



REFORMATION
SUNDAY

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023

REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED)

Sunday, October 29, 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: “Christ’s Work”

As We Gather: On this day when we observe and celebrate the Reformation, our Readings point us to remember the struggles and eventual insights of Martin Luther. God used these struggles and insights of one man in Germany to reshape the Church and let the true Gospel resound all over the world. Luther struggled as a young monk and professor because he had been taught that he, by his works of righteousness, might possibly then qualify to be loved by God. This teaching caused him nearly to despair entirely. But then he read Romans 3:23–24: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Struck by God’s Word here, Luther recognized that it is Christ’s work of righteousness—His dying and rising for sinners like Luther—that saves. Today is a celebration of what Christ has done for sinners like Luther and us.

Prelude

Welcome

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(Please stand)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences Jeremiah 18:4, 6; Romans 3:20, 26; adapted

- P** By works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight.
- C** **God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

- P** Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.
- C** **The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.**

- P** As You reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,
- C** **reshape us in this generation, LORD, to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to Your first loving us.**

Confession and Absolution Romans 3:23–24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

- P** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- C** **and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

- P** God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

A time of silence.

- P** God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.
- C** **Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.**

P “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.,
Text: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for ours on the cross so that we now stand righteous before You by faith. Grant us to trust not in our own righteous actions but always in Jesus alone, that we may live now and forever in the peace of God, which surpasses human understanding, 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 +

Psalm 46

- P** ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- C** ²**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**
- P** ³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- C** ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- P** ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- C** ⁶**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters His voice, the earth melts.**
- P** ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- C** ⁸**Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how He has brought desolations on the earth.**
- P** ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the chariots with fire.
- C** ¹⁰**“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”**
- P** ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- C** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever will be.
Amen.**

Second Reading

Revelation 14:6-7 (ESV)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 3:19-28 (ESV)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs’ Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprenkle

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

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

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Reformation Song

Your Word alone is solid ground; The mighty rock on which we build.
In every line the truth is found, And every page with glory filled.

Through faith alone we come to You. We have no merit we can claim.

Sure that Your promises are true, We place our hope in Jesus' name.

(Chorus)

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

In Christ alone we're justified. His righteousness is all our plea,
Your law's demands are satisfied. His perfect work has set us free.

(Chorus)

By grace alone we have been saved. All that we are has come from You.

Hearts that were once by sin enslaved, Now by Your pow'r have been made new.

(Chorus)

And on this Reformation day, We join with saints of old to sing.
We lift our hearts as one in praise: Glory to Christ our gracious King.
(Chorus)

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759893. Used by permission.*

Sermon
“PARDONED”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Romans 3:19-28

Creedal Hymn - “We All Believe In One True God”

- 1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav’nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary’s son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

We All Believe In One True God, Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84,
Text: Public domain

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.)*

“The Truth Will Make You Free”

(based on John 8:31-32)

Music by Anne Krentz Organ

Ascension Choir

*If you continue, continue in My word,
You are truly, truly My disciples;
And you will know the truth, you will know the truth,
And the truth will make you free.
Continue, continue in My word, and My disciples be.
Continue in My word, the truth will make you free.
Know the word, know the truth, My disciples be.
Know the word, know the truth, the truth will make you free.*

*If you continue, continue in My word, you are truly, truly My disciples;
And you will know the truth, you will know the truth,
And the truth will make you free.
You are My disciples,
You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.
Yes, the truth, will make you free.
You are free.*

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Prayer of the Church

P Filled with God’s grace, founded in faith, and nourished by the Word, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs.

For the Church, that we faithfully use our freedom in the Gospel to love and to serve both God and neighbor. Preserve the Church from discord and strife. Let the world see that we are Yours, O Lord, by our love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For those entrusted to govern our nation, state, and local community: Guide them and help them to care justly and mercifully for all the people they serve. For the members of our armed forces, for victims of warfare and violence, and for our enemies, we pray that peace may prevail for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for those who visit this congregation, that they may find here a hospitality that bears witness to the kingdom of heaven. For all who travel, we pray that they arrive safely at their destinations. For all the households of this congregation, grant that they be havens of peace and places where Christ is proclaimed and lived. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for this holy assembly, that together we use our Gospel freedom responsibly. By the Holy Spirit, grant that we all undergo ongoing reformation of our hearts and minds and in the proper stewardship of our time, talents, and money, continuing to be faithful partners in ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us give thanks for those who have gone before us and are with the Lord, especially Martin Luther and all reformers of the Church. Sustain us in this earthly journey so that, trusting in the promises of Jesus, we, too, will know the joy of all those who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for those who are ill or suffering...We pray that their pain and anxiety be relieved according to God's will. For those who mourn the death of loved ones, we pray that God calm their troubled hearts and give them peace to face the days ahead in the confidence that He will never forsake them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us exult You, O Lord, for You richly bless us. We rejoice with those who are celebrating...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, hear these prayers of Your faithful people. By Your grace, grant us those things You see that we need for the sake of our Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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.**

Benediction

P God has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.
C Amen.

P By grace you have been saved through faith.
C Amen.

P God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. In Christ, you are blessed.
C Amen.

Announcements

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

Salvation Unto Us Has Come

1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.
- △ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Salvation Unto Us Has Come, Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt., Text: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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*Thank you to Wendy and John Hazen for the lovely altar flowers,
in honor of their son Josh's birthday.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS OCTOBER 29, 2023

† MIKI ETZEL MEMORIAL

All are invited: Friday, Nov. 3 at 1:00pm graveside at Zion Cemetery in Canby. The memorial is planned for Saturday, Nov. 4 at 12:00pm at Ascension. Reception to follow.

† JUDY BLUBAUM MEMORIAL

The memorial is planned for Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1:00pm at Ascension. Reception to follow.

† AUDREY BAUCH MEMORIAL

Everyone is invited to attend the memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 1:00pm at Ascension. Reception to follow.

† THE HUMAN CARE BOARD FOOD COLLECTION

Fall is here and we thank God daily for His many blessings. Thanksgiving is only weeks away, and the Human Care Board will once again be collecting non-perishable food and grocery gift cards for SnowCap. We have all felt the sting of higher prices when we visit a grocery store. The food banks are feeling it, too, as they try to feed more and more people. Pick up your colorful reusable grocery bag on the table as you leave church beginning Sunday, Oct. 29th through Sunday, Nov. 19th. Fill the bag and return with it on Wednesday Nov. 22 for the Thanksgiving Eve worship. (if you cannot make it to the service you may bring your bag and leave it in the conference room early.) If you pick up an extra item or two each week when you shop, by Thanksgiving Eve your bag will be full. This year let's fill the altar area with our offerings. Thank God for blessing us beyond measure!

SnowCap's list of most needed items includes hearty soups, chili, stew, canned fruits and vegetables, dessert mixes (cake, brownie, Jello), cooking oil, butter, sugar, coffee, pet food.

The Outreach Board will be the recipient of this year's Thanksgiving Eve offering unless you stipulate otherwise on your envelope.

† WOMEN'S RETREAT

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.

† A LOOK AT TODAY AND A PLAN FOR TOMORROW HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR GAUGES?

- Who?** ALL members and friends of Ascension
When? **Will be Rescheduled: Time to be determined.**
Where? Ascension Community Room (Yummy lunch provided)
Why? To gauge our current state of affairs and identify areas we can grow as a congregation.

† THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH BIBLES!

Your help has been greatly appreciated. With your assistance the cost of the outreach Bibles has been covered. God bless you as the word of God spreads to our community!

† COME CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION

Join in the celebration at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gresham, on Tuesday, October 31, at 7:00pm. Redeemer is located at 795 E. Powell Blvd in Gresham. We look forward to seeing you.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail: office@alcpportland.org or call 503-665-8821 Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

† 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).

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Judy Blubaum, The family of Miki Etzel, The family of Audrey Bauch, The family of Brayson Pardue, Jim Eckart, Carol Hoefer, Jaden Saunders, Diana Laxton, Gina Kreps, Cindy Linnemann, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Alma Bangs, Randy Bryant's brother, Herb Reiniger's brother; Roger, Virginia Jacob's brother; Robert, Esperanza Gutierrez' mother; Antonia, *Barbara Schrader, *Kevin McInaney, *Larry Hart, *Mike Hatley, *Lorraine Haggard, *Carolyn Barendse, *Home Bound.

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUNDAY, OCT. 29, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:	Lily Hodges	NEEDED
Cross Bearer	Alex Hodges	NEEDED
Ushers:	Randy Schroeder Stan Chapulis	Marcus Young Bob Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle	NEEDED
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	John Hazen
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Wendy Hazen
Readers:	Peggy Hall	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Karla Deal
Flowers:	Both Services	Wendy and John Hazen
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 5, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	Lily Hodges	NEEDED
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis NEEDED	Marcus Young Johnnie Driessner
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	NEEDED
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	John Hazen
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Wendy Hazen
Readers:	Karon Keup	Virginia Jacobs
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services	Frances Rippon
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., OCT. 29- SAT., NOV. 4

Sunday, Oct. 29	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Oct. 31		Reformation Day - Halloween
Wednesday, Nov. 1	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 (Week 5)
Thursday, Nov. 2	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Nov. 3	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Nov. 4	12:00pm	Miki Etzel Memorial

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., NOV. 5- SAT., NOV. 11

Sunday, Nov. 5 All Saints' Day	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday, Nov. 6	1:00pm	Human Care Board
Tuesday, Nov. 7	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 8	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 (Week 5)
Thursday, Nov. 9	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Nov. 10	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Nov. 11	1:00pm	Possible Judy Memorial
	TBD	RESCHEDULED A Plan for Tomorrow Meeting

† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, OCT. 29 – SATURDAY, NOV. 4

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Gabriela Alvarado	Oct. 30	Ron Barendse	Oct. 30
Jaden Mundo	Oct. 30	Barbara Nelsen	Oct. 30
Sherry Porath	Nov. 1	Rick Vanover	Nov. 1

BIRTHDAYS:

Michele Sprengle Oct. 29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Gordon and Donna Strutz Oct. 31, 1971

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: 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.

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