

5th Sunday of Easter

Everything is New

May 18, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

Because Jesus rose from the dead, everything is different. Everything is new! Before his death on the cross, Jesus predicted that his disciples would mourn and weep. But he also told them that afterward when he rose from the dead, they would rejoice and their joy would never end (John 16:12-22). Everything was new for them! Those same disciples were given a new mission: to share Christ's salvation with everyone, even those who were not Jews and whom they used to think were unworthy (Acts 11:1-18). And on the Last Day, God will make all creation new – new heavens and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-7).

Are you trapped in the same old, same old? Trust in Jesus and hold onto him! Through Jesus we are forgiven and have a new beginning every day! And through Jesus we will be part of the new creation to come! Thank the Lord, everything will be new!

The Season of Easter

Easter is not just a single day – it is also a 50-day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The season of Easter lasts about 1/7 of the entire year. During this time, the worship services focus on resurrection and life and the victory of Jesus. We Christians boldly proclaim the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection and our faith in the risen and victorious Savior.

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: Alabaré

(LSB 800)

Refrain/Estrillo



A-la-ba-ré a-la-ba-ré a-la-ba-ré a mi Se-ñor.
A-la-ba-ré a-la-ba-ré a-la-ba-ré a mi Se-ñor.

1 John saw the num-ber of all those re-deemed,
2 Voic-es u-ni-ted in joy and in sing-ing,
3 We are Your peo-ple, O God ev-er-last-ing,

And all were sing-ing prais-es to the Lord.
We of-fer praise and glo-ry to our God:
The peo-ple You cre-at-ed out of love,

Thou-sands were praying, Ten thou-sands re-joic-ing,
To God the Fa-ther, To Christ the Sav-ior,
Mer-cy and jus-tice, Pow-er and wisdom:

Refrain/Estrillo



And all were sing-ing prais-es to the Lord.
And to the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three in One.
We bless You, we a-dore You with-out end.

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Invocation

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

Prayer of Confession

- P** The Bible says: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way." (Isaiah 53:6) Now, at the beginning of our worship, we admit before the Lord how we have gone astray, trusting in his promise of forgiveness.

We take a few moments for silent prayer and reflection.

- A** **Oh Lord, you are our Good Shepherd. However, all too often we don't follow you very closely. Very often we leave your green pastures to look for pleasures in other places. We leave the paths of righteousness. We forget that you are by our side, and we do whatever we feel like doing. Forgive us, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** Jesus Christ says, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me... and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:14-15) On the cross, our Good Shepherd gave his life for our sins. But afterwards, Jesus rose from the dead. Our Good Shepherd lives and he forgives us! It is my privilege to affirm that you are forgiven and have eternal life in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

- P** After Jesus rose from the dead, he commanded his disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all nations (Luke 24:47) Through Jesus, risen from the dead, we have forgiveness for our wrongdoing, peace with God, and power from the Holy Spirit to begin to change our lives. Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Service of the Word

Special Music: 8 Day Song (Bryan Perdue)

(The Hebrew word "Eli" means "My God")

Refrain: Eli! Eli! All that you've asked, I've done.

Eli! Eli! Your new creation begun!

- 1) *Abba! My Father, the time, it has come for me!
None that you gave me are lost or have gone from you.
Just as I am in them, so you too are within me.
I brought them together, perfected in unity.*

2) *All you in darkness who came to the one true light,
Old lives have gone away and new ones have just begun!
My chosen united, created in love so bright.
All I have given atoned for everyone!*

3) *Praise God the Father and praise to his only Son!
Praise to the Spirit, a gift from the Holy One!
We give all the glory to you, Three in One,
Whose love for his chosen will nevermore be undone.*

*Refrain: Eli! Eli! All that you've asked, I've done.
Eli! Eli! Your new creation begun!*

A **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever! Amen.**

Hymn: Once There Were One Hundred (Mondragon/Bringle)“We Pray In Song 777”

1. Once there were one hundred, in the Shepherd's sheepfold.
Once a loving shepherd had a hundred sheep.
But one fateful evening, when he went to count them,
One of them was missing, one of them was missing,
Wandered from her keep.

Refrain: And the ninety-nine, he left in the sheepfold.
He began to seek her, through the bitter cold.
Then at last he found her, lonely, sad, and weeping.
To her hurts he tended, in his arms he took her
Safely to the fold.

2. I was once a lost sheep, wandering far from Jesus,
Stubborn and unheeding, lonely, sad, and hurt.
But one day he found me, offered me salvation.
To my hurts he tended, in his arms he took me,
Brought me back with love. (Refrain)

3. You may be that lost sheep, though you may not know it,
Wandering far from Jesus, far from faith and love.
But your faithful Shepherd calls for you and loves you.
On the cross he suffered; from the grave he rose up,
All to bring you home. (Refrain)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord God, you have made us new people; you have forgiven us and given us a new beginning. And you have promised to make new heavens and a new earth! Help us to share your love and salvation with others, like Peter did, so that they can have a new life also. In Jesus' name! Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

(A New Mission: Jesus wants to save everyone – even those who are not Jews.)

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Revelation 21:1-7

(New Heavens and New Earth: God promises that on the Last Day he will make everything new.)

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia (Melody: Unser Herrscher LSB 901)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior, open now your saving Word.
Let it burn like fire within us. Speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing, for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel

John 16:12-22

(A New Joy: The disciples would grieve when Jesus died on the cross but they would rejoice like never before when he would rise from the dead.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he

will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Children's Song: My Shepherd is the Lord

My shepherd is the Lord; I'll walk with him always.
My shepherd is the Lord; I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with him always.

Children's Message

Hymn: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Lutheran Service Book 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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Sermon "A New Heaven and a New Earth"

Stand

Nicene Creed

- ☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the**

Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer for Graduates

P Although Judy Pozzerle has moved away from El Paso, she is still a member here. She has just received her doctoral degree! This year, she is the only one from our congregation who is graduating from college or high school. However, many of you may also remember Mary Witty, who grew up here at Ascension. Mary's family moved away and they are no longer members, but they have kept in touch and Mary has now received her bachelor's degree. We celebrate with Judy and Mary and with other graduates from other Christian churches!

A **Dear Lord, we ask you to bless Judy and Mary and all our Christian brothers and sisters who are graduating this spring. Thank you for giving them strength and diligence to complete their studies. Thank you for this time of celebration for their accomplishments. Give them wisdom and direction as they begin a new stage in their lives. Help them to trust in you and not in themselves, and to use what they have learned in a way that glorifies you and helps others. Make straight their paths! In Jesus name, Amen.**

(Prayer adapted from Portals of Prayer April – June 2025)

Prayer for Those Serving in the Armed Forces

P We are thankful to God for service men and women, and today, on Armed Forces Sunday, we want to honor those who continue to sacrifice in order to serve our country in the different branches of the military. The Lord has called them to protect the innocent and defend our nation and our freedoms. We are grateful not only for them but also for the devotion and sacrifice of military families. We remember those who serve as chaplains to bring God's Word and spiritual encouragement in times of peace and in times of war. We ask God to heal those who have been wounded in body, mind, or spirit as a result of their service. May God bless you and keep you!

Active duty or reserve service men and women are recognized and thanked.

- A** Dear Lord, we thank you for the members of the armed forces, who work tirelessly to protect our nation. They have sacrificed much in their service to our country. Please give them strength, encouragement, and protection as they work each day. Bless also the families of the service men and women and provide for their needs. Heal those who are wounded or who are suffering. In Jesus name. Amen.

(Prayer adapted from Portals of Prayer April – June 2025)

Prayer of the Church

We pray for the church, for the world, and for all who have needs.

- P** Jesus is alive and is present with us, and so we pray for the whole church, for the world, and for all who are in need. Almighty God, open our hearts. Encourage us and strengthen our faith through your Word and the Lord's Supper. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** Open our hearts to welcome those who are new in the faith or new in the Lutheran Church. Help us, your sheep, to be one. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** Guide the leaders of all nations, particularly our own country, so that evil and divisions may be eliminated and so that peace and justice may flourish. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** Open our eyes to the needs around us. Help us to follow your example and share our daily bread. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** In the midst of suffering, help us to know that you are with us, and to trust in you. Strengthen and help those who struggle with pain, sadness, loneliness or sickness, *especially...* In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** Open our hearts to trust in you, and provide us with what we need to live each day. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**

- P** Open our lips and help us to give glory to the name of Jesus by what we say and by what we do. In the name of Jesus, risen from the dead:
- C** **Hear us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** Receive our prayers and fill us with hope through Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

The Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) Christ has risen!! And God gives us all that we need for our lives and for doing his work in the world. With joy we set aside part of what God has given us, for his mission!

Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

In-Person donations: You can place your donation in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

On-line Banking donations: You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

Other Electronic donation option: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.alconnect.faith or by scanning the QR code below. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofit organizations. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.

The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. As a guest, please do not feel obligated in any way to make a contribution. We believe that any gift to the Lord should be uncoerced and from the heart — as a loving response to God's grace.



Choir Anthem during the Offering: Amazing Grace / Praise, Praise the Lord
(Newton / Slagle Mayo)

1. *Praise, praise, praise the Lord, praise God's holy name!*
Praise, praise, praise the Lord, praise God's holy name!
Praise God's holy name, Alleluia! Praise God's holy name!
Praise God's holy name, Alleluia! Praise God's holy name!
2. *Once was lost, now I'm found. Praise God's holy name!*
Once was lost, now I'm found. Praise God's holy name!
Praise God's holy name, Alleluia! Praise God's holy name!
Praise God's holy name, Alleluia! Praise God's holy name!
3. *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound*
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.
4. *When we've been there ten thousand years,*
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.
Praise God's holy name, Alleluia! Praise God's holy name!
Praise God's holy name! Praise God's holy name!

Stand

Offering Prayer

- A** Good Shepherd, thank you for everything you have given us. Following your example, we also give these offerings in order to help other sheep to know you and in order to help provide for their needs. Bless and multiply these gifts, we pray. In your own name we ask it. Amen.

Offertory: Gracious God, You Send Your Blessings

LSB 782, stanzas 1 and 4

1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing

New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and

nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,

Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Invitation and Preparation for Communion

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people. In Communion, God wants to assure us that we have been forgiven through faith in Jesus who gave his body and blood for us on the cross.

To prepare for Communion, we follow what 1 Corinthians 11:28 says: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, if you wish to participate in Communion today, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, that is, that I have failed to keep God's commands as I should, and that I need forgiveness?
2. Do I trust in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, who died and rose for me?
3. Do I believe as I eat the bread and drink the cup, that I also receive the true body and blood of Jesus that He gave for me on the cross – even though I can't fully explain it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to follow Jesus more closely and obey him more faithfully?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you share a common faith with our Christian congregation and you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our common faith is expressed in more detail in the Creed that we confess together during the worship service.

Special Instructions for Communion:

- Children and those who are not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about the Christian faith.
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to give you the bread.
- During Communion, you may take one of the small communion cups from the tray, or you may wait and drink from the common cup.

- On the tray of small communion cups, those cups in the center of the tray have light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice. The other cups have wine.

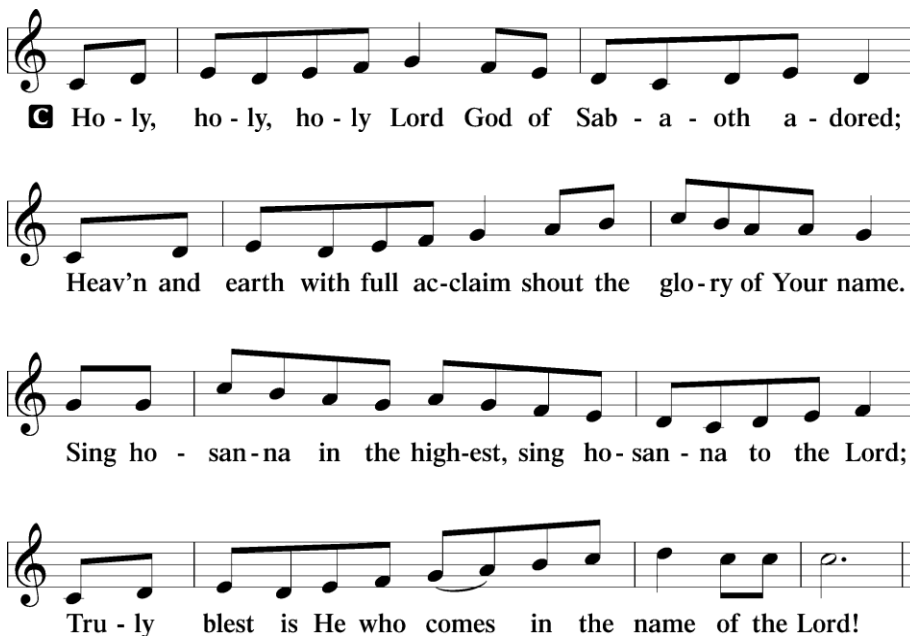
If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

Service of the Sacrament: Preparation for Communion

- P** This is the day that the Lord has made!
- C** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!** (Psalm 118:24)
- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
- C** **His love endures forever!** (Psalm 118:1)
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** Lord God, we should indeed give you thanks and praise today and always, here and in every place, because you are the only God and Lord, and you have shown your power over death. Through Jesus Christ you have given us eternal life! Therefore we lift up our voices to you today, together with all Christians in heaven and on the earth, to praise your name!

Sanctus (Song of Praise)

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini (John 20:19)

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
G Amen.

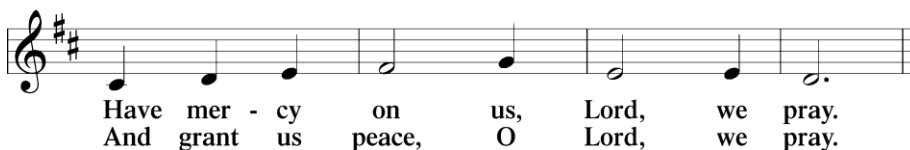
Agnus Dei (Lamb of God, John 1:29)

LSB 210

G 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Sit

Hymns during Communion

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

LSB 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

LSB 739

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
 2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 When my life is al - most gone,
 And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
 Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
 At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

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At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pier - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Soon and Very Soon

Make a Joyful Sound (white booklet), page 37

- 1) Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
- 2) No more crying there. We are going to see the King!
No more crying there. We are going to see the King!
No more crying there. We are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
- 3) No more dying there. We are going to see the King!
No more dying there. We are going to see the King!
No more dying there. We are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

After Communion:

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is



Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Heavenly Father, thank you for your promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Increase my faith and help me live in accordance with your Word. By your Holy Spirit, grant me the assurance that Christ is risen and that I too will be raised to live forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

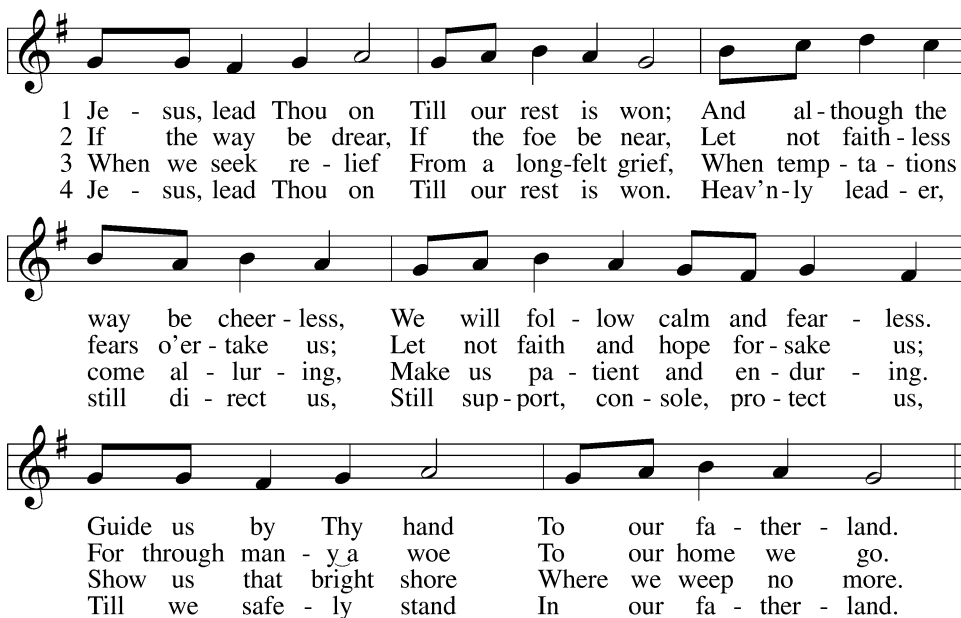
Benediction

- P** Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Lead Thou On

LSB 718



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re-lief From a long-felt grief, When temp-ta-tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead-er,
way be cheer-less, We will fol-low calm and fear-less.
fears o'er-take us; Let not faith and hope for-sake us;
come al-lur-ing, Make us pa-tient and en-dur-ing.
still di-rect us, Still sup-port, con-sole, pro-protect us,
Guide us by Thy hand To our fa-ther-land.
For through man-y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe-ly stand In our fa-ther-land.

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:	Andy Barber/Mike Mielke
Acolyte:	Rudy Valdes
Reader:	Russ DeWitt
Ushers	Team #1

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.

Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:

We pray for all those who may be grieving or mourning the loss of loved ones, especially remember these who loss is most recent:

Connie Steelhammer. (Former Ascension member.) Please pray for peace and comfort for her husband, Ken, and all of their family.

Pastor Howard Patten. Please continue to pray for peace, comfort, and strength for **Marilyn Patten** and all of Pastor's family.

Illness and Recovery:

Evelyn Karl (pray for a speedy recovery with no complications from after this past week's successful thyroid surgery); **Jennifer Solich**, past Ascension administrative assistant, (diagnosed with a brain tumor, please pray for successful treatment and strength for her to tolerate the medication making her ill); **Barbara Lewis** (pray for complete recovery from her recent surgery); **Kirstin Hervin**, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, (experiencing a recurrence of lupus affecting her kidneys and will be having injections; please pray that the treatment is effective with no side effects); **Jessica Moran**, daughter of Jeanne and granddaughter of Jan Schlak, (Jess' pregnancy has improved and the baby is not experiencing growth restriction; please pray for continued growth for the baby and a full-term delivery in August); **Jennifer De la Cruz**, Pastor & Maritza Schlak's daughter, (please pray for her in her final month of pregnancy because she is at a close diagnosable level for preeclampsia because of high blood pressure readings during midwifery visits); **Sophia**, the former caregiver to Concepcion Arellanes, who is the mother of Lorena Rodriguez, our church custodian (Sophia has terminal cancer, prayers for peace and comfort); **Carlos Munoz**, neighbor of David DeMartelaere, (for successful treatment and recovery from a brain tumor); **Diana Holguin** (for recovery from surgery) **& Tito Holguin** (for strength as he does caregiving of Diana); **Melissa Reddick**, friend of Barbara Lewis (for thanksgiving that brain cancer is gone and continue to pray for complete recovery); **Maritza Leon**, Maritza Schlak's mother (for continued recovery from surgery and successful rehabilitation now that she is back home); **Gilbert Provencio** (for recovery after successful surgery); **Jaques Reulet**, the father of Yves Reulet, Pastor Rick and Maritza's son-in-law's father (for healing in his recovery from quadruple bypass surgery and thanks that he is now home), **Mark Pfeifer**, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (for

healing and that he be able to leave the hospital); **Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony** (for guidance & strength in handling parents' estate as they mourn); **Diana and sister Dayna**, students where Maritza Schlak teaches, orphaned and living with their aunt (for protection and comfort in their loss); **Maddy**, student where Mari teaches (for safety from gang violence); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy and healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermett** (for 15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (for upcoming heart procedures 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); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney (recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Brian Stickney** (continuing health issues); **Rebekah Livesay** (for healing and correct diagnosis); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (continue to heal from cancer and keep the cancer from spreading); **Mary Spott**, Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother, (heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** (relief from Osteoarthritis); **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); **Bob Gallagher** (grateful no cancer was found, but he is still fragile with many health issues); **Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders**.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Merle DeMartelaere, father of David DeMartelaere (for successful treatment for Edema and AFib); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for recovery from hip surgery); **Greg Tatum** (Marjy Brady's nephew) **& his wife, Jessica** and their baby son, **Jackson Tatum** (thanksgiving to God for this new life); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson**, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer and is doing well, thanks be to God).

Special Prayer Requests:

Jacob Meraz is asking that in the coming weeks, we would pray for the San Pablo youth group's fundraisers' success. Also, pray for the financial help that will provide for the needs of both Ascension and San Pablo youth groups planning to go to the LCMS Endure Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please pray for the spiritual well-being and safety of all participants involved.

Ascension News and Notes

**Flowers for today's service are provided by
David DeMartelaere & Kristal Wade
in celebration of their anniversary.**



BOTH SETS OF FLOWERS ARE \$60.00.

**NOTE: CONSIDER SHARING THE COST WITH
SOMEONE ELSE. THEN YOU EACH PAY \$30.00**

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFER-
ING PLATE OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE.**



20 May — Crystal Moehlig



**23 May — David DeMartelaere
& Kristal Wade**

Congratulation Graduates!

**Mary Witty
Bachelor Degree
Abilene Christian University
May 2025**



**Judy Pozzerle
Doctoral Degree
Abilene Christian University
May 2025**



Natalie Allen



Jesse Faugstad



Suyapa Velasquez



Joe Karl

**Congregational Meeting
TODAY, May 18, 2025
(Immediately following the worship service)**



Voting on:

- **FINAL Ascension Lutheran Church 2025 Constitution and Bylaws** as revised and approved by the LCMS Rocky Mountain Division (final copy and copy with marked changes)
- **Several new Ascension Lutheran Church Policies**
 - Congregational Meeting Minutes (12-01-2024)
 - ALC Communion Policy (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Job Description Policy for Council (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Council Meeting Policy (Council approved 01-21-25)
 - Contract Policy (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Revised ALC Constitution and By-laws Approved by RMD DCC

All documents to be published to the Congregation via email.

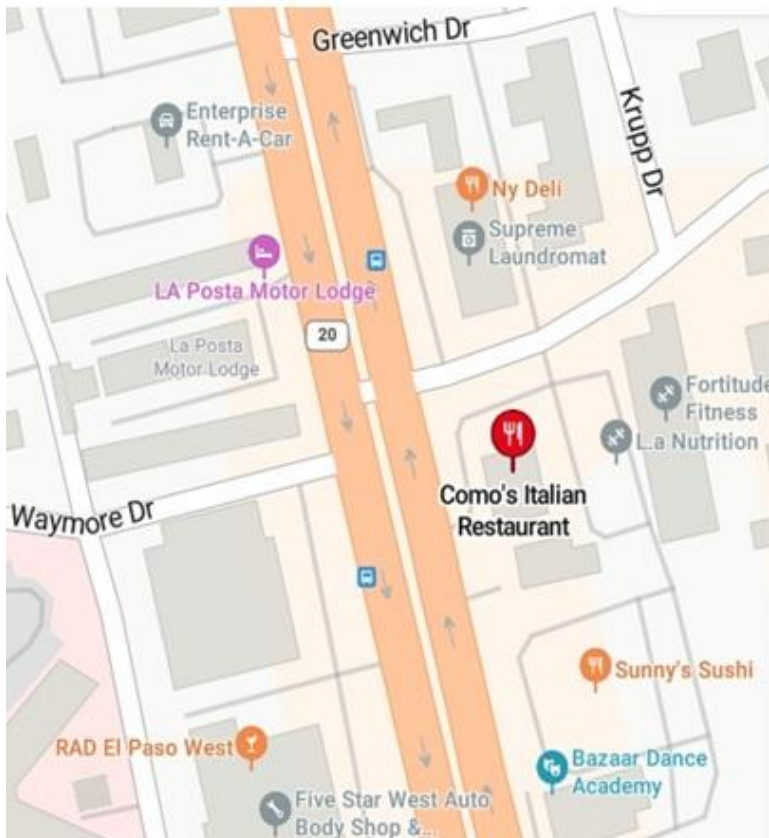
- Hard copies available upon request, **Contact Kristal Wade:** ausakwade@gmail.com

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: May 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)



May 21st we will
be meeting at:
**Como's Italian
Restaurant**
4030 N. Mesa St.

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

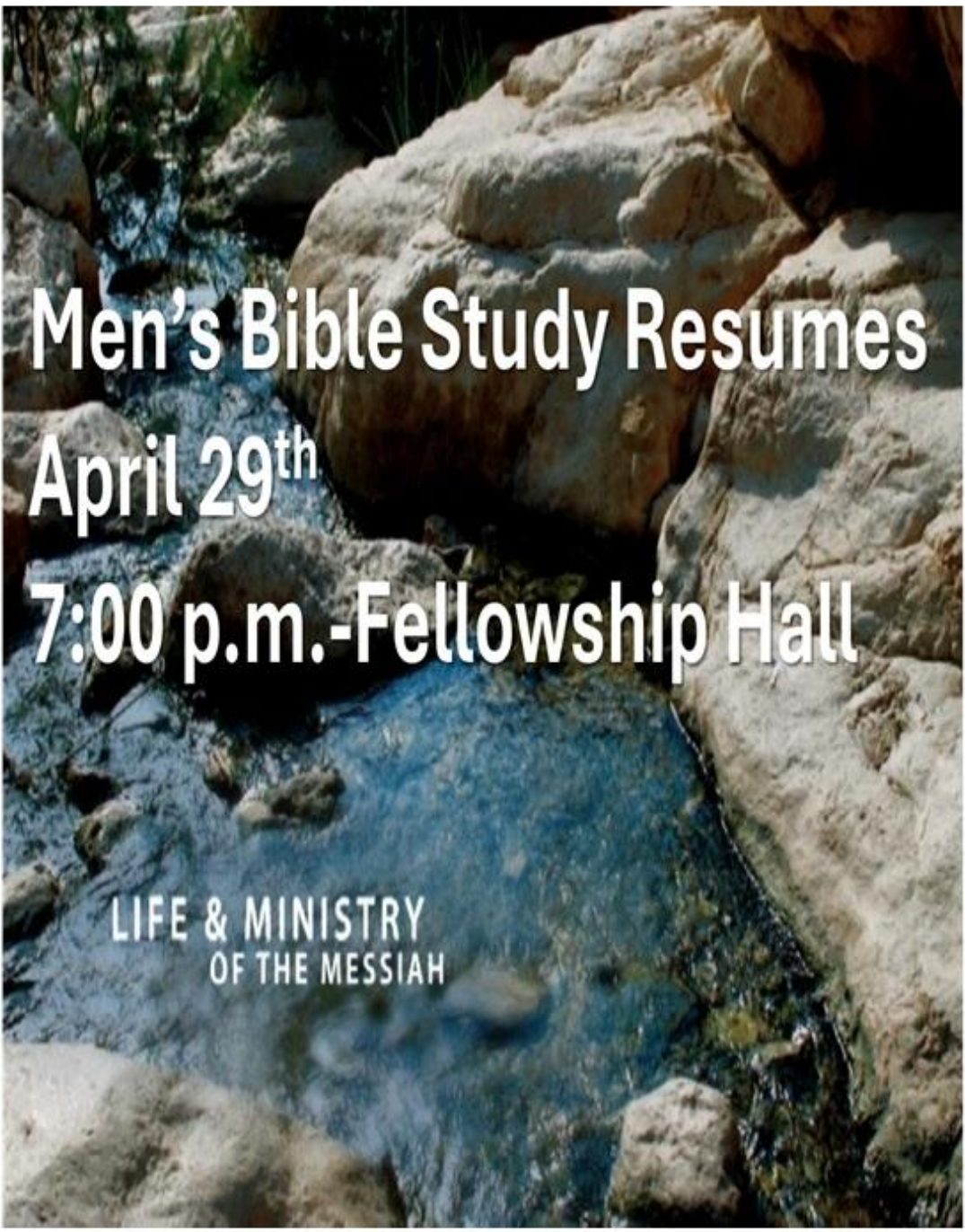
Women's Bible Study will resume in September 2025.

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

**All women are welcome to join us as we study. If you have any
questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.**



Women's Bible Study

A photograph of a rocky stream with water flowing over stones. The water is a deep blue color, and the rocks are light-colored and jagged. The background shows more rocks and some greenery.

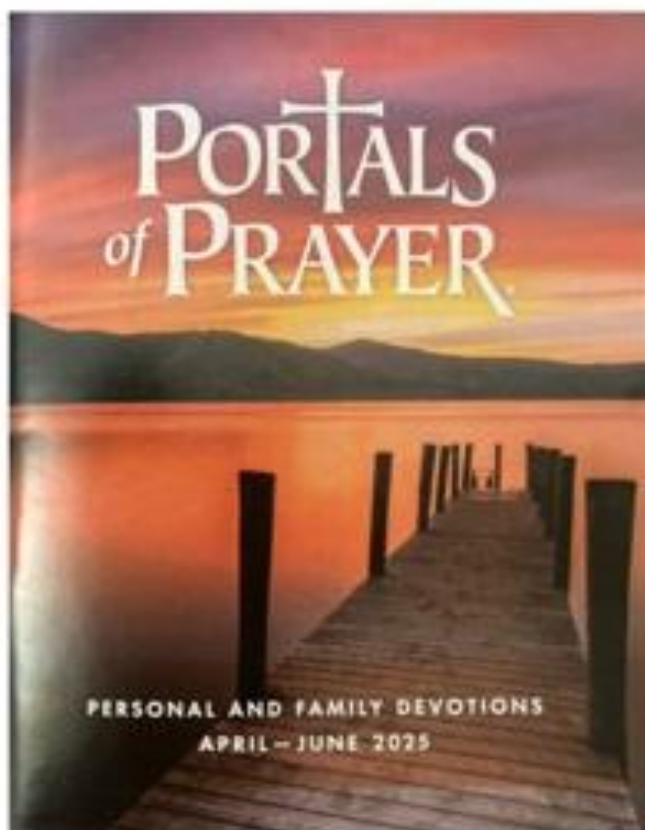
Men's Bible Study Resumes

April 29th

7:00 p.m.-Fellowship Hall

LIFE & MINISTRY
OF THE MESSIAH

NOW AVAILABLE
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY
TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living

9am-12pm

June 2-5: Around the World

June 9-12: Animal Kingdom

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

SUMMER CAMP
2025

\$100

per week

Ages 3 (By 5/31/25)

through Kindergarteners

(must be potty trained)

Pre-registration required by May 23, 2025

ascensionlutheranpreschoolelp@gmail.com



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH



JOIN US FOR
2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 16-19
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



FOR CHILDREN
3 - 12 YEARS OLD

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS
FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://alconnect.faith/events/vbs/>



Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912 (915)833-1009

QR Code will lead to
registration form:

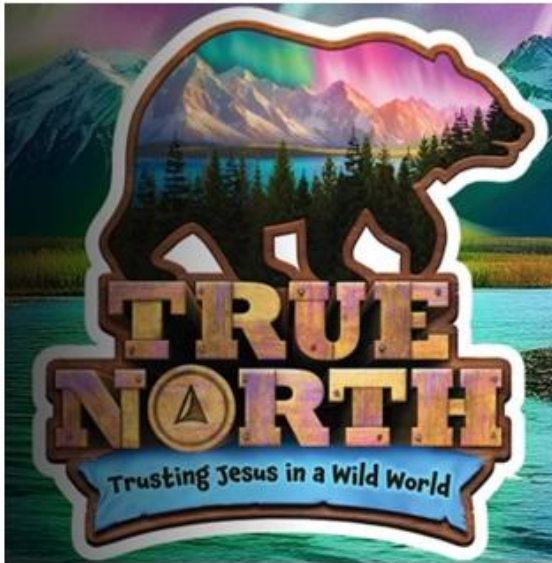


VBS 2025

June 16th-19th

9 am to 12 pm

Help Needed



VBS Volunteers
Needed

VBS Volunteer
Sign-Up Sheet
is on the
A-Frame Board at the
front entrance

Your help is appreciated with the
donation of your time, making
snacks, and/or supplies.

Join us for delicious enchiladas!

Youth Fundraiser



Sign up sheet for
\$10 plate is at the
front entrance

Enchilada Feast

Red Chicken Enchiladas

Rice and Beans

Salad

Dessert

Drink

\$10

Sunday
May 25th

Jacob Meraz will bring the
plates from San Pablo and the
plates can be picked up at
Ascension between 12:00-1:30.



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

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (May 18)

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion
Graduation Sunday



Monday (May 19)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (May 20)

11:15 AM Preschool Board Meeting
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday (May 21)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)
6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out at Como's Italian Restaurant
(On 4030 N. Mesa St.)

Thursday (May 22)

6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

Friday (May 23)

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

Saturday (May 24)

