



HAVE SALT IN  
*yourselves*  
AND BE AT  
PEACE WITH  
*one another.*

MARK 9:50 ESV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"  
Sunday, September 29, 2024

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**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: “STAYING ON TRACK”**

**AS WE GATHER:** Life is hard, and sometimes we get upset and cry out to God about our challenges. In the midst of our displeasure, God sends prophets and preachers to rebuke, correct, and instruct. In prayer and song, Jesus’ words should be our constant refrain so that we do not wander from truth or cause others to fall into sin.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

LSB 913

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,  
And in our hearts Your work begin,  
Your dwelling place now make us.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
Around and in us brightly shine,  
To joy and gladness wake us  
That we may be  
Truly living,  
To You giving  
Prayer unceasing  
And in love be still increasing.
  
- 2 Give to Your Word impressive pow’r,  
That in our hearts from this good hour  
As fire it may be glowing,  
That in true Christian unity  
We faithful witnesses may be,  
Your glory ever showing.  
Hear us, cheer us  
By Your teaching;  
Let our preaching  
And our labor  
Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
In us be strongly burning  
That we be faithful unto death  
And live in love and holy faith,  
From You true wisdom learning.  
Your grace and peace  
On us shower;  
By Your power  
Christ confessing,  
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

O Holy Spirit, Enter In, Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt., Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 104:33-34

**P** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
**C** I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**P** May my meditation be pleasing to Him,  
**C** for I rejoice in the LORD.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** We enjoy singing praises to God, but we truly need Him to look down on us in mercy. So often we fail to follow His the instructions, which we read about in today's Epistle. James urges, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Let us ask God for grace and mercy.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** James writes, “Be patient until the coming of the Lord. Do not grumble against one another, brothers. Let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no. Is anyone among you sick? Pray over him.”

**C** **We confess our impatience, our lack of love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our words that do not always reflect the love You have for us. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Heavenly Father, our only hope is in Your grace and mercy. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake.**

**P** God has cured our sickness of sin by sending His Son to die in our place. He values us and calms our fears, saying, “Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace.” 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.**

**P** May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

**C** **may the LORD rejoice in His works. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!**

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 +

### EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-18 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. <sup>12</sup>But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. <sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

### HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:42-50 (ESV)

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

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

<sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

<sup>43</sup>And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' <sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

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

## PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

### Living For Jesus

Living for Jesus, a life that is true.  
Striving to please Him in all that I do.  
Yielding allegiance glad hearted and free.  
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

### Chorus

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee.  
For Thou in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me.  
I own no other master, My heart shall be Thy throne.  
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ for Thee alone.**

Living for Jesus who died in my place,  
Bearing on Calvary, my sin and disgrace.  
Such love constrains me, to answer His call,  
Follow His leading and give Him my all. **(chorus)**

Living for Jesus thro' earth's little while,  
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile,  
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,  
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him. **(chorus)**

Living For Jesus, Tune: ©2012 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. All rights reserved. Text: ©2012 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. All rights reserved.

**SERMON**  
**“STAYING ON TRACK”**

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
Mark 9:42-50

**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.)*

**(11:00) “We Gather to Praise”**

words and music by M. McDonald and W. & G. Gaither  
**Ascension Choir**

*We gather here to praise the Father, Holy Spirit, Son;  
We come into this house to worship the Almighty One!  
We serve the Lord with gladness, come into His courts with praise.  
His name is lifted up to glory through the hymns we raise!*

*We gather here to praise the Father, God, the Three in One!  
We come before this sacred altar, praising God’s own Son.  
With hymns and songs of praise we lift our voice in one accord;  
All glory given to the Father, Jesus Christ, the Lord.*

*Let’s just praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let’s just lift our hearts to heaven and praise the Lord!  
Let’s just praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let’s just lift our hearts to heaven and praise the Lord!*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Heavenly Father, keep us from craving and weeping after what we no longer possess, but instead give us contentment in the daily bread You so graciously rain down upon us. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Mighty God, cause Your Holy Spirit to rest upon us and our pastors, that they may prophesy Your Word publicly and faithfully among us and we, in turn, may prophesy Your Word in our homes and vocations. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** O Lord, bless our elders and church council with the necessary gifts of Your Spirit, that they may faithfully serve the congregation, support our pastor(s) and uphold the ministry of the Word amongst us. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Holy Father, send forth Your Spirit over all couples who desire the gift of children, that they may be fruitful and bring up their children in Your fear and knowledge. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Sovereign God, uphold all our leaders and those who bear the sword in our land, that sin and wickedness may be kept at bay and we may live peaceable lives in security. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Merciful Father, save and raise up those who are suffering or sick...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord of all goodness, thank You for the blessings You give us and for those things celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**G** 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.

## 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.  
**G** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### God of Grace and God of Glory

LSB 850

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

3 Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

God of Grace and God of Glory, Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969, Text: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

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

**G** **Thanks be to God!**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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*Thanks to Joann Schulz for the beautiful Altar  
flowers, given to the glory of God.*

**† I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO BE AN ATHEIST**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church presents apologist, author and speaker Frank Turek on Sunday, Oct 20 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The event will be at Sonrise Church, 6701 NE Campus Way Drive, Hillsboro, OR 972124. See the poster on the bulletin board by the mailboxes for more information.

**† C-101**

Class continues: Wednesdays, Oct. 2, 9, 23, 30, Nov. 6, and 13 from 6:00 to 7:00pm.

**† MY FATHER'S HOUSE NEEDS**

Human Care is collecting items for our adopt-a-room at My Father's House. Check out the list that is attached to the white board in the Narthex. If you will fill a need, write your name (or anonymous if you want) in the space. Then you can bring your donation and leave it in the conference room marked "My Father's House".

**† LWML FALL GATHERING SATURDAY, OCT. 5**

Every few years, Lutheran Women in Mission from our Congregation host a Gathering, where we join with other women from area churches in fellowship, bible study, songs, stories, and a guest speaker. This Gathering we have invited Katie from Lahash International to join us. In place of an In-gathering donation for them, there will instead be a monetary offering collected. Lunch will be provided. Won't you join us, and bring a friend? Registration and coffee is at 9:00am, and our program is from 9:30am to 1:00pm, here in Ascension's Community Room. If you can help with set up or hospitality, please email Mae Smith: maes7010@gmail.com and put LWML in the subject line.

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Carolyn Gordon, Barb Cochran and her family, Pastor Ruberto and their family, Mike Fogarty, The Family of Carolyn Barendse, Karla Deal, The family of Bob Rekdahl, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Herb and Carol Hoefer, Mae Smith, Gertrud Bublies, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Mel Haggard, The Family of Mike Hatley, Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Lorraine Haggard. \*Home Bound.

## † PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

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

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

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 – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

## † THE LUTHERAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Performances continue through Oct. 6 with a Christmas/Epiphany concert on January 5, 2025. There will be updates as concert dates near.

## † PRAYER NEEDS?

Please e-mail: [office@alcpportland.org](mailto:office@alcpportland.org) or call (leave a message if no one is here) 503-665-8821

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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., SEPT. 29, 2024

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	8:30am	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Bruce Blubaum	Bob Ritchie
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis <b>NEEDED</b>	Paul Walter Marcus Young
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	Johnnie Driessner
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Wanda Cassetty	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sheryl Maier	Carrie Graham
<b>Readers:</b>	Susan Rotramel	Carlyn Staudt
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Virginia Jacobs	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: <b>NEEDED</b>	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	
<b>Sunday School</b>	9:45am: Michele and Carrie-Episode 8	

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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., OCT. 6, 2024**

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Herb Hoefler
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis Mike Adams John Aden <b>NEEDED</b>	Niel Zeller Marcus Young
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	John Hazen
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Michele Sprengle
<b>Greeters:</b>	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle
<b>Readers:</b>	Susan Rotramel	J. E. Knox
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Debbie Rekdahl	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: <b>NEEDED</b>	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Dave and Jan Oswald	
<b>Sunday School</b>	9:45am: Michele and Carrie -Episode 9	

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**† MILESTONES – SEPT. 29 – Oct. 5**

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**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:**

Rick Wymore	Oct. 1	Benjamin Mora	Oct. 2
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**BIRTHDAYS:**

Carol Reiniger	Sept. 29	Bonnie Webber	Sept. 30
Jon Hart	Oct. 3	Andrew Interian	Oct. 3
Keith Erdmann	Oct. 4	Linda Fogarty	Oct. 5

**WEDDINGS:** None

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**EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., SEPT. 29 – SAT., OCT. 5**

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<b>Sunday, Sept. 29</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 1</b>	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 2</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C -101 / Week 3
<b>Thursday, Oct. 3</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Oct. 4</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group
<b>Saturday, Oct. 5</b>	9:00am	LWML Fall Gathering

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**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., OCT. 6 – SAT., OCT. 12**

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<b>Sunday, Oct. 6</b>	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Monday, Oct. 7</b>	1:00pm	Human Care Board
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 8</b>	2:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 9</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 / Week 4
<b>Thursday, Oct. 10</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Oct. 11</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group
<b>Saturday, Oct. 12</b>	10:30am	The Chosen Episode 6

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Office Phone: 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

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