"LORD, to whom shall we go? YOU have the words of eternal life"

Ascension Lutheran Church "A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone" Sunday, August 18, 2024

John 6:68

THIRTEENTH 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: "YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE"

As We Gather: Our Lord has argued with His enemies and insists that His flesh is real food and His blood real drink. Even the truth can sometimes be unsettling. The disciples are not sure what to make of it all and watched as many of His followers abandoned Jesus. Peter speaks what is on all our hearts. The way of faith in Christ is not easy, but what choice do we have? Where else is the One who keeps His promises and delivers what He says? Christ alone is the Word of eternal life.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411

- I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus.
- Refrain In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
- I want to see the brightness of God.
 I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. (refrain)
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
 I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus. (refrain)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934, Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

INVOCATION

- C Amen.

BAPTISM (11:00am)

Alexander James Zahm

OPENING VERSES

Psalm 34:18-19; 22

- P The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- P The LORD redeems the life of His servants;
- **G** none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for personal reflection and confession.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 +I+ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, 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 +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (ESV)

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, . . .

¹⁴"Now therefore fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. ¹⁸And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:51-69 (ESV)

■ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵¹[Jesus said:] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as He taught at Capernaum. 60When many of His disciples heard it, they said. "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.) ⁶⁵And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted Him by the Father." ⁶⁶After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526

- You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
 In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.
- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart; You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

- You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm, And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
- You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
 That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

You Are the Way; through You Alone, Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON "WORDS OF LIFE"

Pr. Jim Sprengle John 6:51-69

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.)

"I Will Lift Up My Eyes"

Music and Words by Tom Conry (based on Psalm 63) **Ensemble**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Father, we thank You that You have sent the great Good Shepherd who has compassion on His flock. In His name, we lift up our prayers for the family of God; for every nation, tribe, people and language; and for all those who hunger for the true bread of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

- **C** hear our prayer.
- Lord God, grant us always to work for the food that endures to eternal life. Bless the ministry of this congregation in our community, that many may embrace Jesus as the Christ and believe that He is the true bread of God who has come from heaven. Grant that we would never hunger or thirst for anything but Christ and His righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Word of Life, we pray for Your blessing upon all homes and schools, especially the schools, universities and seminaries of our church. Bless all places where Your people gather to teach and learn Your Word, and help us to remember that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Healing Lord, bestow Your power of healing upon the sick and give Your Spirit of hope to the depressed, the lonely and those who mourn...that in accordance with Your will, they may give thanks to Your name. Strengthen their faith and assure them of Your presence in all circumstances. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Lord of all joy, we give You thanks for all Your good gifts...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Holy Father, Your Son assures us that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink, and that those who feed on Him will live forever because of Him. By Your Spirit, prepare our hearts to welcome Him as He comes to us in the Holy Supper, that we may rejoice in His promises and depart in His peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- O Lord, heavenly Father, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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.

(11:00am service, please turn to page 13 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.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

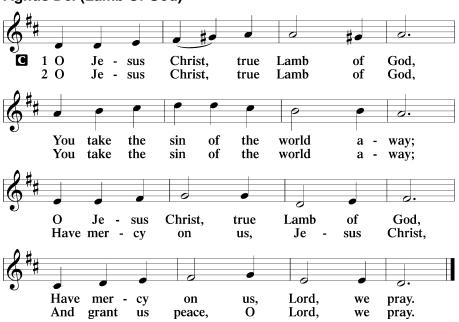
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +



Agnus Dei (Lamb Of God)

Agnus Dei (Lamb Of God), Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread, May I in grace possess You.
 Let me with holy food be fed, In hunger I address You.
 Prepare me well for You, O Lord, And, humbly by my prayer implored, Give me Your grace and mercy. LSB 625

 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, To restful waters lead me; Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me. Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, Refuge in You alone I seek, To share Your cup of healing.

 O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, For full and free remission
 I come with prayer before Your sight In sorrow and contrition.
 Your righteousness, Lord, cover me That I receive You worthily, Assured of Your full pardon.

 I do not merit favor, Lord, My weight of sin would break me; In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me. In my distress this comforts me

That You receive me graciously,

O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread, Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt., Text: Public domain

Beautiful Savior

 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
 Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

 2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing. LSB 537

 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
 Than all the angels in the sky.

 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
 Now and forevermore be Thine!

Beautiful Savior, Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904, Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the Holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own. In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever. Go, My children, with My blessing-You are My own. 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory. Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me: Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free. Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled vou.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Joyful and free.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

Thank you to Jim and Barb Conway for the lovely Altar flowers, given to the glory of God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 18, 2024

† FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY AND ALL CHURCH WORSHIP

Invite your friends and family and join us Sunday, August 25 at 10:30am for our annual all church worship. A potluck lunch will follow in the Community Room. The church will provide the main course, drinks and dinnerware for all. The congregation is invited to supply their favorite sides and desserts! Remember just **ONE** service that day!

Check out the list in the narthex to sign up for items to bring and where you can serve! If you cannot contribute, please do not let that keep you from coming.

† CHOIR IS BEGINNING SOON!

Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, August 29th at 7pm and continue each Thursday night through May. If you enjoy great fellowship and God's gift of singing, then please join us as we lift our voices to God in song!

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 4

The next watch party for episode 4 is on August 24 beginning at 10:30am.

† SAVE THE DATE LWML - SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Ladies of the Congregation and their guests are invited to attend an LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) planning meeting on Saturday, Aug. 31, in the Community Room from 10:00am-12:00pm. This casual meeting will include opening Devotion, prayer, and sharing ideas about the Mt. Hood Fall Zone Gathering to be hosted at Ascension this year. We will also talk about the theme and fundraiser for this year's LWML Sunday: "Ready to Serve" *Luke 1:38*

† THE LUTHERAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Performances continue this fall beginning Sept. 15 through Oct. 6. Looking ahead, there will be a Christmas/Epiphany concert on January 5, 2025.

The large ecumenical choir has members from dozens of churches and several denominations and has sung since 1938. Sue Thompson Armentrout directs the choir with pianist Karl Jurisons. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

The repertoire is broad, with music from traditional choral to downhome gospel, and tender to majestic, with a variety of talented composers.

† LWML MISSIONS

Want to take part in a gift of love to those all around the world? You can give to "Quilts Around the World". Donate any size fabric to this mission, all kinds are accepted, sheets too! Call Carolyn Gordon (503-674-6713) if you wish to contribute.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

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

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy – Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii (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 (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller) Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

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.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, AUG. 18, – SATURDAY, AUG. 24

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

KaiLeah Woods	Aug. 20
BIRTHDAYS:	
Barbara Conway	Aug. 18
Rev. Dan Parshall	Aug. 19
Matthias McInaney	Aug. 21
John Haase	Aug. 22
Taylor Osgood	Aug. 22
Grace Fogarty	Aug. 24

WEDDINGS: None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., AUGUST 18

	8:30am	11:00am	
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Herb Hoefer	
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED	
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis	Paul Walter	
	John Aden	NEEDED	
	Mike Adams		
	NEEDED		
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	J.E. Knox	
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox	
Greeters:	Norma Dillon	Margaret Hubbard	
	Jean Dillon	Esperanza Gutierrez	
Readers:	Julie Williamson	Michele Sprengle	
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Jan Oswald		
Flowers:	Both Services: Jim and Barb Conway		
Counters:	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie		
Sunday School	9:45am: Carrie Graham and Michele Sprengle		

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., AUGUST 25, 2024

	10:30am		
Elder:	Randy Schroeder		
Acolytes:	Caleb Zeebuyth		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis		
	Mike Adams		
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter		
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz		
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier		
	Nancy Thomas		
Readers:	Bonnie Webber		
Altar Guild:	Wendy Hazen		
Flowers:	Wendy and John Hazen		
Counters:	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson		
Sunday School	NO Sunday School		

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., AUGUST 18 – SAT., AUG. 24

Sunday, Aug. 18	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Tuesday, Aug. 20	6:00pm	3:10 Group
Wednesday, Aug. 21	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 22	6:00pm	Praise Team
		NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE
Friday, Aug. 23	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group

EVENTS NEXT WEEK - SUN., AUGUST 25 - SAT., AUG. 31

Sunday, Aug. 25	10:30am	Friendship Sunday
	12:00pm	Potluck Luncheon
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Wednesday, Aug. 28	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 29	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Begins!
Friday, Aug. 30	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group
Saturday, Aug. 31	10:00am	LWML Planning Meeting

scension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 Office Phone: 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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