

The Acts of Ascension



Through My Window

By: Pastor
Jim Sprengle



Grace and peace to you,

“³⁴ You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God,” (Leviticus 19:34). What does hospitality have to do with our Christian faith? In many cultures, showing hospitality to a stranger is very important. God commanded His chosen people to welcome strangers who wanted to be a part of their group. In several places we see “foreigners” or outsiders who were grafted into Jewish faith and life. For example, Uriah the Hittite married Bathsheba and was a dedicated observer of God’s commands, (2 Samuel 11).

Jesus came into the world to reconcile us to God, but also to reconcile us to each other. His death and resurrection promises the forgiveness of sins, which is given to all those who have faith – and available to all people who don’t know Him yet. Many people have not heard the message of salvation, while many others have heard and are seeking a place to call “home”. When a person gathers up enough courage to enter a church building for the first time, we show love in the form of hospitality.

The word hospitality has the same root as hospital and hospice. These are places to receive care and blessings in difficult times. Hospitality in a Christian sense is greeting a stranger with a welcoming, loving attitude. Consider your own visits to other congregations – was the signage helpful? Did anyone greet you? Did you feel welcome? Did you depart with a desire to return? Sometimes we forget that our congregation is a beacon of light in a dark world, and our mission is not simply to sustain our members. Hospitality is one way for others to enter into relationship with us, as they see the love of Christ in word and deed.

Hoping to make all feel welcome,

Pr Jim

Gracia y paz para ti,

“³⁴ Al contrario, trátelo como si fuera uno de ustedes. Ámenlo como a ustedes mismos, porque también ustedes fueron extranjeros en Egipto. Yo soy el Señor y Dios de Israel,” (Levítico 19:34). ¿Qué tiene que ver la hospitalidad con nuestra fe cristiana? En muchas culturas, mostrar hospitalidad a un extraño es muy importante. Dios ordenó a su pueblo escogido que diera la bienvenida a los extranjeros que querían ser parte de su grupo. En varios lugares vemos “extranjeros” o forasteros que fueron injertados en la fe y la vida judía. Por ejemplo, Urías el hitita se casó con Betsabé y fue un observador dedicado de los mandamientos de Dios (2 Samuel 11).

Jesús vino al mundo para reconciliarnos con Dios, pero también para reconciliarnos unos con otros. Su muerte y resurrección promete el perdón de los pecados, que se da a todos aquellos que tienen fe, y está disponible para todas las personas que aún no lo conocen. Muchas personas no han escuchado el mensaje de salvación, mientras que muchas otras han escuchado y están buscando un lugar para llamar “hogar”. Cuando una persona reúne el coraje suficiente para entrar en un edificio de la iglesia por primera vez, mostramos amor en forma de hospitalidad.

La palabra hospitalidad tiene la misma raíz que hospital y hospicio. Estos son lugares para recibir atención y bendiciones en tiempos difíciles. La hospitalidad en un sentido cristiano es saludar a un extraño con una actitud acogedora y amorosa. Considere sus propias visitas a otras congregaciones: ¿fue útil la señalización? ¿Alguien te saludó? ¿Te sentiste bienvenido? ¿Te fuiste con el deseo de regresar? A veces olvidamos que nuestra congregación es un faro de luz en un mundo oscuro, y nuestra misión no es simplemente sostener a nuestros miembros. La hospitalidad es una manera para que otros entren en relación con nosotros, ya que ven el amor de Cristo en palabras y hechos.

Con la esperanza de que todos se sientan bienvenidos,

Pr Jim



The Acts of Ascension

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Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue
 Portland OR 97233-5009
 Church Office: 503-665-8821

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Web site:

www.alcportland.org

Our Mission Statement:

Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement:

Take part...

Email Addresses

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Coordinator of Worship and Music
worship@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Rev.
pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber, Treasurer
Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Council Secretary
property@alcportland.org

CHRISTIANITY 101

Join us in the Community Room on Wednesday, May 17 to June 28. There will be 8 Sessions from 6:00-7:00pm. Examine God's Word from a Lutheran perspective. Whether you have no experience with Christianity or want to review what you learned long ago; this class is for you!

Sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex, email office@alcportland.org or call 503-665-8821.

LIFE SUNDAY



Life Sunday is May 14
 (Mother's Day)!

You will find baby bottles to collect donations for *First Image*, formerly known as Pregnancy Resource Center. Do not forget to pick yours up and fill it with any and all donations! Please return it to the church by May 14.

Your donations help fund the mission of First Image. You can read all about that mission here: <https://first-image.org/about-us/>

NewsLetter
DEADLine

Thursday, May 25
Please submit
articles on time.

PASTOR'S APRIL REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

- Rich Zahursky, died 4/27, memorial at Ascension, Tuesday, 5/16
- Yenny Aguilar, (non-member) died 4/13, viewing 4/24, inurnment 5/8
- Jessica Brown, interment 5/5, Rose City Cemetery

Marriages –

- Samantha Cassetty – Joel Brannies
 - o Completed pre-marital assessment, counseling beginning Sunday 5/21

Transfers, New Members, etc. –

- Faithful Savior members (after closing) may be visiting with possible transfers

Baptisms –

- Multiple Latino Baptisms still to be scheduled (6-8)

Latino Membership –

- Pastor Ruberto
 - o Every Sunday worship at 5:00pm in Spanish began on February 26. Communion Sundays will be 2nd and 4th of each month
 - o LED sign has attracted 6-8 Spanish speakers to the service since we changed a portion to Spanish

Circuit Visitor Info –

- Faithful Savior, Portland held their final service on April 30th, and they gifted the property to St. Matthew's Anglican Church, which has rented worship space there for several years.
 - o Ascension received the Lutheran Service Book hymnals as a gift from Faithful Savior

Miscellaneous –

- Property Management

- o Bids on painting the exterior of the building are ongoing
- o Research on security system and fire panel replacement is ongoing

- Outreach Board

- o Met on 4/19
 - Discussed multiple topics about supporting / training Sunday volunteers (greeters, ushers, etc.) to help visitors feel welcome
 - National Night Out is August 5, on the Rockwood Prep Academy School grounds (old Portland Lutheran Campus) and we want to have a table at this event
 - Continuing to study Prep4Kids as they might use our lower level for their classes in the next school year
- o Sending 2000 Gospel Bracelets to Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Avon, Indiana
 - Planning to hand out to people seeking assistance at food pantry

- Human Care Board

- o Supporting First Image with a baby bottle drive
- o Life Sunday is Mother's Day, May 14

Dates to remember:

- Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day / Life Sunday
- Thursday, May 18 – Ascension Day (7pm)
- Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Day
- Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day
- Thursday, May 18 – Ascension Day (7pm)
- Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Day (Confirmation Day 11am service)
- Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day

EASTER AT ASCENSION



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Good Friday



Happy Easter! He is risen!

Let's Eat! Easter Breakfast.

The Easter breakfast was able to fundraise \$3346 to support our Benevolence fund. What a wonderful blessing it was for all who attended and also will be to those we can help. Thanks to all of you who volunteered!





Ready... set... go!



Door prizes!



Happy birthday
to YOU!



THE SONG EVERLASTING

MINISTRY • HUMILITY • VICTORY

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH CHOIR

PRESENTS

A SACRED CANTATA BASED ON EARLY AMERICAN SONGS

By Joseph M. Martin



Ascension Lutheran Church
Sunday, May 21 at 10:30am
(One Service)

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland Oregon | 503-665-8821



Ascension LWML: Lutheran Women in Mission Upcoming Events:

Here are some pictures from our Mt Hood Zone LWML Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Immanuel-Sandy: To view more pictures and information on Conventions this year and next, and for our LWML-OD Retreat this September, visit our Website: www.lwmlor.org/district-news



The first picture above shows Sara, Zone Delegate to our National Convention 2023 and her daughter, Hana who is our District YWR (Young Woman Representative)!!! Both will Vote on Mission Grants to be selected for the Ballot. The last picture shows only some of the 'Baby Shower' donations that day.

ASCENSION LADIES + Light Potluck Luncheon + Mission Grant Selection *

***Please Note the NEW DATE for our next get-together!!!**

The Ladies of Ascension plan to meet on Saturday, June 3 from 11am to 1pm (with setup and fellowship at 10:30) for a light Potluck Luncheon and LWML meeting including some fun and fellowship. Bring a salad or appetizer or ? – and bring a friend or new acquaintance. We'll start with a devotion and fun "Icebreaker" to get to know each other a little better and we'll also be selecting our favored Mission Grants to be on the ballot at our National LWML Convention, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-25, 2023. We'll share our selections with Sara, who is our Convention 2023 Delegate representing our Mt. Hood Zone LWML this biennium. All ladies are invited. See our Mites in *Action!* If you would like to preview a survey of the Mission Grants before we meet, let Mae know. That way you could circle your 8 favorites and mark any that you would like more information on at our get-together. We're looking forward to seeing you soon. Blessings and Thanks!

MAY Birthdays

Donna Strutz	May 4	Debbie Walter	May 14
Wanda Cassetty	May 5	Rachel Kelley	May 18
Millie Edwards	May 5	Gertrud Bublies	May 19
Lily Fogarty	May 5	Justino Gamboa	
Herb Hoefer	May 5	Itzab	May 21
Esperanza Gutierrez	May 6	Rosemary Knox	May 21
Samantha Cassetty	May 7	John Knoke	May 22
Nichole Fogarty	May 7	Mike Potter	May 24
Mel Haggard	May 9	Gabriel Woods	May 25
Karla Deal	May 10	Emanuel Aguilar	May 26
Jean Dillon	May 10	Eric Kreps	May 29
Carrie Graham	May 10	Debbie Rekdahl	May 30
Jaden Mundo	May 11	Roberta Ritchie	May 31

MAY Baptisms

Mike Fogarty	May 1	Debbie Noonan	May 12
Mel Haggard	May 1	Ed Hubbard	May 14
Alex Ritchie	May 1	Virginia Jacobs	May 14
Brooklyn Spencer	May 1	Elaine Miller	May 14
Eli Deal	May 2	Karla Deal	May 15
Ellie Graham	May 2	J.E. Knox	May 15
Janice Hart	May 3	Diana Laxton	May 15
Mark Schiely	May 5	Jean Dillon	May 16
Hilary Sylvia	May 5	Karon Keup	May 19
Rebecca Williamson	May 5	Paul Walter	May 19
Karin Richardson	May 8	Hana Laughton	May 20
Bob Freeman	May 12	Christian Mukul	May 27
Christina Freeman	May 12	Jeannette Krogh	May 30
James Freeman	May 12	Rosemary Knox	May 31

MAY Anniversaries

Keith and Sue Wentela

May 2, 1981

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in May. Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!



In the first newsletter, we discussed the history of the Mayans and their expansive, advanced empire.

Now we will delve deeper and look into what was life in that empire like?

The Maya were deeply religious, and worshiped various gods representing the forces of nature, including the gods of the sun, the moon, rain and corn. At the top of Maya society were the kings, who claimed to be related to the gods. They were thought to serve as mediators between the gods and the people on earth, and performed the elaborate religious ceremonies and rituals so central to the Mayan culture.



Romans 1:20 tells us that people have a knowledge of the creator, God, just from observing nature. They realize there is, One, who has "eternal power and divine nature". This *one* in Mayan religion was named "Hunam Ku," which means the "solitary one". He is the one who created the universe, controls it, and is its life-giving force. What the Bible calls "the King above all gods" (Ps 95:3, cf. Ps 97:9, 135:5), the "one God and Father who is over all and through all and in all". (Eph 4:8) He created the first humans from mud.

The gods were an intimate part of Mayan life and survival. They needed to be pleased and appeased, as they controlled the vital forces of nature, from agriculture to rain to childbirth. They were honored by sacrifices of animals and even humans. There was a god of the afterlife, where the souls of the dead transitioned to a new existence, but could still be contacted by the living for advice and help. Kings would transition into gods. Look for more information in the next newsletter!



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).

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, The Brown Family, Jerry and Alma Bangs, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), The Zahursky Family, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Dale Porath. *Home Bound.

** If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821*



If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821

CHECK IT OUT MORE ON OUR LIBRARY

FIRST THE NEWS: Stan Chapulis and Dan Parshall spent an afternoon clearing out the bookcase in the meeting room next to the office to establish an ARCHIVE LIBRARY and a REFERENCE LIBRARY. The Archive Library contains past church bulletin and Council and Voters' minutes dating back to the founding of Ascension Lutheran Church in 1958. While it is doubtful that most of us will ever read this material, for now, it is located in the Youth and Family Room next to the nursery.

Possibly of greater interest and use is the Reference Library in the Conference Room next to the Church Office. There one can find books helpful for Bible study, researching and understanding Christian and Lutheran teachings and doctrine. Lots of good stuff! Among the resources is the multi-volume Works of Martin Luther (a number of volumes are missing so if you have any please return them).

WHAT'S NEW in the Library you ask? Well, we have a three volume *What Luther Says*, an anthology of Luther's writings. Volume 1 covers subjects from Absolution to Giving; Vol. 2 Glory to Prayer; Vol. 3 Praying to Zeal and an index. This is a much easier resource than plowing through the approximately 30 volumes of Luther's Works. *What Luther Says* is in the Reference Library.

ALSO NEW: *Can a Smart Person Believe in God?*, a small, easy to read and relevant book by Michael Guillen a former ABC News science correspondent and Harvard physics professor. In his book Professor Guillen answers the question "Can a smart person believe in God?" with a resounding "YES!" I feel you will enjoy his clear and engaging writing so check it out. (Remember checking out a book simply entails taking it and returning when finished.)

MAY CALENDAR 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 6:00pm Elder Meeting	3 2:00pm Crafting Fun!	4 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	5 6:30pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Confirmation	6 10:30am LVMML Potluck Luncheon
7 Early Communion 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	8	9 6:00pm Council Meeting	10 2:00pm Crafting Fun!	11 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	12 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Confirmation	13 10:30am The Chosen Season 3
14 Late Communion Life Sunday / Mother's Day 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	15 5:00pm Altar Guild Salad Supper	16 1:00pm Rich Zahursky Memorial 6:00pm NO 3:10 Group	17 2:00pm Crafting Fun! 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	18 7:00pm Ascension Day Worship	19 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Confirmation	20 Cantata Practice
21 ONE WORSHIP 10:30am Worship Cantata. 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	22	23 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	24 2:00pm Crafting Fun!	25 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	26 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm No Confirmation	27 10:30am The Chosen Season 3 10:30am Confirmation Practice
28 Late Communion Pentecost / Confirmation 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30				

MAY SERVANT SCHEDULE 2023

May	7	14	21	28
May	Communion Early	Communion Late	Cantata 1 Service	Pent. / Communion Late
ACOLYTES	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 Dan Parshall Acolyte: 8:30 11:00	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 11:00	Elder: 10:30 Herb Hoefer Acolyte: 10:30 Jaden Mundo	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Randy Schroeder Acolyte: 8:30 11:00
SISTERS	8:30 Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Marcus Young Matthias McManey	8:30 Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Matthias McManey Marcus Young Eric Kreps Evan Kreps	10:30 Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo	8:30 Jim Eckart Bob Rekdahl 11:00 Matthias McManey Bob Freeman James Freeman Johnnie Driessner
AV & PP	AV: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 John Hazen Power Point: 8:30 Wanda Cassety 11:00 Rebecca Williamson	AV: 8:30 Teresa Osgood 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8:30 Taylor Osgood 11:00 Rebecca Williamson	AV: 10:30 Michele Sprengle Power Point: 10:30 Debbie Rekdahl	AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schultheisz 11:00 Rebecca Williamson
READERS	Greeters: 8:30 Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado 11:00 Riki Neagle Carrie Graham Reader: 8:30 Randy Schroeder 11:00 Carlyn Staudt	Greeters: 8:30 Sue Lewis Heather Guide 11:00 Julie Williamson Reader: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Julie Williamson	Greeters: 10:30 Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard Reader: 1030 Sheryl Maier	Greeters: 8:30 Sheryl Maier Christina Freeman 11:00 Reader: 8:30 Jim Eckart 11:00 Peggy Hall
FLOWERS	Altar: Virginia Jacobs Flowers: Wendy Hazen Nichole and Lily's Birthday Counters: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson	Altar: Debbie Rekdahl Flowers: McManey Keliah and Tyler Birthday Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	Altar: Wendy Hazen Flowers: Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald	Altar: Margo Bachhuber Flowers: Counters: Bob and Elaine Ritchie