



# "Better Together in Christ"

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"  
Sunday, August 24, 2025

## FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 2025

**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(ren).

**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.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Theme: “Better Together In Christ”**

**AS WE GATHER:** God calls us into friendship with Him and fellowship with one another, where His love strengthens, encourages, and sends us to share the Good News. In Christ, we are never alone, as His love binds us together, lifts us when we fall, and overflows into the joy of welcoming others into His family.

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Music by G.P. Telemann

**Audrey Zeebuyth, violin**

“Why Me?” by Kris Kristofferson

**Mark Wheeler, soloist**

“Minuet in G” by J.S. Bach

“Come, Thou Fount”

**Audrey Zeebuyth, violin; Barbara Conway, cello**

### WELCOME

**“Alabaré A Mi Señor” / “I Will Praise My Lord”**

**LSB 800**

**Refrain**

**Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.**

**Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.**

John saw the number of all those redeemed,  
And all were singing praises to the Lord.  
Thousands were praying, Ten thousands rejoicing,  
And all were singing praises to the Lord. **(refrain)**

*Todos unidos, alegres cantamos  
glorias y alabanzas al Señor.  
Gloria al Padre, gloria al Hijo  
y gloria al Espíritu de Amor. (refrain)*

We are Your people, O God everlasting,  
The people You created out of love.  
Mercy and justice, Power and wisdom:  
We bless You, we adore You without end. **(refrain x2)**

## INVOCATION

- P** Friends, we have come to worship in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of friendship – especially the friendship You have given us in Yourself. You are the Friend who laid down His life for us, who calls us brothers and sisters, and who promises to be with us always.

We thank You also for the blessing of earthly friends and for the fellowship we share as Your people here at Ascension. Strengthen us to go into the world with Your gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, that others may know the eternal friendship found only in You.

- C** Amen!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, many times we have not been a loving friend. Maybe it was selfishness and pride, or maybe it was careless or hurtful words. Often, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Let us come as we are, broken and in need of the Lord's help, and let us confess to Him where we have taken for granted His gift of friendship.

*(A moment of silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

- C** **Merciful God, we have sinned against You and the people around us. We have been less than friendly to others. We have struggled to reconcile with the people who have hurt us and failed to see our part in our troubled relationships. Help us, as Your children, to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, that we may live in friendship filled with compassion, kindness, humility, and forgiveness.**

- P** God's friendship to us never fails. It is a bond that comes from the unfailing love of Jesus Christ. By His death and resurrection, He forgives us all our sins toward Him and toward those around us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** Amen.

## “Amazing Grace” / “Sublime Gracia”

- 1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see
- 2 Su Gracia me enseñó a temer,  
mis dudas ahuyentó  
¡Oh! Cuán precioso fue a mi ser  
cuando El me transformó

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns.  
Un-ending love, amazing grace**

- 3 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

**Ya libre soy, Dios me salvó  
y mis cadenas ya El rompió,  
y como un río fluye el perdón  
Sublime Gracia, Inmenso amor**

- 4 Y cuando en Sion por siglos mil,  
brillante esté cual Sol  
yo cantaré por siempre allí  
Su Amor que me salvó

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns.  
Un-ending love, amazing grace**

Ya libre soy, Dios me salvó  
y mis cadenas ya El rompió,  
y como un río fluye el perdón  
Sublime Gracia, Inmenso amor

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have called us not servants but friends, for You laid down Your life that we might live in fellowship with You and with one another. Grant us grace to treasure the gift of friendship, to encourage and support one another in Your love, and to extend Your friendship to the world through the good news of forgiveness and life. 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

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup>For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! <sup>11</sup>Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

### Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

**“Cantad al Señor”** (*O Sing To The Lord*)

Traditional Brazilian, arr. B. Hall

**Handbell Choir**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 15:10-17 (ESV)**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

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

<sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

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

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

## PRAYER AND LOVE-IN-ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

**“Que Amigo nos es Cristo” / “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”**

¡Oh, que amigo nos es Cristo! Nuestras culpas Él llevó,

Y nos manda que llevemos, todo a Dios en oración.

¿Somos tristes, agobiados, y cargados de aflicción?

Esto es porque no llevamos, todo a Dios en oración.

What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

¿Vives débil y cargado de cuidados y temor?  
A Jesús, refugio eterno, cuenta todo en oración  
¿Te desprecian tus amigos? cuéntaselo en oración.  
Y en sus brazos de amor tierno paz tendrá tu corazón.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge! Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do Thy friends despise forsake Thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield Thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus", Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86, Text: Public domain

## **SERMON** **"CHOSEN TO BE FRIENDS"**

**Pastor Jim Sprenkle**  
**John 15:10-17**

## **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.)*

## **"The Mission/How Great Thou Art"**

Music by E. Morricone, arr. J. Schmidt, A. v.d.Beek, S. Nelson  
**Audrey Zeebuyth, violin; Barbara Conway, cello**

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### “Give Thanks” / “Dad Gracias”

Dad gracias de corazón, Dad gracias al santísimo,  
Dad gracias porque ha dado a su Hijo Jesús.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

#### Coro:

Y ahora diga el débil, fuerte soy, Diga el pobre, rico soy  
Por lo que hizo El Señor por mí.

And now, let the weak say, “I am strong.”

Let the poor say, “I am rich”

Because of what the Lord has done for us. **Repeat all**

Give thanks. Give thanks.

“Give Thanks” / “Dad Gracias”, Smith, Henry © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna!Music. CCLI License No. 759893

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** We are grateful, Lord, for Your friendship all the days of our lives. You have always remained faithful in bad times and in good. You have renewed Your friendship with us again and again through Your word of forgiveness and Your steadfast love. Continue to keep us in Your friendship and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We thank You, Lord, for all the friends that have graced our lives through the years and who befriend us now. We pray that we might be trustworthy and faithful friends to those around us. Bless our friendship as we share our faith in Christ with them so their times of joy may be doubled and their times of sorrow diminished. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Bless us, Lord, so we may model friendship in a world that so desperately needs friendliness. Bless the Church in all its efforts to proclaim Christ as the Friend of all sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We ask Your blessings, Lord, upon our friends who are ill, those who mourn, those for whom life is very difficult, and those who have any need...May they be encouraged by Your friendship and ours. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** We thank You, Lord, for Your gifts being celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Hear our prayers we pray, Lord Jesus, our precious Savior and Friend.

**C** **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen.

### **CLOSING SCRIPTURE**

**P** A friend loves at all times,

**C** **and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)**

**P** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**C** **Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:12-13)**

**P** And above all these put on love,

**C** **which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:14)**

### **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

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

### “Cristo Me Ama” / “Jesus Loves Me”

*Cristo me ama bien lo sé;  
su palabra me hace ver  
que los niños son de aquél  
quien es nuestro amigo fiel.*

#### **Estrillo:**

***Si, Cristo me ama,  
Si, Cristo me ama,  
Si, Cristo me ama;  
la Biblia dice así.***

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong.

#### **Chorus**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.**

*Cristo me ama, me salvó,  
y en la cruz por mi murió;  
mi pecado perdonó;  
vida eterna me donó. (Estrillo)*

Jesus loves me! God's own Son  
Over sin the vict'ry won.  
When I die, saved by His grace,  
I shall see Him face to face. **(chorus)**

“Cristo Me Ama” / “Jesus Loves Me, Stanza 1 words by Anna B. Warner: public domain., Stanzas 4 text ©  
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## DISMISSAL

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

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS      AUGUST 24, 2025**

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## **† HUMAN CARE BOARD AUGUST DONATIONS**

The Human Care Board is collecting kid friendly foods for “Food 4 Families” in August. Food for Families is a mobile food pantry/mobile market which serves students and their families in the Centennial School District. Please donate food items in the box under the coat rack in the back of the church. Recommendations include items such as macaroni and cheese, apple sauce, granola bars, cereal and canned foods. Thanks for your support!!!

## **† LWML CALENDAR ITEMS – SAVE THE DATES**

August 25, 2025, Deadline to Register for the LWML-Oregon District Retreat! \*

September 6, 2025 — Saturday, 10am to 12pm: ALC LWML Group Planning Meeting in the Community Room

September 19-21, 2025 \* LWML Oregon District Retreat

September 30, 2025 — Deadline to submit Mission Grant Proposals to the LWML Oregon District.

More information is on our LWML Bulletin Board (EAST hallway entrance to our Community Room). Contact Mae Smith for more information: [maes7010@gmail.com](mailto:maes7010@gmail.com)

## **† CHOIR REHEARSALS**

Choir resumes this Thursday, August 28, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Also, Handbell Choir will resume next Sunday, August 31, at 12:15pm. Please join us!

## **† MUSIC 101**

Have you ever wanted to learn or revisit the basics of music, how to read and understand it? Maybe you've wanted to learn how to sing with the choir or praise team, play the handbells, or learn the piano, organ, or some other instrument? If you would like to be a part of any of these opportunities, please see or contact Brad Hall (503) 201-2129 for more information.

## **† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The family of Ed Hubbard, Barbara Lewis, Carlyn Staudt, Bill Guthrie, Joann Schulz's grandson (Brett), Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Alma Bangs, Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Mike Fogarty, \*Mel and 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 – Deployed to Poland (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

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## MILESTONES – Sunday, Aug. 24 through August 30

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### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Don Farabee	Aug. 30	Parker Farabee	Aug. 30
Seth Farabee	Aug. 30	Dan Anderson	Aug. ??

### BIRTHDAYS:

Grace Fogarty	Aug. 24	Andrew Freeman	Aug. 25
Bob Ritchie	Aug. 25	Randy Schroeder	Aug. 27
Carlyn Staudt	Aug. 27	Chad Zeebuyth	Aug. 27
Duke Sheppard	Aug. 29	Larry Brooks	Aug. 30

**WEDDINGS:** None

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## LAST WEEK AT ASCENSION

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Offerings for Sunday, August 17, 2025	\$6,160.69
Weekly Budgeted Needs	<u>\$8,240.72</u>
Difference	- (\$ 2,080.03)
Attendance Last Week	8:30am –49
Sunday Worship, August 17, 2025	<u>11:00am –49</u>
Total Attendance:	<b>98</b>

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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., AUG. 24, 2025

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	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Bruce Blubaum
<b>Ushers:</b>	Mike Adams and Duke Sheppard
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	J.E. Knox
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Esperanza Gutierrez and Carrie Graham
<b>Readers:</b>	Pastor Jim Sprengle

**Altar Guild:** Debbie Rekdahl  
**Flowers:** John and Wendy Hazen  
**Counters:** Stan Chapulis and Lottie Guericke

**ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT WEEK, SUN., AUG. 31, 2025**

	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen	Randy Schroeder
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Bob Freeman
	Rich Bartell	James Freeman
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Wanda Cassetty	Alex Hodges
<b>Greeters:</b>	Nancy Thomas	Christina Freeman
<b>Readers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Peggy Hall
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Wendy Hazen	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: Debbie Noonan	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	

**EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., AUG. 24– SAT., AUGUST 30**

<b>Sunday, Aug. 24</b>	10:30am	All Church Worship
	11:45am	All Church Potluck
	12:15pm	<b>NO</b> Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Monday, Aug. 25</b>		Newsletter Items Due
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 26</b>		
<b>Thursday, Aug. 28</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Saturday, Aug. 30</b>	1:00pm	Quinceañera

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., AUG. 31– SAT., SEPT. 6**

<b>Sunday, Aug. 31</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Monday, Sept. 1</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>LABOR DAY</b>	1:00pm	<b>NO</b> Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 2</b>	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
<b>Thursday, Sept 4</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Saturday, Sept. 6</b>	10:00am	LWML Group Planning Meeting

# 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**

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

**Rev. Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**  
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**Sheryl Maier, Treasurer**  
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