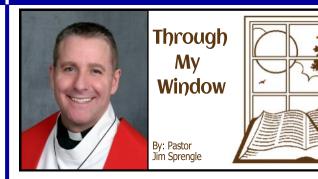
The Acts of Ascension



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

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4–5, ESV).

I suppose many of you remember the old Christmas lights of the past. Large bulbs by today's standards were draped along eaves, placed on select trees, or used on your Christmas tree. Today's LED lighting is far cheaper to operate than the former bulbs of the past, and now it's possible to cover an entire property, inside and out, with colorful lights. Something about light in the darkness is special for us. My kids and grandchildren got together for Thanksgiving this year. They got tickets to drive through a Christmas light show. The videos of my little guys staring at all the lights warmed my heart and brought memories back of my own childhood. As the season of Advent begins, we cannot escape the bright lights and shopping centers that want to attract us like moths to the flame. However, we have a brighter light to keep in mind.

The Gospel of John begins with a wonderful truth: that in Jesus Christ is life, which is the light of all humanity. Sin and death came from Adam, but life in our Savior Jesus Christ shines brightly wherever His Word is proclaimed. Very few people were aware of this light when it first arrived – just Mary and Joseph and a few shepherds. Many more saw the light throughout His lifetime, but it was the plan of God that Jesus die and rise again to conquer sin and death for all of us (alleluia!). Now that Jesus reigns in power at the right hand of the Father, we are the lights that shine forth in the name of Jesus.

Our busy season is upon us, but being a light for Christ means that we witness to others about the wonderful story of why Christmas really matters. A simple "Merry Christmas" to the cashier, a kind word to the people waiting in line with us, or patience during stressful situations might lead to further conversations about the reason we celebrate this wonderful season. Remember, the Light has come to shine through the darkness. The world is filled with spiritual darkness, no matter how many bright lights are shining, and our

words and deeds are an extension of God's love. We can all share Jesus through invitations to church, encouraging notes, and being open about our love for Him any time of year. However, this is one of the best times for God to open the doors of faith in people. May the Lord grant that, through our words and lives in these next weeks, others may see the Light that no darkness can overcome.

Blessings,



Pr Jim

¡Gracia y paz a vosotros de parte de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo!

"En él estaba la vida, y la vida era la luz de la humanidad. Esta luz resplandece en las tinieblas, y las tinieblas no han podido extinguirla," (Juan 1:4-5, NVI).

Supongo que muchos de ustedes recuerdan las luces de Navidad de antes. En aquellos tiempos, las bombillas grandes – según los estándares actuales – se colgaban en los aleros, se colocaban en ciertos árboles o se usaban en el árbol de Navidad. La iluminación LED de hoy es mucho más económica que las bombillas de antes, y ahora es posible cubrir toda una propiedad, por dentro y por fuera, con luces de colores. Hay algo especial en la luz que brilla en la oscuridad. Este año, mis hijos y nietos se reunieron para el Día de Acción de Gracias y consiguieron entradas para pasar en carro por un espectáculo de luces navideñas. Los videos de mis pequeños mirando todas las luces me calentaron el corazón y me trajeron recuerdos de mi propia infancia. Al comenzar la temporada de Adviento, no podemos escapar de las luces brillantes y los centros comerciales que quieren atraernos como polillas a la llama. Sin embargo, tenemos una luz aún más brillante que debemos tener presente.

El Evangelio de Juan comienza con una verdad maravillosa: en Jesucristo está la vida, y esa vida es la luz de toda la humanidad. El pecado y la muerte vinieron de Adán, pero la vida en nuestro Salvador Jesucristo brilla intensamente dondequiera que Su Palabra es proclamada. Muy pocas personas vieron esta luz cuando llegó por primera vez: solo María y José, y algunos pastores. Muchos más vieron la luz a lo largo de Su vida, pero era el plan de Dios que Jesús muriera y resucitara para vencer el pecado y la muerte por todos nosotros (¡aleluya!). Ahora que Jesús reina con poder a la derecha del Padre, nosotros somos las luces que brillan en Su nombre.

Continúa en la página 2

THE ACTS OF ASCENSION PAGE 2



The Acts of Ascension

A monthly publication of scension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue Portland OR 97233-5009 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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Debbie Rekdahl, Assistant Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary alccouncil1440@gmail.com

Laura Potter, Property Management alcproperty1440@gmail.com

Hana Brandt, Deaconess Intern to contact email the office



Tis the season to remember our policy on canceling services due to weather. If a snow and ice day affects a scheduled service, always call the church office to listen to the updated message before driving to church that day. We will also update the website, send out a Constant Contact email and text, but for those without Internet access, call the church office.

THROUGH MY WINDOW

(Viene de la página 1)

Nuestra temporada ocupada ha llegado, pero ser una luz para Cristo significa dar testimonio ante otros de la maravillosa historia de por qué la Navidad realmente importa. Un sencillo "Feliz Navidad" al cajero, una palabra amable para las personas que esperan en la fila con nosotros o la paciencia en situaciones de estrés pueden abrir la puerta a conversaciones sobre la razón por la que celebramos esta hermosa temporada. Recuerden: la Luz ha venido para brillar en medio de la oscuridad. El mundo está lleno de oscuridad espiritual, sin importar cuántas luces brillantes resplandezcan, y nuestras palabras y acciones son una extensión del amor de Dios. Todos podemos compartir a Jesús mediante invitaciones a la iglesia, notas de aliento y hablando abiertamente de nuestro amor por Él en cualquier época del año. Sin embargo, este es uno de los mejores momentos para que Dios abra las puertas de la fe en las personas. Que el Señor conceda que, a través de nuestras palabras y vidas en estas próximas semanas, otros puedan ver la Luz que ninguna oscuridad puede vencer.

Bendiciones,

Pastor S-

PASTOR'S NOVEMBER REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials -

none to report

Marriages -

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

Baptisms -

- None to report

Transfers, New Members, etc. -

- Wendy Colley, Myles Davis transfer in
- Julie and Rebecca Williamson transfer out, Trinity Lutheran, Portland
- Christianity 101 (C-101) started Sunday, November 2 at 7pm.
 - 6 people attending

Latino Membership -

- May begin recording parts of the Spanish worship service 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 1st
 Sundays 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. Mike Kasting is vacancy pastor until the end of the year, seeking vacancy pastor for 2026 during the call process
- Trinity, Oregon City Pr. Gary Hagen is vacancy pastor. Trinity held a call meeting on November 16 and extended a call to a pastor from Nebraska. We pray for discernment as he prayerfully considers both calls

Miscellaneous -

Current Bible Studies:

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

Property Management

 The contractor quotes were reviewed and the insurance company agreed to move forward.
 Our construction project to repair damages throughout the office and sacristy area, along with the lower level should begin in the first half of December.

- Sound absorption panels for the Community Room were fully funded, (Thank you!) ordered, and should be delivered any time. We will remove most of the pictures and wall hangings to hang the panels on the walls
- Extra funds remaining from the sound panel donations will be used to purchase four ceilingmounted speakers and, if possible, a new sound board for the microphones.

- Stewardship

- Discussed creative gifts to support the ministry of Ascension (especially before the end of 2025)
 - Traditional year-end offering
 - Gifts from an IRA (Qualified Charitable Distributions)
 - Giving appreciated stock (avoids capital gains)
 - Donor Advised Fund distributions
 - One-time gifts toward current ministry needs
 - ° Legacy giving / estate plans

Dates to remember:

2025

December 3, 10, 17, Wednesdays – Advent midweek services (3:30 & 7pm)

December 24, Wednesday – Christmas Eve worship (7pm)

December 25, Thursday – Christmas Day worship (10am)

December 31, Wednesday – New Year's Eve worship (7pm)

2026

January 6, Tuesday – Epiphany

January 19, Monday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16, Monday - Presidents' Day

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

May 25, Monday - Memorial Day

May 31, (Sun) - Trinity Sunday

The Acts of Ascension Page 4



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 Neil and Deb Zeller)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

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

CHRISTMAS and ADVENT SERVICES

Sunday Services 8:30 and 11:00am

Wednesday Services

Dec. 3, 10 and 17 3:30 and 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Service Wednnesday, Dec. 24 at 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service Thursday, Dec. 25 at 10:00am

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Barbara Lewis, Carlyn Staudt, Joann Schulz, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Jerry and Alma 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

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Everyone is invited to go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21 after late service. We will gather in the narthex and proceed to various homes and care centers to share Christmas joy with our shut-ins. We hope that you can join us in this wonderful time and show the love of Jesus with those who cannot get out to enjoy the season. Our time ends when we gather to sing at Fairlawn at 4:00pm.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A small group of members of Ascension joined together to make a difference in the lives of children around the world. These dedicated people put together 34 boxes of toys, school supplies and hygiene items to be sent to underprivileged children around the world in conjunction with the Operation Christmas Child program through Samaritan's Purse. Thank you to the members who participated in this project!





LWML CHRISTMAS GATHERING

All Ladies are invited to join us for our Annual Christmas Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the ALC Community Room.

We plan to: Open with a prayer and devotion - Sing Christmas Carols Share Favorite Christmas memories - Exchange small gifts (Bring a wrapped gift that is either "gently used or a new item under \$10 if you would like to participate in the gift exchange)

Feel free to bring snacks or cookies.

You can invite a guest. Won't you join us?





OUTREACH HOT CHOCOLATE AND DONUTS!

On Saturday, Dec. 13 the Outreach Board will be handing out hot chocolate, donuts and invites to the holiday services in the parking lot to community members between 11:00am and 1:00pm. For more information or to volunteer to help call or email Cindy Reinert.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING HOSTED BY YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The Youth and Family Ministry invited everyone of all ages to come together for an evening of gratitude and great food on November 14. We began with a devotion based on 1 Thessalonians 5:18, taking time to reflect on what it means to give thanks in every circumstance.

During dinner, we shared meaningful conversations about the blessings in our lives while enjoying music provided by talented members of our congregation. After the meal, the youth headed downstairs for games in the Sunday School room, while upstairs we enjoyed beginner square dancing led by Mark Wheeler.

It was a wonderful night for all ages, and the Youth and Family Ministry is grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening so special.





DECEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Join us for an evening filled with holiday cheer, creativity, and connection! Here's what you need to know:

- Who: Youth and Family Ministry (ages 29 and under, along with their families).
- What: White elephant gift exchange (maximum of \$10 on the gift) and potluck of holiday comfort food!
- Where: Ascension Community Room.
- When: Friday, December 12 at 6:30pm.
- Why: Celebrate the Christmas season together, share laughter, and strengthen our community bonds.

We can't wait to see you there! Bring your holiday spirit and join us for a festive evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or additional details, contact Wyatt Brown.

THANKFUL!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP TO BENEFIT SNOWCAP, BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

We are always so blessed by our Thanksgiving Eve Worship reminding us of all the ways God blesses us! Members donated more items than ever for SnowCap: 790 lbs. of food, 5 lbs. of clothing, and 10 lbs of hygiene items. The monetary offering collected \$1,195.50 for our Human Care board and the Benevolence fund. This money will be a great benefit to people in need. These contributions improve the lives of so many people in our community. Your support is greatly appreciated!









The Acts of Ascension Page 8

**DECEMBER Baptisms

Becky Mora	Dec. 3	Sean Ritchie	Dec. 17
Joshua Mundo	Dec. 6	Linda Tatum	Dec. 21
Claire Zeebuyth	Dec. 6	Brayson Pardue	Dec. 24
Evan Kreps	Dec. 8	Frances Rippon	Dec. 28
Felix Harris	Dec. 9	Mae Smith	Dec. 28
Pr. Jim Sprengle	Dec. 9	Virginia Hunt	Dec. 29
Brad Hall	Dec. 12	Judy Davis	Dec. 1956
Larry Hart	Dec. 16	Dave Stabenow	Dec. 1936

**DECEMBER

Rick and Robyn Wymore
Angel and Wilma Mukul
John and Darlene Knoke
Doug and Chenery Whittier
Mel and Lorraine Haggard

Birt Lottie Guericke Dec. 1 Cody Brown

Lottie Guericke	Dec. 1	Cody Brown	Dec. 11
Rick Wymore	Dec. 2	Sue Lewis	Dec. 11
Felix Harris	Dec. 3	Arlo Reinert	Dec. 12
Emely Aguilar	Dec. 3	Israel Zuriaga	Dec. 12
Avi Ritchie	Dec. 4	Jeff Latter	Dec. 13
Christian Mukul	Dec. 5	Jerelyn Carlson	Dec. 16
Bobbie Adams	Dec. 6	Jerry Bangs	Dec. 21
Don Farabee	Dec. 7	Brandy Webber	Dec. 21
Mike Fogarty	Dec. 9	Kim Driessner	Dec. 28

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating a milestone!

Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Dec. 2, 1978

Dec. 9, 2000

Dec. 14, 1969

Dec. 23, 2023

Dec. 29, 1956



Once again, the Human Care Board is delighted to share the joy of Christmas with the families at My Father's House by providing stockings filled with thoughtful gifts.

If you'd like to support this meaningful outreach, Board members will be collecting donations after both services on December 7, 14, and 21. You may also contribute by placing your gift in the offering plate or mailing it to the church—just be sure to clearly mark it "My Father's House Stockings."

Thank you for your continued generosity and compassion. Your kindness helps brighten the season for those in need.



Please submit

articles no later
than Mon., Dec. 22

			5	\$	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted
			31	30	29	28
8:00am Iron Men Devotion	20	10:00am Christmas Day Worship CAUA REANON REANON REANON CAUAGON	7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	3	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Caroling to shut-ins 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted 7:00pm C-101
37	၁၉	SA.	3	33	33	
		6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	3:30pm Midweek Worship 7:00pm Midweek Worship		6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study 3:00pm-7:00pm Christmas Open House at the Sprengle's	8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted 7:00pm C-101
20	19	18	17 Advent Midweek 3	16	15	14 Advent 3
11:00am-1:00pm Donuts and Hot Chocolate in the parking lot!	6:30pm Youth and Family Night	6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	~ ~	2:00pm NO Women's Bible Study this month Join us next month for lesson 4 6:00pm Council Meeting	1:00pm Stewardship Board Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	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 7:00pm C-101
13	12	11	10 Advent Midweek 2	9	00	7 Advent 2
6 10:00am LWML Christmas Gathering	ហ	4 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	3 Advent Midweek 1 3:30pm Midweek Worship 7:00pm Midweek Worship	2 6:00pm Elder Meeting	1:00pm Human Care Board Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	
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SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY

THE ACTS OF ASCENSION PAGE 10

31 New Year's Eve	Elder: 7:00 Randy Schroeder	7:00 NEDED NEDED	AV: 7:00 NEEDED Power Point: 7:00 Jenny Schuldheisz	Greeters: 7:00 NEEDED	Altar. Debbie Rekdahl Counters: Karon Keup Sheryl Maier
28 Communion Late 31 New Year's Eve	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Duke Sheppard Bryant Sheppard 11:00 Communion Matthias Mchaney John Aden	AV: 8.30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8:30 Wanda Cassetty 11:00 John Hazen	Greeters: 8:30 Nancy Thomas 11:00 Sue Lewis Reader: 8:30 Jim Eckart 11:00 Carlyn Staudt	Altar: Virginia Jacobs Flowers: NEEDED Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie Sunday School: Hana and Gina
25 Christmas Day	Elder: 10:00 John Häzen	10:00 Rich Bartell	AV: 10:00 NEEDED Power Point: 10:00 Jenny Schuldheisz	Greeter: 10:00 NEEDED	Altar. Jan Oswald Karen Zahursky Counters: Bob and Baina Ritchie
24 Christmas Eve	Elder. 7:00 Randy Schroeder	7:00 NEEDED	AV: 7:00 J.E.Knox Power Point: 7:00 Rosemary Knox	Greeter: 7:00 NEEDED	Altar. Jan Oswald Karen Zahursky Counters: Bob and Baina Ritchie
21 Communion Early	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 Wyatt Brown Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Communion Mike Adams Rich Bartell 11:00 Marcus Young Paul Walter	AV: 8.30 Stan Chapulis 11.00 J.E. Knox Power Point: 8.30 Debbie Rekdahl 11.00 Rosemary Knox	Greeters: 8.30 Sheryl Maier 11.00 Margaret Hubbard Esperarza Gutierrez Reader: 8.30 Peggy Hall 11.00 Caleb Zeebuyth	Altar: Barb Cochran Flowers: Karen Zahursky Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald Sunday School: Michele, Carrie, Carolyn
17 Midweek 3	Elder: 3:30 Randy Schroeder 7:00 John Hazen	Usher: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 Rich Bartell	AV: 3:30 Stan Chapulis	Greeters: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 NEEDED	Altar. Margo Bachhuber Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald
14 Communion Late	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Wyatt Brown Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis 11:00 Communion Don Brown Matthias Mchaney	AV: 8.30 Teresa Osgood 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8.30 Tom Osgood 11:00 Caleb Zeebuyth	Greeters: 8.30 Millie Edwards 11.00 Riki Neagle Reader: 8.30 Joann Schulz 1.00 Mark Wheeler	Altar: Margo Bachhuber Flowers: Lotte Guericke Counters: Slan Chapulis Lottle Guericke Sunday School: Audrey and Cynthia
10 Midweek 2	Elder. 3:30 Randy Schroeder 7:00 John Hazen	Usher: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 Rich Bartell	AV: 3:30 Stan Chapulis	Greeters: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 NEEDED	Altar. Wendy Hazen Counters: Stan Chapulis Lottle Gue- ricke
7 Communion Early	Elder. 8:30 Bruce Blubaum 11:00 John Hazen Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Communion Rich Bartell John Aden 11:00 Marthias Mchaney Neil Zeller	AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Wyatt Brown Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 Katherine Houk	Greeters: 8:30 Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado 11:00 Heather Gulde Reader: 8:30 Rich Bartell 11:00 J. E. Knox	Attar: Wendy Hazen Flowers: Wilma Aguilar Counters: Cindy Remert Sandy Kirchner Sunday School: Carrie and Michele
3 Midweek 2	Elder. 3:30 Randy Schroeder 7:00 John Hazen	Usher: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 Rich Bartell	AN: 3:30 Stan Chapulis	Greeters: 3:30 NEEDED 7:00 NEEDED	Altar. Debbie Rekdahl Counters: Stan Chapulis Sandy Kirchner
DEC.	MUDHKS ACOTY-mo	⊃∾тшс∾	<> ∞ ₽₽	GRШШ⊢ШRS REMADERS	RAHLA SRE SO□NHERS