



*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and they shall  
call His name Immanuel”*

*Matthew 1:23*

Ascension Lutheran Church and School  
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”  
December 18, 2022

## Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2022

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.)*

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

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### THEME: “This Present Sign”

**AS WE GATHER:** One of the pleasures of walking through medieval towns and cities in Europe is seeing the signs that hang above the doorways of various stores and craftwork locations. Without a word of written language, you can tell where the town’s cobbler, blacksmith, baker, and glove maker have set up their shops. The signs indicate that the masters are at work in their various locations. For Christians, Advent is a time for looking to the signs of the presence of God as found in Word and Sacrament. There are signs around us right now! The cross over the altar or in front of church wordlessly attests to the fulfilling of the work by the Master of all creation through the coming of Jesus as the babe of Bethlehem, who would be our crucified and resurrected Lord. The candles on the Advent wreath burn brightly today! The signs of the season are all around us.

**PRELUDE**  
**(11:00)**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**  
Music by G. P. Telemann and A. Vivaldi  
**Rachel Kelley, flute**

**WELCOME**

**HYMN**                   **“While We Are Waiting, Come”**

While we are waiting, come, While we are waiting, come,  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come, With power and glory, come  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come, Come, Savior, quickly come,  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SCRIPTURE *Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

- C** **Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**

*Women: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

*Men: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**

## LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

- P** Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13). Not surprisingly, the Bible has a lot to say about love. God is love (1 John 4). People know we are Christians by our love (1 Corinthians 13:1). Love sacrificed God's Son for our sins. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 alone tallies off a number of characteristics of love: it's patient, kind, it does not envy, etc. We cannot walk with Christ without it, and we cannot have the Christmas story without it. Often, churches will make the Christ candle larger than the rest to show that Christ is the reason for the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that we have. Jesus is the reason for the season.

## “Jesus! Name Of Wondrous Love”

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen here on earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
“Jesus shall His people save.”

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

**C** **Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is always present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with Your abiding presence. By the power of Your Spirit, direct our lives to expressions of repentant joy. Bless our devotion and our prayers and lead us in ways of faithfulness as we await Your final coming in glory; 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 7:10–17 (ESV)

(The birth of Immanuel is prophesied.)

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

Romans 1:1–7 (ESV)

(Paul greets the saints in Rome with words of blessing.)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

## LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25 (ESV)

(The telling of the birth of Jesus)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter.

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

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

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

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

## **PRAYER / LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED**

### **HYMN**

#### **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

O come, O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,  
free them from Satan’s tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save;  
and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **SERMON**

#### **“TRUST ME”**

**Matthew 1:18–25**  
**Pr. 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)*

**(8:30)**

**“Somebody Build A Manger”**  
Words and Music by Joel Raney  
**Ascension Choir**

*Somebody build a manger, down in Bethlehem.  
Because an angel told me the King is on His way.*

*Someone fill the lanterns. Someone light the way.  
Someone find a stable where Emmanuel can stay.  
Someone make Him welcome, someone ring a bell.  
Spread the tidings, share the joy!  
Somebody go and tell everybody!*

*Somebody build a manger, down in Bethlehem.  
Because an angel told me the King is on His way.*

*Somebody clean the stable, down in Bethlehem.  
Because an angel told me the King is on His way.*

*Somebody light a lantern, down in Bethlehem.  
Because an angel told me the King is on His Way.*

*Someone set the table, someone spread the news.  
Somebody find a pillow for the Prince of Peace to use.  
Someone make Him welcome, Someone ring a bell.  
Hear the tidings, spread the joy! Somebody go and tell everybody!*

*Somebody spread the good news! Down in Bethlehem,  
Because an angel told me that the King is on His way.  
Somebody build a manger!*

**(11:00)**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**  
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ  
**Rachel Kelley, flute**

## 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:

We pray for the Church as it awaits the final Advent of our Lord, that through it, the message of salvation be proclaimed, and the gifts of God be shared. And we pray for the nations of the world, that we may know times of peace and may with thankful hearts enjoy the blessings we receive. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** As we anticipate the joys of Christmastide, we pray for our family of faith and for all Christian people in God's kingdom around the world. Help us to share confidently the blessings that we know in Christ both within our family circles and beyond them. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We pray that we will not succumb to the many temptations that surround us in this and every season, and we ask that we be delivered from every evil. Inspired by and thankful for the witness of faithful Christians in times past, grant that we be led in paths of faith and faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We pray for those things needed by us as part of what we know to be our daily bread. And we remember people with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, and all on our hearts for whom our petitions are desired, *including*...Help us to share love without limit and offer forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven by our gracious Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord, we praise You for the blessings You have given to those celebrating this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

- P** Lord, receive our prayers as we eagerly await Your coming in Advent hope, peace, joy, and love. In the name of our Emmanuel, Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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.**

(8:30am service, please turn to page 14 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 do 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**

### **“We Remember You”**

In broken bread  
And the cup that we share,  
We remember You.

In broken bread  
And the cup that we share,  
We remember You.

We remember You Jesus,  
We remember Your love for us,  
We remember the blood You shed,  
We remember You.

In broken bread  
And the cup that we share,  
We remember You.

In broken bread  
And the cup that we share,  
We remember You.

We remember You Jesus,  
We remember Your love for us,  
We remember the blood You shed,  
We remember You.

### **“Beautiful Savior” (contemporary)**

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,  
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;  
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,  
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,  
I will sing of the blood that never fails;  
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,  
Of death defeated and life without end.

**(Chorus)**

**Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,  
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,  
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.  
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,  
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion  
And You reign, You reign over all.**

I long to be where the praise is never-ending,  
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;  
Where countless worshippers will share one song,  
And cries of 'worthy' will honor the Lamb! **(chorus)**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Continue with Your gracious presence among us and bless our coming in and our going out this day and each day of our earthly lives. Graciously hear our prayers and grant all that is best for us according to Your loving will. Grant us Your abiding peace as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our Advent hope, we pray.

**C** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING RESPONSE**

**P** We rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing!  
**C** **Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.**

**P** The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

**C** Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that Your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

**P** Thanks be to God who again reminds us of His eternal love.

**C** Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive Your blessed gift.

## **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 ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **HYMN                      “Prepare The Royal Highway”**

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory Foretold in sacred story  
Oh, blest is He that came In God the Father's name!

God's people see Him coming: Your own eternal King!  
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Oh, blest is He that came In God the Father's name!

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised King!  
Your King, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him! All voices join in singing:  
Oh, blest is He that came In God the Father's name!

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**C** Thanks be to God!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Thank you to Karen and Rich Zahursky for the lovely Altar flowers in honor of their wedding anniversary.

## † CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO SHUT-INS TODAY!

Everyone is invited to join us this afternoon at 1:00pm in the narthex as we gather to share Christmas carols with our shut-ins. We hope that you can join us in this wonderful time of sharing the love of Jesus with those who cannot get out to enjoy the season. Our time ends with singing at Fairlawn at 4:00pm.

## † SING WITH THE CHOIR?

“Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come!” If you would like to sing with the choir in celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, please plan on attending rehearsals December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7:00pm.

## † ADOPT A STOCKING FOR MY FATHER’S HOUSE

Thank You from the Human Care Board to everyone that filled a stocking! Please remember to bring your items back to the church and leave on the conference room table no later than Wednesday, Dec. 21.

## † 2023 FLOWER CHART

The 2023 Flower Chart is up and waiting for you to sign up for your special day. Check out what is left and get your date early!

## † INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

It is 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 and send out a Constant Contact email, but for those without Internet access, call the church office.

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## † MILESTONES

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### **BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

No Baptisms

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Brayson Pardue      Dec. 24

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

Rich and Karen Zahursky      Dec. 20, 1963



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ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, DEC. 18

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Bob Ritchie
<b>Acolytes:</b>		Jaden Mundo
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl Randy Schroeder Jim Eckart	Jonathan Mundo Jaden Mundo
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	J. E. Knox
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Debbie Rekdahl	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Norma Dillon Jean Dillon	Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard
<b>Readers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Michele Sprengle
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Jan Oswald
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bonnie and Rebecca

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ASSISTING IN SERVICE WED., DEC. 21

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	<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	John Hazen
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	
<b>Greeters:</b>	Norma Dillon	
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Jessica Brown
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Karon and Sheryl

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ASSISTING IN SERVICE SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

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	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ryan Deatherage
<b>A/V:</b>	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz
<b>Greeters:</b>	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jessica Brown
<b>Counters:</b>	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

**10:00am**

<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen
<b>Acolytes:</b>	
<b>Ushers:</b>	Johnnie Driessner Jaden Mundo
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Michele Sprengle
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Bonnie Webber
<b>Readers:</b>	Bonnie Webber
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jessica Brown
<b>Flowers:</b>	Altar Guild
<b>Counters:</b>	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Gina Kreps, Bill and Sylvia Guthrie, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Bill (Randy Bryant's brother-in-law), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Carlyn Staudt, Karla Deal, George and Carlee Metteer, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Rich Zahursky, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), Mike Fogarty, Members and friends with Covid, The people of Ukraine, \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Dale Porath. \*Home Bound.

**† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:**

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Retired after 23 years of service  
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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);  
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

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EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 18 - SAT., DEC. 24

<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b>	8:30am	Worship w/ comm.
<b>ADVENT 4</b>	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday Dec. 20</b>	6:00pm	3:10 Group at Sprengle's
<b>Wednesday Dec. 21</b>	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	3:30pm	Advent Worship 4
	6:00pm	Dinner – Comfort Food
	7:00pm	Advent Worship 4
<b>Thursday, Dec. 22</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER DUE</b>
	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, Dec. 23</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
<b>Saturday, Dec. 24</b>	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship

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EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., DEC. 25 - SAT., DEC. 31

<b>Sunday, Dec. 25</b>	10:00am	Christmas Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Monday, Dec. 26</b>	<b>All Day</b>	Church Office Closed
<b>Wednesday Dec. 28</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, Dec. 29</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, Dec. 30</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
<b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b>	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship

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UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Sunday, Jan 1</b>	10:00am	New Year's Day Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Monday, Jan. 2</b>	<b>All Day</b>	Church Office Closed

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233  
Church: 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

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**  
[pastor@alcportland.org](mailto:pastor@alcportland.org)

**Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**  
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**Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator**  
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**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers**  
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**Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary**  
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