

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Ascension Sunday • May 26, 2019 • 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

Today we celebrate the conclusion of our Lord's earthly ministry. It began when "He came down from heaven," as we confess. His work is completed through His life, teaching, suffering, death, and resurrection. In a mysterious way, the ascension of our Lord into heaven is both a going but also a coming. Our eyes see Him ascending through the clouds, meaning He no longer needs to be appearing and reappearing as He did for forty days after Easter. He is with us whether we can see Him or not. But the eyes of faith see Him demonstrating His power to continue coming to us by His Spirit working through the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments up to this very day and to the end of the ages. Therefore this final event of His earthly ministry is not something to be feared. Rather, it gives us great joy and confidence for our continued faith and hope.



✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

- P** We begin worship in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
C the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. (Psalm 47:5)

P Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

P And surely I am with you always,

C to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19–20)

P Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P God reigns over the nations;

C God is seated on His holy throne. (Psalm 47:6, 8)

Opening Hymn

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB #493



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why
4 “You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia,
stand and gaze up - on the sky?” Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky.” Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
al - le - lu - ia! “This is the Sav - ior,” thus they
al - le - lu - ia! “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
say; “This is His glo - rious tri - umph
see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



Rite of Baptism (10:30)

Today, our gracious Lord adopts Aria B. Gutierrez into His eternal family through the waters of Holy Baptism. Aria's proud parents are Cody & Audra Gutierrez. Sponsors are Kristi Morrow and Joshua Reding. Standing in for the sponsors are Alicia Gomez & Virginia Gonzalez.

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins, that we receive forgiveness and are prepared to know and live the true joy of this day.

A *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 loved 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. Amen.*



P “Lifting up His hands, He blessed them” (Luke 24:50). In the joy of this day, and upon this, your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God and, in the stead and by the ascension 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.

C Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3)

Please be seated.

Hymn of Praise

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB #493

5. Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD ✠

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Before He is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶So when they met together, they asked Him, “Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The Apostle Paul prays that we would be given the wisdom to comprehend this and display it through love toward others.

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, ²⁰which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion,

and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.
²²And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything
for the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Please stand in honor of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of His ascension, Jesus leaves His disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”
⁴⁵Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what My Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

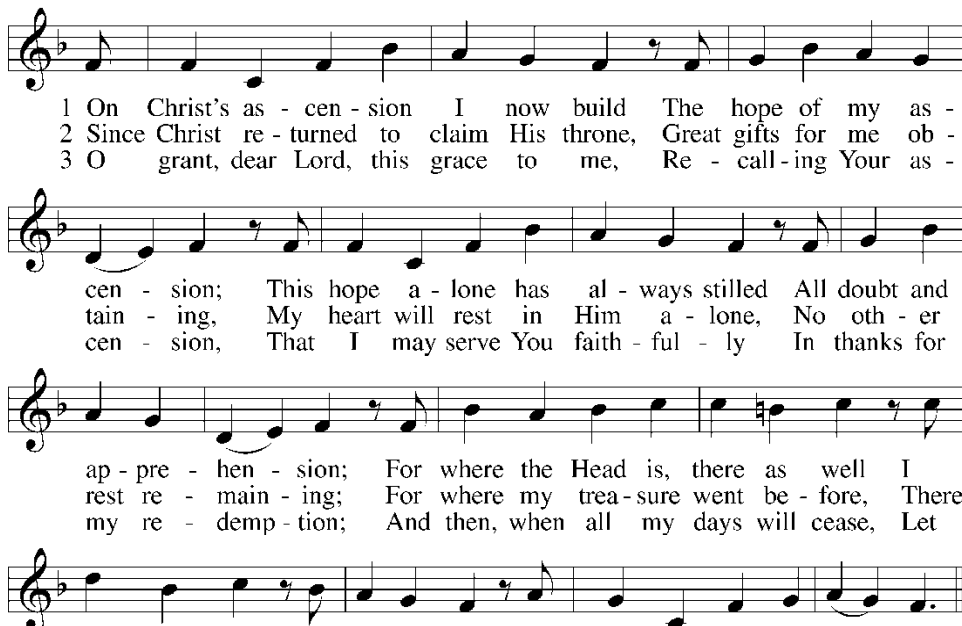
Please be seated.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

LSB #492



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -

cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for

ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let

know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Message

Please stand.

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE ✠

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

A 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.

Please be seated.

Offering

A SPECIAL NOTE: The mission and ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. If you are a GUEST today, please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but know that any financial gift which you make will be used to help share Christ's love and salvation. Our offerings are an important part of our worship. Also, take a moment to fill out a Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Offertory (8:00)

Tune: NOEL NOUVELET

God, in me a clean heart, now create I pray
From Your Holy Spirit cast me not away
Renew in me, a spirit bold and pure,
Joy give to my heart with Your salvation sure.

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Choir Anthem (10:30)

“Hail Thee, Festival Day”

Ralph V. Williams

Godspeed to Francis Simmons (10:30)

Recognition of Graduates (10:30)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord God, on this day we give You thanks and praise for the completed work You sent Your Son to accomplish in the world, taking on our human flesh to take away the sins of the world. Now in that same flesh He ascends to You. We thank You that He still preaches, teaches, heals, and feeds us through His apostolic ministers in Your Holy Church. Keep us in that joyful faith all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, grant that all pastors in Your Church be ever mindful that they serve not on their own authority but in the stead and by the command of the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ. Give them joy in their calling and confidence, especially in challenging our evil times. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, by Your Spirit grant that our Lord Jesus bring His Word and assurance of deliverance, health, and healing to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, (especially . . .). Deliver, Lord God, especially those who are most helpless and those to whom death draws near. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Lead and guide all leaders into the ways of Your peace, providing justice and peace among all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P (Other petitions may be offered.) Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, Lord God, for the sake of the crucified, risen, and ascended One, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who has taught us how to pray:

A *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.*

Memorial Day Video

“Freedom is Not Free”

Please stand.

✠ WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING ✠

Benediction

P At the time of His ascension, Jesus blessed His disciples. The most familiar blessing to us is one that was also familiar to Jesus and His disciples. First recorded in the Book of Numbers, it serves us as a fitting benediction to our worship here today.

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.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

C He is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

Closing Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

LSB #549



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da-vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm-wood and the gall,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

Sending

P Go in peace to serve our ascended Lord in joy and gladness!

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

✠ WE EXIT TO WITNESS ✠



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ASCENSION NEWS & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ **Flowers Today:** Flowers today are given by Dave & Kristal DeMartelaere for their anniversary and by Marjy Brady in honor of John Brady.
- ▶ **Flower Chart:** This is a lovely way to remember birthdays, anniversaries, and loved ones. One set of flowers is \$25 or both for \$50. Please place your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.
- ▶ **Opportunity Center:** The Board of Christian Service is collecting donations of paper products for Ysleta Lutheran Mission—paper towels, paper plates, napkins and toilet paper are all helpful to the ministry. Thank you!
- ▶ **Communion in June:** Please note this schedule change: June Communion Sundays will be June 9 and June 16.
- ▶ **Do You Speak Another Language?** If you speak another language and would be willing to read a short verse on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, please call or e-mail the church office.

Library Open House TODAY!

You are invited to the Library Open House **today from 9:00 – 9:15 am and 10:15 – 10:30 am.** The library is located across from the kitchen close to the Children's Education area. Jean DeWitt and Martha Alder, our two librarians, will be honored. Refreshments will be served. The congregation may check out books during the Open House.



WHAT WE RECEIVE IS GREATLY DETERMINED BY WHAT WE GIVE.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6).



Adult

**Bible
Class**



FELLOWSHIP HALL • 9:15 AM

Pastor Bestian will continue the study on the Book of Acts during Family Bible Hour at 9:15 a.m. All members & friends of Ascension are encouraged to attend.

Sunday School

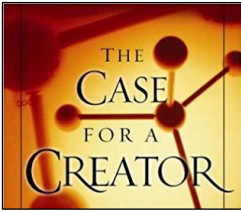
LESSON SUMMARY

Today in Sunday School, children learn about Jesus healing a blind man (John 9). Jesus came into this world to forgive us and grant us faith—spiritual sight. He gives sight to our souls by forgiving our sins. In your family faith discussions talk about how sin blinds us in our life of faith. Consider asking, “*What ways does sin do that? How do the Word and Sacraments give us ‘eyes of faith’ so that we can believe?*”

Sunday School Head Coordinator: Mrs. Wanda Melendez
Preschool/PreK/Kindergarten: Debbie Epperson, Jan Schlak
Grades 1-3: Linda Canada, Jean DeWitt
Grades 4-6: Lauren Hannemann, Kirsten Moravec



Youth News



Meet in the Youth Room downstairs at 9:15 a.m. for “The Case for a Creator” Bible study!

Serving with Ysleta Lutheran Mission



**Ysleta Lutheran Mission
Human Care**

“Changing Lives Through Simple Acts of Kindness”—this is the mission statement of the Ysleta Lutheran Mission. You will have the **opportunity to serve with the mission**

June 14 and 15 at the YLM Food Bank—children can help, too! Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet coming next week.

Sunday School Teachers | Bible Study Leaders

At Ascension, there are several opportunities to grow deeper in God's Word! We thank those teachers and substitute teachers who give of their time to teach, lead, and facilitate the study of Scripture!

Sunday School Head Coordinator
Cradle Roll Coordinator
Junior/Senior Youth Bible Study
Adult Bible Class

Wanda Melendez
Keri Howell
Luz Soto
Pastor Brian Bestian

Weekday Bible Study Leaders



Tuesday Women's Bible Study
Tuesday Men's Bible Study

Woman-to-Woman Bible Study
Thursday Women's Bible Study
Saturday Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Anita Werner
Ryden Richardson
Leo Melendez
Kim Bestian
Gretchen Schmalz
John Witty

Graduate Recognition Sunday

MAY 26, 2019



We congratulate our high school graduate on his accomplishment! May the Lord guide him through the next chapter in his life!

❖ **Jonathan Sotero**, son of Steve & Leticia Behl, graduated from Franklin High School and will attend the University of Texas at El Paso to study law enforcement.

We also want to congratulate our other graduates on their achievements! We pray the Lord guides them through the next chapter in their lives!

- ❖ **Becca Brady**, daughter of Marjy Brady, promoted to LT in the Navy and received her MD. She is going to the Naval Hospital in San Diego for Intern year and Residency for ENT. (5 yrs)
- ❖ **Kirsten Moravec**, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a minor in Nutrition. She is currently applying for jobs in cardiac rehabilitation, fitness, and other health-related fields.
- ❖ **Isaac Yturalde**, son of Raul & Dawn Yturalde, graduated from Valley City State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a dual concentration in Finance and Management and a certificate in Spanish. He is employed as a loan assistant with USDA Rural Development's Rural Housing and Rural Utilities Services.

Prayer Ministry

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7



If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Olga Sullivan at 581-1450 or e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

Please call the church office @ 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

Grieving: We pray for the family of **Janice Levenhagen** (Linda Canada's sister) as they mourn her death.

Missions: Apple of His Eye Ministry & Ysleta Lutheran Mission. Please pray for all missionaries around the world.

Immediate Concerns: **Sandra Ohlgren**, (Ryden Richardson's sister-in-law - healing after surgery), **Chris Fitzpatrick** (healing after surgery), **Aaron Levenhagen** (Linda Canada's nephew - correct diagnosis), **Mona Chandler** (Alzheimer's - Harry Clark's sister), **Anastasia Markum**, **Judy Pinal** (successful surgery/recovery), **Elizabeth Karl** (cancer), **Suzette Barber** (knee injury), **Cindy McGuire** (motorcycle accident), **Kay Mcleod**, **Sandra Eckland**, **Jerad Knight**, **Louise Hatton** (Gail Regaldo's sister), **Olga Sullivan** (Parkinson's), **Judy Freubenburg** (Ordella Uhde's sister-in-law), **James Goldsmith**, **June McClanahan** (Pastor's aunt - pancreatic cancer), **Brent Behrens** (continued healing after stroke), **Roselie Ross** (Gisela Lichon's sister - chemotherapy), **Christy Chavez** (Olga Sullivan's niece - recovery)

from surgery), **Pauline Sudnahufski** (family of Schwitters' – hospice care), **Mike Arredondo** (stroke), **Iris Arredondfo** (effective treatment of cancer), **Helen Warke** (cancer treatment), **Jan Larson** (continued healing), **Natalie Knight**, **Gloria Garcia** (friend of Weyers – heart attack), **Tony Evans** (ALS diagnosis), **Erin Naylor Leach** (friend of Hite family – swelling of brain), **Herb Harper** (effective treatment), **Lorie Nadelborg** (inoperable brain tumor), **Debi Maki** (successful treatment).

Ongoing Prayers: **Richard Cummings**, **Ron Spott**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Annabelle Leupp**, Todd Maki, Jerry Aguilera, Helen Allen, Arelis Baez, Rick Barber, Eric Bell, **Juan Chacon**, Peter Chisholm, Ron Cleavenger, Micah Cohen, Josephine DeMartelaere, Julie DeRusha, Travis Dickson, Humberto Garcia, Angelika Grossnick, Tina Guerrero, Karla Herbert, Wayne Kendrick, William Peevey, Lenae Rasmussen, Cheryl Rasette, Eloisa Regalado, **Gideon Rhodes**, Alicia Rich, Paul Robinson, Julio Rodriguez, Gabriella Rubio, **Jim Schwab**, **Garry Simmons**, Bill Strickland, Louise Strickland, Anthony Sullivan, Tony Sullivan, Fred Svarney, Jim Swegarden, **Jim VanEtten**, Greg Vaughan, Jenny Vicencio, Carol Watson, Joan Watson, Grace Wells, Jim Werner, **Marge Jordan**

Home Bound: Sandra Eckland, Ralph Matarrazo

Deployed Troops: Christopher Dahl & Nathan Hannemann. Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.

This Week at Ascension

MAY 26 – June 1

SUNDAY - 26

8:00 am Worship
9:00 – 9:15 & Library Open House
10:15-10:30
9:15 am Family Bible Hour
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Confirmation

MONDAY – 27

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY – 28

6:00 pm Men's Bible Study – church
6:45 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY – 29

10:00 am Weight Watchers
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY - 30

9:45 am Women's Bible Study – Schlak home

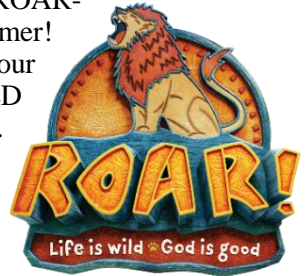
SATURDAY - 1

9:30 am Decorating for Summer Sunday School Rooms



Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus!

This year's Friends and Family Night VBS will be an ext-ROAR-dinary experience, June 3 - 6! It will be the MANE event of the summer! You've always wanted to go on a SAFARI. You'll have so much fun, all your worries will seem irr-ELEPHANT. Nowhere else can you have such a WILD time. No LION - our meals and snacks are delicious. It's a jungle out there. No one here will be HIPPO-critical. Come build a FEROCIOUS faith in Jesus! Why? Because VBS is not about four nights at church . . . it's about eternity! There is something for children teens and adults! Who will you invite to come on this exciting adventure? Please prayerfully consider serving at this exciting outreach ministry. Sign up today in the narthex! Registration forms are available at church and registration is online as well.



VBS song CDs on sale TODAY! \$6.00 each; make checks payable to Ascension!

Schedule:

- 5:45 - 6:10 p.m. Dinner
- 6:20 pm Kidvid Cinema – sanctuary
- 6:30 pm ROAR Opening!
- 6:50 pm Center celebrations
- 8:00 - 8:15 p.m. Safari Celebration Send-Off