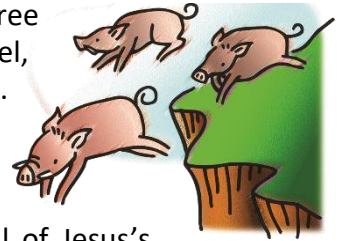


SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 23, 2019 • 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

We are held captive by many things in this earthly life, but three main enemies emerge: sin, death, and Satan. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a man who is possessed by many demons. This man had been chained so he wouldn't hurt himself or others, but chains could not stop the demons. Jesus comes to this man in his captivity and sets him free. Not only is the man set free from Satan, but Jesus also sets him free to tell of Jesus's mercy and compassion. By His death and resurrection, Jesus sets us free from our enemies, from sin, death, and Satan. We are also free to tell of Jesus's mercy and compassion.



✠ WE GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME ✠

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** In this world we are surrounded by enemies,
C but Christ sets us free.
- P** Sin has enslaved us all,
C but Christ forgives us.
- P** We deserve death for our sinful lives,
C but Christ is risen and will raise us as well.
- P** We are vulnerable to the attacks of Satan,

C but Christ is present and protects us.

Opening Hymn

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

LSB #814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

6. His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

P In Eden, our first parents listened to the voice of Satan and disobeyed the voice of God. By their actions they allowed sin and death into the world. We have continued in their footsteps, enslaved to sin, bound to die, and all too often captive to the voice of Satan. Let us go before our God and Father, confessing our sins and asking Him for forgiveness. Heavenly Father,

A *we confess that we are in captivity to sin. We are powerless to overcome death. On our own, we are no match for the power of Satan. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Free us from our enemies. Restore our broken relationships with You and with one another. Amen.*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you so that your sins may be forgiven, that death would be destroyed, and that Satan would be defeated. 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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. We are freed from our enemies. We are freed to serve in God's kingdom.**

P Let us now extend Christ’s reconciliation and peace of to one another.

Sharing of the Peace

Please be seated.

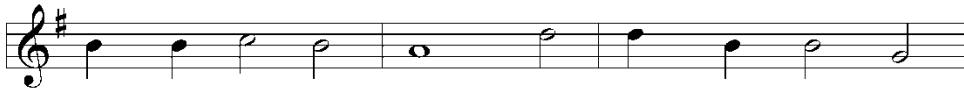
Hymn of Praise

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

LSB #528



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That



great Re - deem - er’s praise, The glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
sin - ner’s ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the liberator and defender of all people. Free us from the power of sin, death, and Satan, that we may serve You and our neighbors with joy and gladness, for You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ WE LISTEN TO THE LORD’S WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet Isaiah announces God’s impatience. The people’s self-absorption is idolatry, and images from pagan worship fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel’s exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

¹“I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. To a nation that did not call on My name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’ ²All day long I have held out My hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good,

pursuing their own imaginations—³a people who continually provoke Me to My very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; ⁴who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat; ⁵who say, ‘Keep away; don’t come near me, for I am too sacred for You!’ Such people are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day. ⁶“See, it stands written before Me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps—⁷both your sins and the sins of your fathers,” says the LORD. “Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied Me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds.” ⁸This is what the LORD says: “As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, ‘Don’t destroy it, there is yet some good in it,’ so will I do in behalf of My servants; I will not destroy them all. ⁹I will bring forth Descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those Who will possess My mountains; My chosen people will inherit them, and there will My servants live.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23-4:7

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the Law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴So the Law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the Law. ²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. ¹What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ²He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. ⁴But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under Law, ⁵to redeem those under Law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts,

the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Please stand in honor of our 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 8:26-39

Jesus’ mission includes foreigners, and His authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus’ work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony of God’s mercy and power.

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee.

²⁷When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at His feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, don’t torture me!” ²⁹For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” ³¹“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. ³²A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged

Jesus to let them go into them, and He gave them permission. ³³When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and left. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB #657



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
 vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
 fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va-tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
 self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
 o - ver-pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
 of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,
 work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
 hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
 we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
 child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They
 arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Message

Please stand.

✠ WE RESPOND TO THE LORD'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!

Prayer of the Church

P Dear heavenly Father, place Your wise hand upon all the nations of the earth, give them leaders who seek after justice and peace, and lead all people to the freedom of Your Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, lift up all those who are weighed down by the guilt and shame of sin. Release them from their bondage and point them to the forgiveness at the feet of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death, (especially . . .). Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, strengthen all those who are fighting against the power of Satan. Remind them of Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments. Empower them to resist Satan's lies with the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, give hope to all those who are isolated and lonely. Bring them into the presence of the loving community of Your Church that they find help and hope among Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, (especially . . .). Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Dear heavenly Father, send Your people to every corner of the earth with Your Gospel message, that all who do not know the saving power of Your Son's death and resurrection hear the good news of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P (Other petitions may be offered.) Into Your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, 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.*

Please stand.

✠ WE DEPART WITH THE LORD'S BLESSING ✠

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Closing Hymn

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

LSB #650



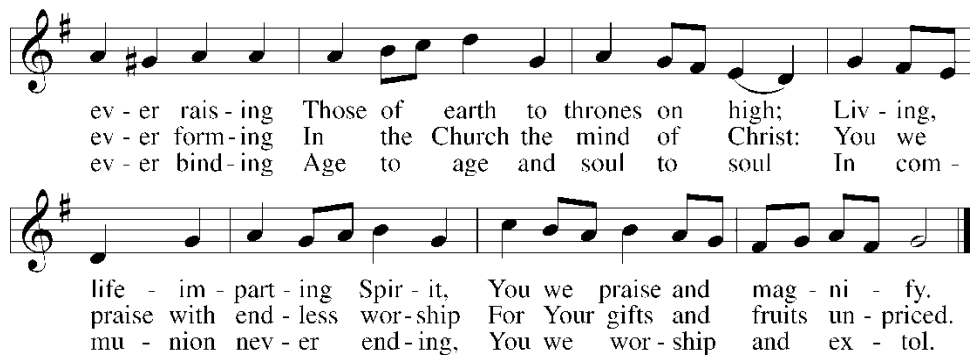
1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's



realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,
 ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we
 ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -
 life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.
 mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Sending

- P** Go in peace to tell everyone how much Jesus has done for you!
- C** Thanks be to God!

Postlude

✠ WE EXIT TO WITNESS OF THE LORD'S MERCY ✠

Acknowledgments

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ASCENSION NEWS & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ **Visit your church library** anytime during these hours: Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Sunday mornings.
- ▶ **Membership:** Those interested in membership at Ascension can go through the New Member Class online at our website: www.ALConnect.faith. Click on “Media” then the “New Member Class” link and follow the prompts.
- ▶ **Refreshments:** sign up today to share refreshments between services! Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall by the kitchen.
- ▶ **Audio Visual Volunteers Needed!** Please call the Church Office to sign up for the next training session! Please see John Witty for more information on this meaningful and simple way to serve our Lord!
- ▶ **If you utilize online bill pay through your financial institution you can also send your offerings to Ascension via your online bill pay.** Simply set up Ascension Lutheran Church as one of your accounts to pay; enter our address (6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912) and most importantly enter your envelope number as the ‘account number’ to ensure your donations are properly credited. Your financial institution will then mail the church a check whenever you direct them to do so.
- ▶ **Take your bulletin home** with you to read during the week, meditate on the scripture readings, and use the calendar of events for the week.

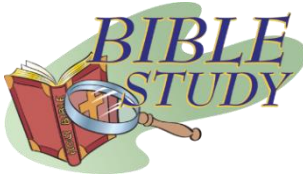
**HOW WE USE AND MANAGE
GOD'S GIFTS IS NOT HIDDEN
FROM GOD.**

“So then, each of us will give an
account of himself to God”
(Romans 14:12).



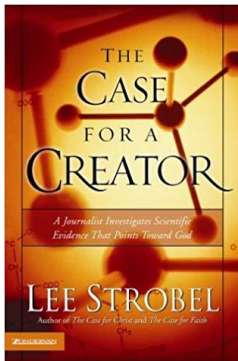
Adult Bible Class

SANCTUARY • 9:15 AM



We will continue the “Drive Thru History – The Gospels” video series in the Sanctuary during Family Bible Hour at 9:15 a.m. All members & friends of Ascension are encouraged to attend.

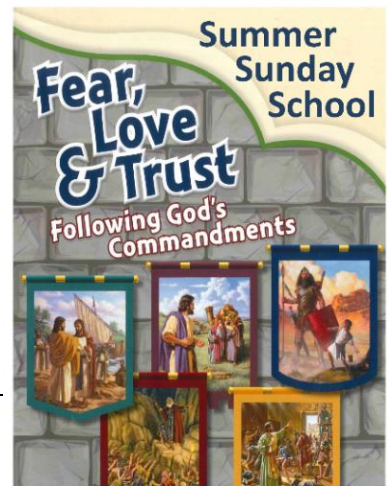
Youth Bible Study



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

Summer Sunday School

The Sunday School lesson today focuses on God’s command that I learn His Word, as students study the account “Solomon Builds and Dedicates the Temple.” Though He was hidden,



God resided within the Old Testament temple. Jesus is the unveiled, human Most Holy Place and is truly accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments. Parents might ask, “What kind of things would you have seen in Solomon’s temple? Where do we see Jesus today?”

Sunday School Teachers for this Sunday:

Jean DeWitt & Judy Pozzerle

*Children’s Sunday School meets in the Children’s
Christian Education Wing of the building.*

New! The Little Church Book for Parents



The Little Church Book
for Parents

Ascension Lutheran Children’s Ministry

New! The Little Church Book for Parents is located in the worship resource area by the blue children’s worship bags and other worship supplies for families. This free pamphlet is offered as a worship help for parents, and brought to you by the Children’s Ministry of Ascension! May it be a wonderful blessing!

New Member Orientation

If you have transferred membership in 2019 or if you have finished the online course (found on our website @ ALConnect.faith), please attend the “Discover Ascension” session, **scheduled for Sunday, July 28 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call the church office at (915) 833-1009 by Friday, July 19 to register.

- Lunch will be provided and child care is available upon request.
- New members will be recognized on Sunday,

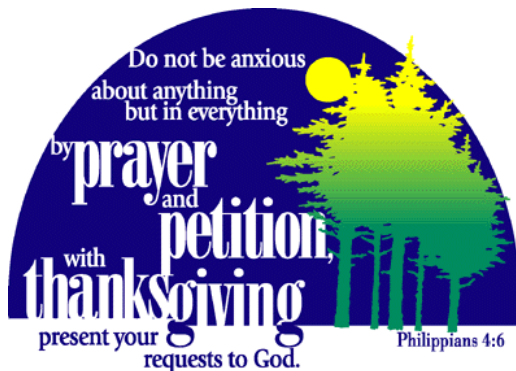


August 4 at either worship service.

- If you have questions, please call the Church Office at (915) 833-1009.

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 oveia6925@aol.com.

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

Grieving: We pray for the family of Elaine Bauer (Kim Bestian's aunt) as they mourn her death.

Missions: Orphan Grain Train & Lutheran Bible Translators.

Immediate Concerns: **Dave Epperson** (cancer

surgery), **Judie Pinal**, **Rosie Aguirre** (friend of John Witty - cancer treatment), **Don Wiegert**, **Alfonso** (Lyda Garrett's brother), **Susan Weber**, **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**, **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. Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.

This Week at Ascension

JUNE 23 - 29

SUNDAY – 23

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Family Bible Hour
10:00 am Worship

MONDAY - 24

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY – 25

6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study – church
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study – Wade home
6:45 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY - 26

10:00 am Weight Watchers



Raise the Roof Update



Praise the Lord! As of June 16, we have reached \$162,912, 93% of our \$175,000 goal! Only 7% to go! Thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

Tender Care Nursery News

The Board of Children's Ministry is considering childcare for the 8:00 am worship service. Please contact Judy Pozzerle, the BOCM chair, if you are interested in childcare at that time. Children's Ministry is open to the needs of parents. Thank you!



Thank you Ascension!



We all
in the name of our Lord and very worthwhile (and fun!).

The Board of Stewardship, Luz Soto and the Ysleta Lutheran Food Bank wish to thank all who volunteered last Friday and Saturday mornings to help with the Ysleta Food Bank.

Thank you to Alicia Gomez and her two sisters, Mariann Porter, Stephen Kaiser, David and Donna Tuchenhagen, Brett Moravec, David DeMartelare, Brad Voge and his 7-year-old niece Zoe, Jan Schlak, Ron and Barb Spott, and of course, Luz Soto, who directed the activities of both days. went home tired, but felt that it was a servant event done in

A number of folks from Ascension approached me in church on Sunday and said that they would like to be involved the next time we planned to help at the food bank. The Stewardship Board and Luz will let you know when that will happen.

SERMON NOTES