

"Walk in

Christ

rooted and

built up in Him"



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

Sunday, August 30, 2026

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 2026

Good morning, and welcome to Friendship Sunday at Ascension! We are especially glad to have all of us together today as one congregation, along with friends, family members, and guests who have joined us.

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: “Friendship Sunday”

AS WE GATHER: Friendship is one of God’s wonderful gifts. He places people in our lives to encourage us, walk beside us, laugh with us, support us in difficult times, and share the joys and blessings of life. But today we celebrate something even greater than the friendships that connect us to one another. We celebrate the One who brings us together: **Jesus Christ**.

We come from different families, backgrounds, experiences, and places in life, yet in Christ we are joined together as His people. As Scripture reminds us, “we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

So today we give thanks for our friendships, for this congregation, and most of all for Jesus, whose love and grace unite us now and forever.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Karlee Navarro, trumpet

“For Those Tears I Died”

Words and Music by M. J. Stevens

Erin Hodges and Mark Wheeler, duo

“Love The Lord”

Words and Music by L. Brewster

Praise Team

WELCOME

“Brothers And Sisters In Christ”

Sing Alleluia! Amen!

Let your prayers and your praises ascend.

Lift up your voices and sing

to our Lord God, our Savior and King!

Here brought together by grace,

we are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain

**And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Man walked alone and in need,
without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering aimlessly lost
unaware of the staggering cost;
That God in His mercy would save
all His people from death and the grave. **(refrain)**

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
all Your goodness, Your love and Your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive,
and in love, teach us Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song,
help us tell all the world we belong. **(refrain)**

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ." Words and music by Terry K. Dittmer. Copyright (c) 1983 by the author. Used with permission.

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P** We are all one family, made in the image of God.
- C** **We are all one family, all over the world.**
- P** We are all one family, each unique, each special.
- C** **We are all one family, brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- P** We are all one family, given gifts and talents to share.
- C** **We are all one family, united by one faith, one hope, one baptism, one Lord.**

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.

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.

MUSIC

“Ancient Words”

Words and Music by L. DeShazo

Karon Keup and Carlyn Staudt, duo

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 36:24-28 (ESV)

²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 2:6-14 (ESV)

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:12-17 (ESV)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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

“Bind Us Together”

Chorus

**Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together Lord, Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.**

There is only one God,
There is only one King
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing. **(chorus)**

Made for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Son;
Given the grace to be clean,
For Jesus the victory has won. **(chorus)**

You are the family of God,
You are the promise divine;
You are God's chosen desire,
You are the glorious new wine. **(chorus)**

Bind Us Together, Bob Gillman © 1977 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing), CCLI Song No. 1228 CCLI License No. 759893

SERMON

“ROOTED AND BUILT UP”

Pastor Jim Sprengle

Colossians 2:1-10

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.)

“Praise To the Lord, The Almighty”

Arr. K. McChesney

Handbell Choir

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 PRAYER

P We thank and praise You for the cross-centered love of Christian friendships. We celebrate the laughter that is shared, the conversations that never end, the hugs that give us strength. Whether a single day or years pass between visits, we thank You that a friend loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17a).

C **Jesus, how awesome that Your love comes to us through friends. Thank You Lord! Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- G** Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored.

Chorus

**And they’ll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians
By our love.**

We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we’ll spread the news
That God is in our land. **(chorus)**

All praise to the Father,
By Whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit,
Who makes us one. **(chorus)**

They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love, Scholtes, Peter© 1966 F.E.L. Publications (a div. of the Lorenz Corporation) CCLI License No. 759893

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Thanks to Debbie and Wayne Noonan for the
lovely altar flowers in honor of their 47th wedding
anniversary given to the glory of God.*

† CHOIR BEGINS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

If you are interested in singing in the choir join us at 7:00pm on Thursday, Sept. 3.

† LWML GROUP MEETING

Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10:30am all ladies are invited to an LWML Group Meeting in the Ascension's Community Room.

† LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The choice for our next Ladies Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 8 at 2:00pm in the Community Room will be "God's Relentless Love" by Sharla Fritz. Each session will have a short video that accompanies it. This is going to be a great study! Get your book right away from Amazon or Concordia Publishing House. If you cannot get online, please call Michele and she will help you get your book.

† CHURCH WORK PARTY

You are invited to help beautify our church on September 12 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We hope to work outside, weather permitting.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Jaimie Bailey, Heather Gulde, Carolyn Shore, Mark (a friend of the Bryant's), Jim Eckart, Donald (David Grisham's brother), Aaryan (Chenery Whittier's son), Diana (sister-in-law of Randy Bryant), Riki Neagle, Gina Kreps, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
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 the Zeller's)
Kyle Zeller, Army – Fort Riley Kansas (grandson of the Zeller's)

MILESTONES – Sunday, Aug. 30 – Sat., Sept. 5

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Karen Arronson	Sept. 1	Taylor Osgood	Sept. 3
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BIRTHDAYS:

Larry Brooks	Aug. 30	Scott Fabbri	Sept. 1
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Larry and Janice Hart	Sept. 3, 1961
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Brian and Heather Darnell	Aug. 31, 2018
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ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

	10:30am	
Elder:	Bob Ritchie	
Ushers:	Rich Bartell-1	
	Paul Walter-2	
Audio/Visual:	J. E. Knox	
PowerPoint:	Rosemary Knox	
Greeter:	Nancy Thomas	
Reader:	Mark Wheeler	
Altar Guild:	Both Services:	Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:	Both Services:	Debbie and Wayne Noonan
Counters:	Both Services:	Bob and Elaina Ritchie
Sunday School:	Sunday School:	No Sunday School

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	John Hazen
Ushers:	John Aden-1	Rich Bartell-1
	Mike Adams-2	NEEDED-2
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Jae Evans
PowerPoint:	Laura Potter	Caleb Zeebuyth
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle
	Margo Bachhuber	
Readers:	Karon Keup	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services:	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services:	Sheryl Maier
Counters:	Both Services:	Sandy Kirchner and Cindy Reinert
Sunday School:	Sunday School:	Audrey and Cynthia

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN. AUG. 30 – SAT., SEPT. 5

Sunday, Aug. 30	10:30am	ALL Church Worship
	12:00pm	Luncheon
	12:15pm	NO Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Aug. 31	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine
	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Tuesday Sept. 1 Thursday, Sept. 3	1:00pm	Human Care Board
	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
	10:00am	LWML Group Meeting

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., SEPT. 6 – SAT., SEPT. 12

Sunday, Sept. 6	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Sept. 7 <i>LABOR DAY</i>	All Day	Office Closed
	1:00pm	NO Stewardship Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine
Tuesday, Sept. 8	2:00pm	Ladies Bible Study
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 10	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice

Attendance

Adult Ed: Sunday, August 23	26
Worship: Sunday, August 23	8:30am 61
	<u>11:00am 63</u>
	TOTAL = 124

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS

July General Fund Tithes	\$ 31,603
July Expenses	<u>\$ 31,363</u>
Difference	+ \$ 240

DEDICATED OFFERINGS

July Dedicated Offerings	<u>\$ 129</u>
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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.

STAFF

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