



# Believe

# Unbelief

Mark 9:24

Ascension Lutheran Church and School  
*"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"*

September 12, 2021

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021

**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).*

**(P = Pastor, C = Congregation, A = Reader/Assisting)**

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Theme: “Help Our Unbelief”**

**AS WE GATHER:** In today’s Readings, Jesus encounters another person possessed by an unclean spirit. The young man’s father is distraught and desperate. The father utters these words: “I believe; help my unbelief!” Jesus does help the man’s unbelief by healing his son. Jesus helps our unbelief as well in all that He does. In His miracles and teaching, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus calls us to faith. And He calls us to be His witnesses.

**PRELUDE**– *(The true beginning of our church service. Music helps draw us into an attitude of prayer and praise. Be mindful of others in preparation for worship. Quietly consider your encounter with the living God.)*

## WELCOME

### HYMN

### “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and king,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease—  
'Tis music in the sinner’s ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin,  
He sets the pris’ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

- P** I called on the name of the LORD:
- C** **O LORD, I believe. Help my unbelief!**
- P** The LORD has dealt bountifully with us.
- C** **The LORD has opened our ears.**
- P** The LORD has delivered us from death.
- C** **He wipes away tears from all faces.**
- P** He rescues our feet from stumbling
- C** **and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.**

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- 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** The Lord has had mercy on you and has sent His Son Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for your sins. By His Word and Promise I declare to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. You are forgiven. You are set free.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; 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 50:4–10 (ESV)

(Trust in the name of the LORD.)

<sup>4</sup>The LORD God has given Me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning He awakens; He awakens My ear to hear as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The LORD God has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting. <sup>7</sup> But the LORD God helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates Me is near. Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near to Me. <sup>9</sup> Behold, the LORD God helps Me; who will declare Me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. <sup>10</sup> Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of His servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

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

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

## EPISTLE

**James 3:1-6a; 9-10 (ESV)**

(The tongue is small but powerful in speaking both good and evil.)

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

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

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

**LAMBS LESSON**

**Pr. Jim Sprengle**

(Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Him and greeted Him. <sup>16</sup> And He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup> And He answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.” <sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to Him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup> And He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

**HYMN            “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

Praise the One Who breaks the darkness  
    With a liberating light;  
Praise the One Who frees the prisoners  
    Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One Who preached the gospel,  
    Healing every dread disease,  
    Calming storms and feeding thousands  
    With the very bread of peace.

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

**SERMON**

**“TRUST ME”**

**Mark 9:14–29**  
**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

**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.)*



## 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.

*(A prayer of remembrance for September 11, 2001)*

**P** Gracious God, You are the source of every lasting security. We bless You for ongoing stability in a time of great national trial and ask that our nation be spared from any terrorism and destruction in times to come. We remember those innocent victims whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant that their memories among us remain, and their lives are not forgotten. We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives seeking to assist victims of the disaster. Grant that their examples of bravery and sacrifice serve to inspire each of us as we live out our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** For pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all who proclaim the Word of the Lord, that the sinfulness of their tongues may not hinder God's message of grace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who govern in this nation and throughout the world, that their tongues would be kept from lying and slander, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who struggle with spiritual oppression, that God would deliver them from evil and restore them body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who have wandered from the Church, that the Holy Spirit would call them by the Gospel and gather them back to God's flock, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who are sick, injured, and recovering, especially...that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For all those who are celebrating Your abundant blessings this week, especially...let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Lord, we offer all these prayers, knowing that You hear us and bless us with all we need.
- C** **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Our Lord Jesus, who intercedes for us at the Father's right hand, has taught 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.**

(8:30 service, please turn to page 12 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 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

*(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

### "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior hear my prayer.  
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

Oh grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

### "The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb, Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill,  
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.  
Worthy is the Lamb, Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.

Worthy is the Lamb, Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong 'Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.

Worthy is the Lamb, Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## HYMN “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.

## 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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"The Lamb", Gerald Partrick Coleman. © 1987 Morning Star Publishers, St. Louis, MO. CCLI License No. 759893

*Thank you to Peggy Hall for playing the piano this Sunday in Brad's absence.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS      SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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### † **ORDENA LAXTON MEMORIAL**

Thursday September 23 at 11:00am with a short reception will follow in the Community room. All are welcome.

### † **VOTER'S ASSEMBLY SEPT. 26**

The meeting will follow the late service.

### † **PRAYER NEEDS?**

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

## † **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Mae Smith, Brad Hall and Family, Miki Natonik, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Bonnie Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Carlyn Staudt, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, 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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## † **MILESTONES**

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### **BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

Jonathan Mundo      9/14

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Jonathan Mundo	9/12	Rob Haase	9/14
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Karen Zahursky	9/14	Josie Latter	9/16
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Whitney Latter	9/16	Emily Whitney	9/16
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Stan Chapulis	9/18	Micki Natonick	9/18
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Nola Petri	9/18		
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## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tyler and Keilah Woods      Sep 17, 2015

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### **ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY**

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	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Tony Aguilar (WA)
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Josie Latter	None
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Matthias McInaney
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Debbie Rekdahl (sound)	Michele Sprengle
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Debbie Rekdahl	Michele Sprengle
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Readers:</b>	Randy Bryant	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Altar Circle:</b>	Both Services	Debbie Rekdahl
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Karon Keup Sheryl Maier
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	None

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### **ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**

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	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
<b>Elder:</b>	Bruce Blubaum (WA)	John Hazen
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Teresa Osgood (sound)	Wyatt Brown
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Teresa Osgood	Jessica Brown
<b>Greeters:</b>	Norma Dillon	Carrie Graham
<b>Readers:</b>	Michele Sprengle	Virginia Jacobs
<b>Altar Circle:</b>	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	None

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION**

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#### **THIS WEEK – SEPTEMBER 12-18**

<b>Sunday, Sept. 12</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 14</b>	6:00pm	Council Meeting

<b>Wednesday, Sept. 15</b>	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
<b>Thursday, Sept. 16</b>	7:00pm	NO Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, Sept. 17</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
<b>Saturday, Sept. 18</b>	8:30am	Church Work Party

## **NEXT WEEK – SEPTEMBER 19-25**

<b>Sunday, Sept. 19</b>	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Monday Sept. 20</b>	6:00pm	Altar Guild Meeting
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21</b>	6:00pm	3:10 Group
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22</b>	10:30am	Stewardship Meeting
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
	All Day	Community Room Unavailable
<b>Thursday, Sept. 23</b>	11:00pm	Ordena Laxton Memorial
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		Newsletter Items Due for October
<b>Friday, Sept. 24</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar



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)

**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