más urgentes o influyentes. Sin embargo, la Escritura sigue siendo lo que siempre ha sido: “inspirada por Dios y útil para (Continúa en la página 2)



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Church Office: 503-665-8821

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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THROUGH MY WINDOW

(Viene de la página 1)

enseñar, para redarguir, para corregir y para instruir en justicia" (2 Timoteo 3:16).

Vivir de la Palabra no significa simplemente tener una Biblia en casa. Significa colocarnos donde Dios ha prometido encontrarnos: en la lectura y escucha de la Escritura en el culto, en el estudio y la catequesis, y en el contacto diario con la Palabra de Dios en nuestros hogares. Cuando nos colocamos donde Dios promete encontrarnos, no estamos logrando una gran hazaña ni cumpliendo un propósito de Año Nuevo; simplemente estamos recibiendo lo que Dios se complace en darnos.

Este objetivo no se trata de cumplir requisitos espirituales ni de compararnos con otros. Se trata de confianza: confiar en que Dios realmente hace lo que promete por medio de Su Palabra. Se trata de humildad, reconociendo que siempre necesitamos la instrucción, la corrección y el consuelo que Dios nos da. Y también se trata de confianza plena, sabiendo que la misma Palabra que perdona los pecados y concede la vida eterna es capaz de guiarnos tanto en los momentos ordinarios como en los desafíos de la vida diaria.

Al avanzar hacia el año 2026, todo lo demás que hacemos como congregación fluye de este fundamento. El discipulado, el servicio, la comunión y el testimonio dependen de que Dios sea quien primero nos hable. Que este sea un año en el que nos coloquemos de manera más intencional bajo Su Palabra, confiando en que Él cumplirá Sus buenos y misericordiosos propósitos entre nosotros. "Lámpara es a mis pies tu palabra, y lumbre a mi camino" (Salmo 119:105).

Vivir de la Palabra,

Pr Jim

NewsLetter
DEADLine

**Please submit articles
on or before
Monday, Jan. 26**

PASTOR'S DECEMBER REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

Jerry Bangs, died 12/23, memorial planned for Saturday, February 7, 1:00 pm at Ascension

Marriages –

Wyatt Brown & Katherine Houk, wedding planned for May 22, 2026

Tracy Schaffer & Chad Munday, wedding March 8, 2026

Baptisms –

Cindy Reinert's grandson, Arion tentatively scheduled for private baptism on January 7, 2026

Transfers, New Members, etc. –

Tentatively scheduling new member / transfer welcome on Sunday, January 11 at the 11:00am service with the following:

Transfer in – Wendy Colley, Myles Davis

Adult Confirmation – John Durocher, Jesse Reynolds, Walt Driscoll, Karen Anderson

Affirmation of Faith – Bob and Christina Freeman

Latino Membership –

Recording Spanish worship service at Trinity, Portland to post online for members and friends to view

C-101 for Francisco on Wednesdays, with Pr Ruberto interpreting

Circuit Visitor Info –

Immanuel, Sandy – Brad and I are still covering the first Sunday each month

Dual parish agreement with Peace, Estacada completed and approved by the District Office, moving forward with the request for seminarian

Peace, Estacada

See Immanuel, Sandy update

Holy Cross, Portland – Pr Larry Locke is the new vacancy pastor from January until July, as they continue with call process

Trinity, Oregon City – Pastors Ted Engelbrecht and Dave Kyle will cover Sundays until May as the Call Committee reconvenes to seek the next pastor

Miscellaneous –

Wyatt Brown

Wyatt has been serving as liturgist during the Advent midweek services, leading all parts of the service except the sermon. He will continue this through the Lenten midweek services starting in February

Wyatt was accepted to the M-Div program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis beginning in the fall 2026 academic year.

Current Bible Studies:

Sunday Adult, Teen; Young Adult; Women's study; Iron Men

Property Management

The refurbishment project to restore the lower level and office area is ongoing, with a completion date in January if there are no delays.

Included in the project are the office bathroom, the lower level bathrooms, and new flooring throughout the conference room, sacristy area, and west side lower level

Still awaiting delivery of sound absorption panels for the Community Room

Seeking bids for updating sound system in the Community Room, including overhead speakers and sound board

Dates to remember:

February 18, Wednesday – Ash Wednesday (3:30 & 7pm)

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesdays – Lent midweek services (3:30 & 7pm)

March 29, Sunday – Palm Sunday

April 2, Thursday – Maundy Thursday (7pm)

April 3, Friday – Good Friday (7pm)

April 5, Sunday – Easter Sunday

May 10, Sunday – Mother's Day

May 14, Thursday – Ascension Day (7pm)

May 24, Sunday – Pentecost Day / Confirmation Day

Date	Service			Total
Sun, Nov. 30	Sunday Worship			99
Sun, Dec. 7	Sunday Worship			90
Sun, Dec. 14	Sunday Worship			127
Sun, Dec. 21	Sunday Worship			102
Sun, Dec. 28	Sunday Worship			100
	Special Services	3:30pm	7:00pm	
Wed, Nov. 26	Thanks-giving Eve			62
Wed, Dec. 3	Advent Midweek	29	14	43
Wed, Dec. 10	Advent Midweek	33	27	60
Wed, Dec. 17	Advent Midweek	24	23	47
Wed, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve			135
Thur, Dec. 25	Christmas Day			37
Wed, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve			35

Christmas at Ascension



Bell Choir at an outside venue



Christmas Eve Choir



Karon Keup Singing on Christmas Eve



Candlelight Christmas Eve



Pr. Jim welcome on Christmas Eve



Brad and Alexa Sprengle



Choir lighting the candles



Karlee Navarro On the trumpet



Barb Conway



Cookies and Audrey and Claire at the Sprengle Open House





JANUARY

Birthdays

Debbie Noonan	Jan 2	Norka Soledad	Jan 20
Sheryl Maier	Jan 5	Marty Blankenburg	Jan 24
Warren Thompson	Jan 10	Bob Freeman	Jan 24
Gina Kreps	Jan 14	Luke Teyema	Jan 25
Virginia Hunt	Jan 17	Bruce Blubaum	Jan 26
Ethan Fogarty	Jan 18	Ron Barendse	Jan 30
Neil Zeller	Jan. 18	Celia Kreps	Jan 30
George Maier	Jan 19	Gabby Webber	Jan 30
Joe Cassetty	Jan 20	Brayson Pardue	Jan 31

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



JANUARY

Baptisms

Kim Driessner	Jan. 1	Myles Williams	Jan. 21
Lorraine Haggard	Jan. 1	Olive Sylvia	Jan. 24
Elliot Noonan	Jan. 2	Fredia Moore	Jan. 27
Jeff Latter	Jan. 5	Sheryl Maier	Jan. 29
Jerelyn Carlson	Jan. 8	George Maier	Jan. 31
Savannah Spencer	Jan. 8		
Kayla Driessner	Jan. 15		
Amy Haase	Jan. 21		



JANUARY

Anniversaries

Cody and Danielle Brown

January 5, 2019



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney)

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

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

Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

Regan, Diane, Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Barbara Lewis, Carolyn Staudt, Marla Graber, Joann Schulz, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, The family of Jerry Bangs, *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mike Fogarty, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821

PRAAYER CHAIN: *If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821*

JANUARY YOUTH AND FAMILY GATHERING

When: January 9, 2026 at 6:30pm

Where: Community Room

What: Potluck, games and music

Who: Youth and Family Ministry

Why: Joining in fellowship as we continue to grow in our faith



VOTER'S ASSEMBLY



Everyone is invited to join in the decisions of the church at the upcoming Voter's Assembly on Jan 25 after the 11:00am worship service. We will meet in the Community room.

Members are allowed to vote on any business after they have signed in at one prior Voter's Meeting.

LIFE SUNDAY: A Time to Support Life



Mark your calendars! Sunday, February 15, is Life Sunday, a special opportunity for our congregation to celebrate, honor, and support the precious gift of life. From January through Life Sunday, the Human Care Board is inviting the congregation to participate in a focused giving effort benefiting Ava Health.

Ava Health serves women, children, and families in our community by offering compassionate care, practical resources, and life-affirming support. To assist in this ministry, we are welcoming monetary donations as well as layette items to help provide for newborns in need. Suggested items include diapers, onesies, receiving blankets, and other essential newborn supplies. Donations may be placed in the baby crib located in the narthex.

On Life Sunday, February 15, we will gather to bless these offerings and donated items before they are delivered to Ava Health on Burnside in Gresham. Through your generosity, you help provide tangible support, encouragement, and hope to mothers and their precious little ones.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can participate and for standing together as a congregation committed to cherishing and protecting the sanctity of life.



JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm NO Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	1:00pm Human Care Board Meeting 6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	6:00pm Elder Meeting			6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm NO Choir Office Closed	6:30pm Youth and Family Night
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	1:00pm Stewardship Board Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	2:00pm NO Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Council Meeting		6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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	6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study			6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir		8:00am Iron Men Bible Study 12:00-7:00pm Private Event in the Community Room
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm NO Bell Practice 5:00pm Voter's Assembly 6:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE			6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir		



JANUARY SERVANTS