

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

## God is Calling

February 9, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

Once a teenager made a prank phone call. This was in the days when we all had landlines, one phone per household – when dinosaurs roamed the earth. The teen dialed a random number and a small boy answered the phone. The teen said in a deep voice, “This is God calling!” The small boy turned to his brother and said, “It’s for you.”

Would it surprise you to know that God really is calling? But wait – don’t give the phone to someone else! God is calling for you. Just like he called Isaiah and Peter, God is calling you. He wants you to trust in Jesus and be forgiven, and to live for Jesus and love others as Jesus did. Don’t let your pride get in the way! Like 1 Corinthians 14 says, God is calling you not to show off but to point to Jesus. Go on – answer the call!

### **The Season of Epiphany**

“Epiphany” means the “revelation” or “manifestation” of God. Jesus Christ is God, who came to our world as one of us. Jesus showed himself to be our God and Savior, not only to the Jews but also to people of every nation and culture. These people “had an epiphany”, that is, they saw Jesus and came to realize who Jesus really is, and they believed in him. The light went on!

We also have “had an epiphany” because we have come to see that Jesus is our God and Savior too! And God wants the people around us also to come to understand and believe in Jesus. During January and February (the season of Epiphany this year), we are hearing from the Bible how many different people saw the light of Jesus and came to believe in him. And God’s Word also shows us how we can shine the light of Jesus to the people around us, by what we say and do.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God’s Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying “Peace be with you” as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Hymn: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying (Lutheran Service Book 826)



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,  
3 If you can - not be a watch - man, Stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,  
4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
You can tell the love of Je - sus, You can say He died for all.  
Point - ing out the path to heav - en, Of - f'ring life and peace to all,  
While the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing And the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed With the judg - ment's dread a - larms,  
With your prayers and with your boun - ties You can do what God com - mands;  
Take the task He gives you glad - ly, Let His work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?  
You can lead the lit - tle chil - dren To the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.  
You can be like faith - ful Aar - on, Hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.  
An - swer quick - ly when He call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)
- C** **He wants his light to shine in our lives.**
- P** Jesus shines through us,
- C** **And we reflect his light.**
- P** Just as Jesus loves everyone,
- C** **We too should love the same way.**
- P** Just as Jesus stretched out his hand to the suffering and the needy,
- C** **So we also should help wherever we can.**
- P** Just as Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins,
- C** **So we also should proclaim to others and forgive others.**

- P** In this way we will light up the world with Christ's light.
- C** **The Bible says, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."** (Isaiah 9:2)
- P** We are that people, and Jesus is our light.
- C** **May the world see the light of Christ in our lives. Amen.**


### Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

- P** We have not always let Christ's light shine clearly in our lives. Let's take a moment to pray and ask God for forgiveness.
- C** **Lord God, many times your light doesn't shine in our lives as it should. Forgive us and fill us with you love so that we can be brighter lights in this dark world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**
- P** God says, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." (Isaiah 43:25) The Lord doesn't "remember" our sins because Jesus suffered and died to pay for them and because he rose from the dead to forgive us. Through faith in Jesus, all our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C** **Amen.**


## Service of the Word

### Kyrie


*LSB 152*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



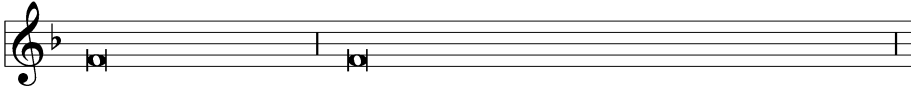
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Holy God, you have called us to trust in Jesus and to share Jesus with others. We are not worthy; but you forgive us in Jesus' name and call us anyway. Please help us as we answer your call, to go where you send us and do what you ask of us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

*(God forgives Isaiah and calls him to be his messenger)*

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle (New Testament Reading)

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

*(God calls us to speak clearly so that others can know Jesus)*

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. <sup>14</sup>For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise

with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup>Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup>For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup>I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

<sup>20</sup>Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

**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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are: "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 5:1-11

*(Jesus forgives Peter and calls him to become a fisher of men)*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

**Song while Children Come to the Front:** I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart to stay.

Refrain: And I'm so happy, so very happy,  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.  
And I'm so happy, so very happy.  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

**Children's Message**



## Sermon Hymn: Listen, God Is Calling (Lutheran Service Book 833)

*Refrain*  
Leader All



Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,



Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All



1 Je - sus gave His man - date: Share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten Through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, Stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*



That He came to save us And set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God Go and bap - tize.  
Walk - ing in Your pre - cepts, Led by Your Word.

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Tune: Public domain

## Sermon "Where are you going?"

Stand

### 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.**

## Prayer of the Church

We go to God with all of our needs, because he is our light.

**P** Lord God, thank you for your salvation. Please grant us your peace.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father we pray for your church, here at Ascension and around the world. Protect your people, guide us and help us to shine your light to the community around us.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Holy Spirit, we pray for those who do not yet believe in Jesus. Take away the veil that covers their eyes and encourage them to turn to your light.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we pray for all pastors and teachers and leaders and all who serve. Keep them in your truth and help them in their mission.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for our nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all. Guide our leaders and protect all who serve.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we pray for our world. Bring peace and justice, especially in Israel and other places where there is oppression or fighting.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, for the immigrants and for those in prison.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father, heal those who are sick and encourage those who are depressed or grieving.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, let your love rule in our church and in our families. Reconcile those who are at odds with each other.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for seasonable weather and for the earth to be fruitful in order to provide for the needs of every person.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we ask for your mercy for those on our prayer list. Some are members of our congregation; many are our friends and relatives; all need your help. Comfort those who are grieving; heal those who are sick; help and strengthen those who are facing daunting problems. *(See the prayer list at the end of this order of service.)*

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for these and for all our needs of body, mind, heart and soul. We put them in your hands and trust in your mercy. In Jesus' name.

**C Amen.**

### **Prayer for Someone Who Will Be Moving (Ruthy Pople)**

**P** Ruthy, God has led you to a new stage in your life and a new place to live. Moving can be very exciting but you may also feel a bit uncertain about the future and a little sad for what you are leaving behind. For our part, we will miss you a lot. But the Bible says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NIV). We know that God will be with you and that he has a plan for you in your new place. Don't forget him in all the changes of moving. Connect with a church family where you are going. Ask God to show you how he wants you to serve him there. And don't forget that you will be in our hearts always. We will be praying for you. As Michael W. Smith says:

Friends are friends forever, if the Lord's the Lord of them.

And a friend will not say "never", for the welcome will not end.

Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hand we know

That a lifetime's not too long to live as friends.

Lord willing, we will see you again here on this earth; but if not, we know we will see you in heaven. *(to the congregation)* Let's pray together:

**C Lord God, you are with us wherever we go. Be with our dear friend and sister in Christ as she moves from a familiar home to a new place. Support her in the challenges she will face. When she is lonely or nostalgic, remind her that she is not alone. Help her to connect with other Christians in her new community and to serve you together. And when we find ourselves missing her, grant us your peace and help us to be happy for the new opportunities that you are opening for her. We commend her into your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**P** May the Lord bless your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. *(from Psalm 121:8)*

**Song:** God Be With You Till We Meet Again                      Evangelical Lutheran Worship 536

1. God be with you till we meet again, By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.

Till we meet, till we meet; God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put his arms unfailing round you. God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain)

**Ruthy's Words:** One of the most difficult things I have faced recently is moving away from El Paso, and, therefore, Ascension Lutheran Church. I will be away physically, but Ascension will be in my heart forever. For the past 25 + years, Ascension's wonderful congregation has uplifted my heart and nurtured my soul... through the really tough times: our son Dave's serious health issues, our daughter Dana's totally strange disease (sarcoidosis) and subsequent open-heart surgery, our son Rod's untimely death from cancer, and the loss of my husband Dick. The kindness and generosity given to my family... and especially the help offered my daughter-in-law Laura during these times, will never be forgotten. I cannot imagine how I could have managed without Ascension's and God's help.

I have also enjoyed the support and "wild cheering" for the successes of my 4 granddaughters and the births of 4 great-grandsons. I am fortunate to have been a member of this church and to have known the people who are Ascension. I am a better person for having been a part of Ascension. THANK YOU ALL. GOD BLESS YOU!

Ruthy (My cell is 915-474-4314 and I hope one day to be able to use it effectively! I am trying!)

Sit

### **Offering**

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36, NIV) We owe everything to God! And so we set aside for God's mission a portion of what he has blessed us with.

### **Choir Anthem during the Offering** Here I Am, Lord (arr. Lloyd Larson)

- I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. *I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*
3. *I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

Stand

### Offering Prayer

**A** **Lord, bless and prosper the work of our hands as we bring you the first and best of the fruit of our labor. Let these offerings be used to proclaim your glory and support your mission. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### Offertory: We Are One in the Spirit (Praise y Adoración 667)

1. 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.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### Valentine Bible Verses

- P** Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.  
**C** **Now remain in my love.**" (John 15:9, NIV)  
**P** Jesus said again: "My command is this:  
**C** **Love each other as I have loved you.**" (John 15:11, NIV)  
**P** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.  
(1 John 4:8)  
**C** **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. [And] love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.** (Mark 12:30-31)  
**P** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.  
(Romans 12:10)

**© And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)**

**☐** Jesus said: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13, NIV) Jesus himself did just that – he laid down his life for us on the cross. His love is so great, no one can truly comprehend it. This Valentine's Day, remember Jesus' love.

And then Jesus calls us to love each other just as he loved us. This is not easy. Other people are not always very lovable. But Jesus will give us strength and help to not only love but also reconcile and forgive. On Valentine's Day, remember to share Jesus' love with others.

Usually we think first of romantic love on Valentine's Day. And it is true that romantic love is a gift from God. But St. Valentine was a priest (possibly a bishop) who helped persecuted Christians and who was killed because of that. He gave his life for others. So on Valentine's Day, go ahead and thank God for romantic love – but thank him even more for the love of Christ.

Let's pray:

**© Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and forgiving us. Help us to do better at loving and forgiving each other. In your name. 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.**

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

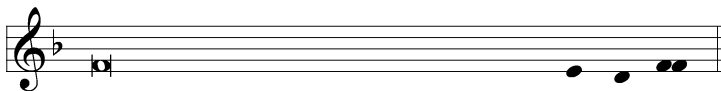
## Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord God, you are the strength of those who hope in you. Be with us, we pray, and help us in our weakness. Guide us so that we can be different, so that we can become more and more like Jesus. In Jesus' own name we pray. Amen.**

## Benediction

*LSB 166*



**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** A - men.

## **Closing Hymn: We've a Story to Tell To the Nations**

(Songs of Praise and Worship 184)

1. We've a story to tell to the nations  
That will turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy,  
A story of peace and light.

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn into dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright,  
And the Kingdom of God shall come to earth,  
The Kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations  
That will lift their hearts to the Lord,  
A song that will conquer evil  
And shatter the spear and sword. (Refrain)
3. We've a message to give to the nations –  
That the Lord who reigns from above  
Has sent us his Son to save us  
And show us that God is love. (Refrain)
4. We've a Savior to show to the nations  
Who the path of sorrow has trod,  
That all of the nations and peoples  
Might come to the truth of God. (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Mike Mielke
Acolyte:	Phyllis Meraz
Reader:	Barbara Lewis
Ushers:	Team 2

### **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

The passing of **Jeremiah Johnson** (nephew of David DeMartelaere), pray for peace and comfort for the Johnson family and for the DeMartelaere family.

The passing of **Marcy La Framboise** (friend of Connie Swinney), pray for peace and comfort for the Framboise family and for Connie.

The passing of **Delores Behl-Strassburg** (Steve Behl's mother) **and Maria Sotero** (Leticia Behl's mother), pray for peace and comfort for the Behl family.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Judith Morenos** (for continued recovery from COVID and improvement at home; for comfort and strength for the family); **Dov Kupfer** (our Sanctuary flower provider, for encouragement, strength and resources to recover from condo fire); **Leticia Behl** (for no cancer found in polyps); **Robin Wiegert** (for no evidence of malignancy be found); **Melissa Reddick** (friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer, pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and her family); **Turner Allen** (Praises for successful knee surgery and for recovery); **Skipper Balgemann** (Brother of Maxx Balgemann, for continued improvement and support, expect discharge 21 Jan); **Pastor Patten and Marilyn** (Marilyn fell and broke her leg. She is at White Acres (Good Samaritan) in rehab. Pray for healing for Marilyn and for strength and patience for both Pastor & Marilyn); **BJ Schwab** (Praise the Lord! Her recent thyroid biopsy came back benign); **(Helen Weesner** (friend of Maritza Schlak recovery from mini stroke), **Gloria Voge** (for successful therapy and strengthening of her legs with resulting better mobility); **Sophia**, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver, has cancer (prayers for recovery). **Margaret Yeager** (complete recovery with no complications); **Aubrey**

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**McDermett** (15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (pray for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo; **Richard Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis** (friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for effective treatment); **Lupita Burke** (Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere** (father of David DeMartelaere correct diagnosis and treatment for Edema and AFib); **David Kwiatkowski** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Gilbert Provencio** (for lumbar puncture good results Leading to walking improvement); **Mary Lou Provencio** (pray for strength, peace and guidance); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Ruby Lugo** (sister of Jessica Acosta and co-worker of Sally Benitez and Kristal Wade for recovery from heart issues); **Jim Werner** (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); ; **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (For healing and correct diagnosis; **Dick Seiders** (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Mary Spott** (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** ( relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser** (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); **Donna Welch** (sister of Candice Gebler heart issues); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson** (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); **Patty Jones**, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Linda Seiders**.

## **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Jean DeWitt** (Thanks and Paise for good annual checkup results);

**Marjy Brady** Becca called us this week stating she'll be staying in San Diego another 3 yrs at Balboa Naval Hospital following her Fellowship which ends in June. (She owes the Navy 6 more yrs!) Thank you, Lord!

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.

## Ascension News & Notes



Nedavia Meraz

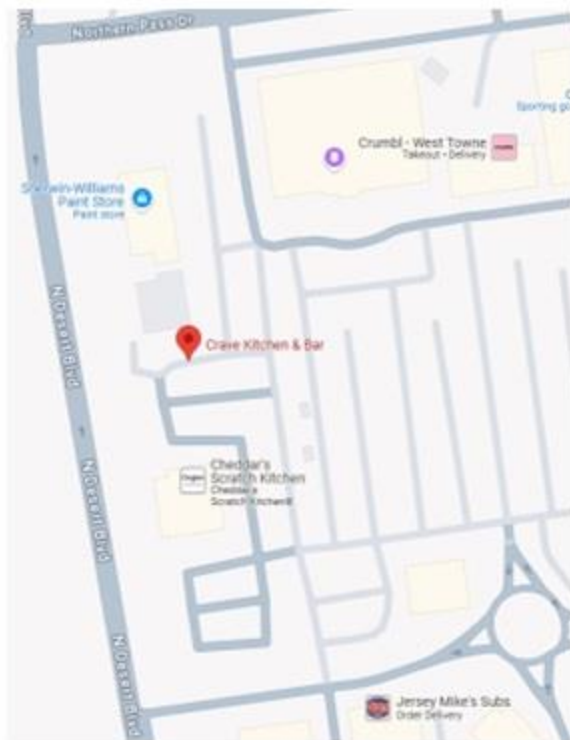
Feb 11

# Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: February 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 PM we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)



February 19th we  
will be meeting at:

Crave

6470 N Desert Blvd

(located near Cheddar's & Panera Bread  
restaurants)

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915)581-5566  
I hope you can join us.

## Job Opening

Ascension has an open position for an administrative assistant to our pastor and other church staff members.

The position is part time, working five to six hours per day on Tuesdays through Fridays, though some flexibility of schedule may be required.



Anyone interested in this position can contact the church office by  
alc6520@swbell.net  
eMail .

Position details are posted on church website  
<https://alconnect.faith>

On Sunday Jan 26, we sang

**"Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."**

We, the people of Ascension, demonstrated that when we collected \$260 in donations to help Dov Kupfer (our sanctuary flower supplier) to help recover from his condo fire and loss of flower supplies.

**Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!**

A Valentines card was provided with the gift:



28 Jan 25

Dov,

God is our refuge and  
strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

I hope this helps you  
during your time of  
adversity.

Blessings,  
The People of  
Ascension

# LCMS Youth Gathering

## ENDURE

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



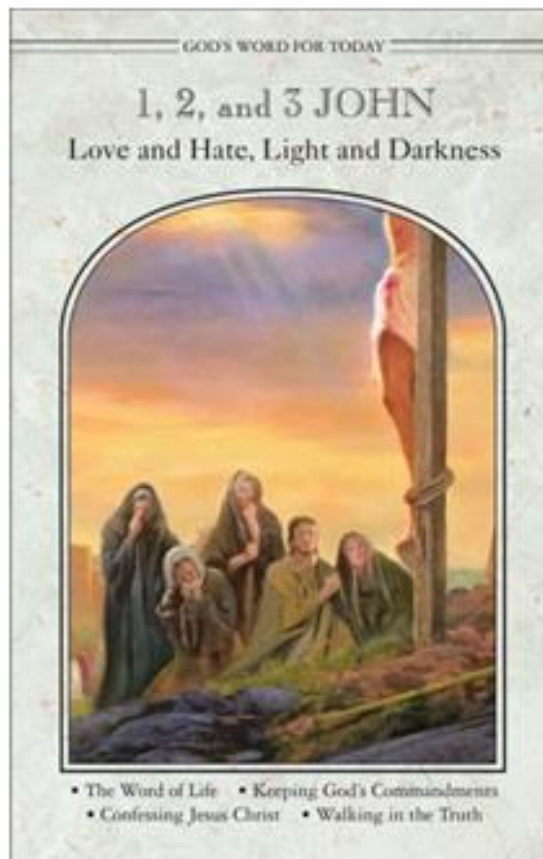
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES forever**

If interested contact the Pastor, David DeMartelaere, or Jacob Meraz for information and registration forms

**The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2, 3, John.**

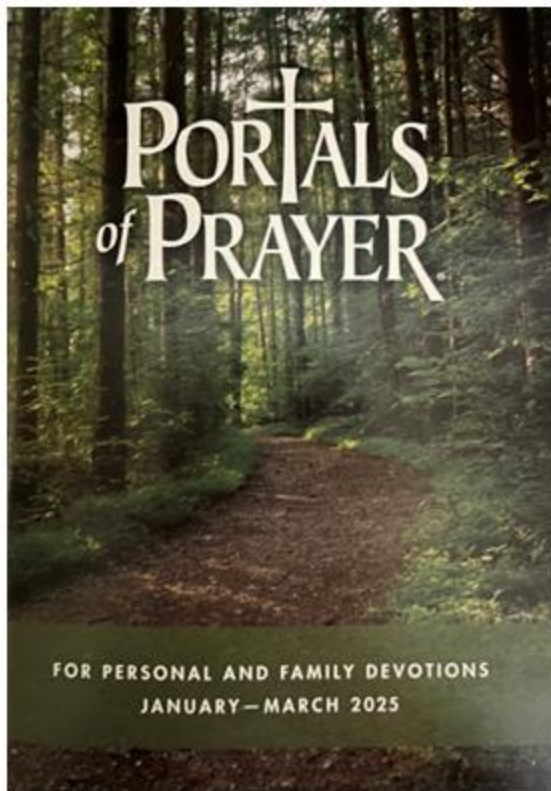
**We meet at the church on Thursdays mornings, we gather at 9:45, begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.**

**Please let Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak know if you will be joining us. All women are welcome to join us.**

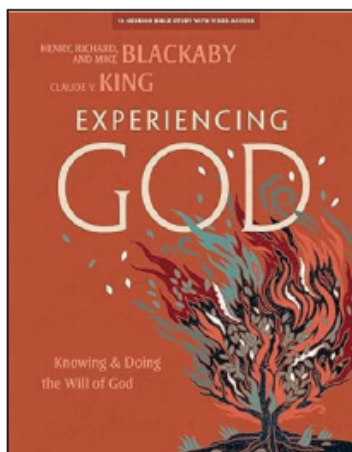




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# Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
directly from [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Date	Lesson #
Jan. 7, 2025	1
Jan. 14th	2
Jan. 21st	Break-Church Council Meeting
Jan. 28th	3
Feb. 4th	4
Feb. 11th	5
Feb. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25th	6
Mar. 4th	7
Mar. 11th	8
Mar. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Mar. 25th	9
Apr. 1st	10
Apr. 8th	11
Apr. 15th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Apr. 22nd	12-Final Session
Apr. 29th	Dinner/Fellowship

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st ([awerner@elp.rr.com](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

**Please visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and  
order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
prior to our first session.**

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (February 9)**

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



### **Monday (February 10)**

**Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (February 11)**

3:30 PM Worship Action Team (FH)  
6:30 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Class  
6:45 PM Boy Scouts  
7:00 PM Men's Bible class (FH)

### **Wednesday (February 12)**

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel  
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

### **Thursday (February 13)**

9:00 AM Board of Preschool (L)  
9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 PM Choir Practice

### **Friday (February 14)**

12:00 PM-2:30PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

### **Saturday (February 15)**