Look Up!

Asking God's Blessings on Teachers and Children in the New School Year

August 10, 2025 • Proper 14 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

When my wife and I go hiking in the Franklin mountains, we have to look down to watch where we put our feet. We need to avoid the treacherous stones that can turn an ankle, and the dog poop that is sometimes left on the trail. But every so often we also have to lift up our eyes to the beautiful hills and the big blue sky. Sometimes we stop walking iust to take it all in. We don't go to the mountains for the wobbly stones but for the amazing view of God's creation and for exercising the bodies that God has given us.

It's the same in life. It's so easy to just look down. After all, we have to be concerned about earthly things at least to some extent. There are problems to resolve at home, at work, at school. Worries drag our eyes down. Money is a concern.

But Jesus is encouraging us today to take some time to look up! Look up to heaven and remember that Jesus will be taking us there – don't be so concerned about treasures here on earth (Luke 12:22-34). Remember that we are waiting for a heavenly country, a better country (Hebrews 11:1-16). Are you facing an impossible problem? Like Abraham, look up, count the stars – if you can – and trust the Lord (Genesis 15:1-6).

In particular, as we start a new school year at Ascension Preschool and in the Sunday School, we look up to God. We thank the Lord for the privilege of sharing his love with more and more children and their parents. We ask God to bless and guide and strengthen our teachers and leaders, aides and administrators and helpers! We can't do it on our own – but we look up to Jesus and trust in him!

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)

Opening Hymn: Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Sing Alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and your praises ascend.
 Lift up your voices and sing to our Lord God, our Savior and King!
 Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain: And assembled as one, in the name of the Son, Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends, And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

- 2. Man walked alone and in need, without faith, hope, or promise or creed, Wandering aimlessly lost, unaware of the staggering cost That God in his mercy would save all his people from death and the grave. (Refrain)
- 3. Lord, teach us how to proclaim all your goodness, your love and your name! Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love teach us, Lord, how to live. Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we belong. (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Opening Hymn: We are in God's House Today (Little Ones Sing Praise 12)

- 1. We are in God's house today. He is glad to hear us pray. Let us listen, let us sing, gladly make his praises ring.
- 2. We are in God's house today. He is glad to hear us pray. Let us listen to His Word, gladly do what we have heard.

Invocation

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

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Prayer of Confession

P Now, at the beginning of the worship service, we bring all our sins, our wrongdoing, to the Lord and ask for his forgiveness. Today especially we adults acknowledge that we have not always treated the children around us with the love of Christ. We often lose our patience with them and say harsh and unloving words. Sometimes we are lazy about bringing the children to church and teaching them to pray and to trust in Jesus.

Children also need God's forgiveness. We sometimes say that children are innocent, but they often disobey, fight, refuse to share, refuse to obey their parents and teachers, and get into trouble. The Bible says that all of us sin, and even babies are selfish. Nevertheless, God loves all of us, big and little, and he offers us forgiveness through Jesus.

- **P** We pray together:
- Lord our God, you created us in love; you saved us and help us in love; and you want us to live in love. However, all too often we have failed in our love toward you and toward others. We often have very little faith and break your commandments. These things are symptoms of the sin in us. Forgive us, Lord, and by your Holy Spirit change us and help us to do better. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song: Change My Heart

(Song from Venezuela)

Change my heart and make it new, oh Lord! Give me a heart that loves to praise you, A heart that always wants to serve you. Change my heart to be like yours! //

(Let it be) Clean as a mountain stream, Sweet as a honeycomb. Lord, let my heart become Just like your heart! //

Words of Forgiveness

- P God is good and he is always ready to forgive us. Jesus died on the cross for all of us, adults and children. Even more, he rose from the dead to give eternal life to all of us, adults and children. It is my privilege to announce to you God's Word: for all of you who trust in Jesus, adults and children, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Song: A Look to Jesus with Faith

(Song from Venezuela)

A look to Jesus with faith, to Jesus high on the cross And God forgives all our sins forevermore. A look to Jesus with faith, to Jesus high on the cross And God forgives all our sins forevermore.

And if you trust in Christ Jesus our Lord, He will forgive your sins. The vict'ry won for us high on the cross In heaven's light we forever will live. //

Psalm 33:12-22

- P Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
- **The people he chose for his inheritance.**
- **P** From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind.
- From his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth -
- P He who forms the hearts of all,
- **Who considers everything they do.**
- **P** No king is saved by the size of his army.
- No warrior escapes by his great strength.
- P A horse is a vain hope for deliverance.
- **O** Despite all its strength it cannot save.
- P But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
- On those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- **P** To deliver them from death
- And keep them alive in famine.
- P We wait in hope for the Lord.
- He is our help and our shield.
- P In him our hearts rejoice,
- **G** For we trust in his holy name.
- P May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
- Even as we put our hope in you.
- 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.

Kyrie (Ancient Prayer "Lord, Have Mercy")

Lutheran Service Book 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.





A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.





A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

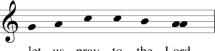




C Lord, have mer - cy.

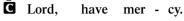


A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.







A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



(Little Ones Sing Praise 24)

- 1. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus. You have died for me. All my sins have been forgiven. I am free!
- 2. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, as you guide my way. In your loving arms you hold me night and day.



Prayer for This Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
- A Lord Jesus, it is so easy for the riches of this world to distract us, and for the cares and concerns of this world to weigh us down. Help us to look up to you, like Abraham did. Strengthen us, remind us that you are with us and that you have a wonderful heavenly home prepared for us. Help us to overcome the troubles of this life, trusting firmly in you. We pray in your name, as you taught us. Amen.

Song: The B-I-B-L-E

(Little Ones Sing Praise 48, modified)

- 1. The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me! I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E.
- 2. The B-I-B-L-E, its stories help me see The love of Jesus, God's own Son; the B-I-B-L-E.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

(Abraham looked up at the stars and believed God's promise even though it seemed impossible.)

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- R This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

(By faith Abraham waited for a better country, a heavenly country.)

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible...

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was

past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

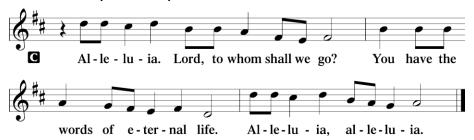
¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (John 6:68)

Lutheran Service Book 156



Reading from the Gospels

Luke 12:22-34

(Look up to heaven and prepare "treasure there", for Jesus will come to take us there.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,

how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **©** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Song while Children Come to the Front: Jesus Loves the Little Children (LOSP 94)

- 1. Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in his hand. Jesus loves the little children of the world.
- 2. Jesus died for all the children, all the children of the world. Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in his hand. Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: On Eagles' Wings

Lutheran Service Book 727





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Sermon Look Up!

Stand

Special Music: Lilies in the Field

(Bryan Perdue)

- You have always promised to lead me though each day, And when my path was hard to walk, you taught me how to pray. You have always been my strength. You have been my shield. You have led me safely to the lilies in the field.
- 2. Consider now the lily that grows wild in the field.
 Such gentle, sweet perfection has seldom been revealed.
 With a simple, graceful beauty, they will leave no sign
 And God's quiet message whispers in my mind.
- Kings in all their majesty, queens in their finest gowns, Laced in gold and silver with jewels upon their crowns; Bue kings in all their glory know that they must yield. They cannot match the beauty of the lilies in the field.
- 4. Don't worry about tomorrow. What good can it do? Can you add just one thing more to what God gave to you? His Son has told the story. Nothing's been concealed. And he has led me gently to the lilies in the field.

Ascension Lutheran Preschool Teachers & Staff:

Pamela Olivas (Preschool Director)
 Laura Tinajero (Assistant to Director)

Claudia Barraza (2 yr. old Teacher)
 Priscila Huber (2 yr. old Aide)

Ana Paola Cesena (3 yr. old Teacher)
 Viridiana Felix (3 yr. old Aide)
 Georgina Garcia (3 yr. old Teacher)
 Karina Alvarez (3 yr. old Aide)

Oralia Solecki (4 yr. old Teacher)
Lupita Burke (4 yr. old Aide)
Erika Avila-Castaneda (4 yr. old Teacher)
Monica Araiza (4 yr. old Aide)

Megan Kielasvalenzuela (Enrichment Teacher)

Ascension Lutheran Church Sunday School & Youth Bible Class Teachers:

Jacob Canada (Sunday School Pre-k to 6th grade)

· Cheryl Canada-Karl

Jean DeWitt

Maritza Schlak

Anita & Elliot Werner (Youth Bible Class 7th to 12th grade)

Installation and Blessing of Preschool Teachers and Staff, and Sunday School and Youth Bible Class Teachers

P Dear friends in Christ, the people before you have heard the Lord's call to serve as teachers and leaders in the Preschool and in the Sunday School. Jesus himself commanded us to teach his Word.

He said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them**

to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

It is important to teach everyone about Jesus, particularly little children whom many people pass over. The Bible says that when the disciples told people to stop bringing children and babies to Jesus, Jesus got angry. It says: "Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16, NIV)

To the director, teachers, aides, and staff of the Preschool and Sunday School:

The ministry to which you have been called is one of the most important tasks in our church: to share our faith in Christ with the children and young people and to teach them to walk in God's way. Many of you in the Preschool belong to other Christian church bodies. However, you trust in the same God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in the salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. You are willing to work with us to not only teach about the alphabet and numbers but also about Jesus. You are our partners in this ministry. I ask then that you who are from other churches and you who are Lutherans would join together with the whole congregation in confessing our faith in God, using the common Apostles' Creed?

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.

- To the director, teachers, aides, and staff of the Preschool and Sunday School:
 - Do you promise to faithfully serve God in this teaching ministry in accordance with the Scriptures?
- R Yes, with the help of God.
- Will you, trusting in God's care, seek to grow in love for the children and youth whom you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?
- R Yes, with the help of God.
- **P** To the congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ: you have heard the promises of the ones appointed to serve in the Preschool as director, as teachers and teacher aides, and as staff; and those who have been appointed to serve in the Sunday School and Youth Bible Class as teachers and leaders. I ask you now, in the presence of God: Will you receive them, show them appropriate love and respect, and support them with your words, deeds, and prayers? If so, answer: We will, with the help of God.

- **W**e will, with the help of God.
- Please extend your hands in blessing toward these teachers and leaders, and pray with me:
- A Lord God, thank you for these teachers and leaders and their willingness to serve the children and youth in our Preschool and in our Sunday School. Bless them and guide them and give them strength for this labor of love. Open the minds and the hearts of the children and youth, so that they may trust you as their Savior and grow in mind, body, and spirit through the work of these leaders. Grant that these teachers and leaders may all see good fruit from their labor. Remind us in this congregation to support, encourage, and pray for them always. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- To the Preschool teachers and staff: Sisters in Christ, I install you as teachers, aides, director and staff at Ascension Lutheran Preschool, in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.

To the Sunday School teachers and leaders:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as teachers and leaders of the Sunday School and youth class for this new school year, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the

→ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in his name.

G Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P Oh Lord, we are often weak and of little faith.
- **©** Come, Holy Spirit, and strengthen our faith in Jesus.
- **P** Lord, we want to better understand your Word.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and on every page of Scripture show us Jesus.
- P Lord, we want to do your will.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and help us to imitate Jesus.
- **P** Lord, fill us with your love and help us to forgive one another.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one in Jesus.
- **P** Lord, so many people are depressed or sick or suffering serious problems.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and help us and lift us up in Jesus.
- P Lord, peace and justice are lacking in many parts of our world.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and make us truly free through Jesus.
- **P** Lord, raise up good leaders who will follow your guidance.
- Come, Holy Spirit, and guide us in the footsteps of Jesus.
- Lord, today we especially pray for those on our prayer list who really need your help and comfort... And we also pray for others whom we name in our hearts now... We pray:
- We lift all of these people up to you, trusting that you will be with them as you have promised.
- P Dear God, you always hear us when we pray in Jesus' name. Take away the spirit of fear in us
- And give us your Spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline through Jesus. Amen. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Sit

Offering

The Bible says, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." (Psalm 96:8-9a, NIV) Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love. We give because Jesus gave everything for us. We give to help share Jesus' love with others.

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.



Special Music during the Offering: Living for Jesus (Make a Joyful Sound 60) (Donna Tuchenhagen and Barbara Lewis)

 Living for Jesus a life that is true, Striving to please him in all that I do. Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain: Oh Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee, For thou, in thine atonement, didst give thyself for me. I own no other Master. My heart shall be thy throne. My life I give, henceforth to live, oh Christ, for thee alone.

 Living for Jesus, who died in my place, Bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace.
 Such love constrains me to answer his call, Follow his leading and give him my all. (Refrain) Living for Jesus, through earth's little while, My dearest treasure, the light of his smile.
 Seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, Bringing the weary to find rest in him. (Refrain)

Stand

Offering Prayer

A Heavenly Father, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, and help us to live for you. Bless these offerings and use them to bring others to faith and to help those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory Two Little Eyes

Little Ones Sing Praise 36

Two little eyes to look to God, Two little ears to hear his Word, Two little feet to walk his ways, Hands to serve him all my days.

One little tongue to speak his truth, One little heart for him in youth, Take them, oh Jesus, let them be Always willing, true to thee.

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.



Lutheran Service Book 164



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



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





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

Closing Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- Lord God, thank you for hearing us when we pray. We don't deserve anything from you, but we know that in Jesus' name you always answer us in love with what we really need. Help us to trust in you more and more, and to come to you with all our troubles. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

Lutheran Service Book 166

- 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 Praise Him, Praise Him

(Little Ones Sing Praise 68)

- 1. Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love. Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love.
- 2. Love Him, love Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love. Love Him, love Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love.
- 3. Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love. Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love.
- 4. Serve Him, serve Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love. Serve Him, serve Him, all you little children. God is love, God is love.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren

Elder: Andy Barber
Acolyte: Phyllis Meraz
Reader: Russ DeWitt
Ushers: Team 2

Ushers: Team 2 Altar Care Wiegert

Projectionist: Jacob Canada Sound/Camera: Mike Mielke

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 peace, comfort, and hope for all those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones, especially these whose loss is most recent:

For the **Perdue family** as they grieve the loss of **Ann Perdue**, **Bryan Perdue's** wife. She passed last weekend after complications from pneumonia. Please pray for peace & comfort for Bryan and his whole family.

For Melanie Gallagher's brother, Terry, his two daughters & the extended family, as they grieve the loss of Terry's wife, Peggy, who died upon impact in a bad traffic accident that involved a semi-truck hitting Terry and Peggy's car. Please pray for Terry, who is in the hospital's Hospice care because of a brain bleed from the accident. Terry is deeply agitated upon learning about the death of his wife. Please pray that God will draw him near, that Terry will feel His presence & be comforted knowing that he is in the hands of his creator that loves him dearly; and that Terry will recall Jesus' promises of an eternal home that has been prepared for him. Pray that Melanie's nieces (Peggy & Terry's daughters) will feel comfort & strength in this difficult time.

For the **Meraz family** as they grieve the loss of **Samuel Meraz**, **Jacob Meraz's** father.

For the family & friends of **Richard Neal**, especially his wife **Martha** & son, **Rich**, both suffering from emotional and physical distress. Please pray that God will comfort them during this time of grief, & that they will be strengthened through their faith in Jesus.

Special Prayer Requests:

Please pray for **Katherine, Yves, & the whole family**, Jan Schlak's granddaughter, Pastor Rick's & Maritza's daughter, as they travel to Yves' new Air Force assignment in England. Pray that the family will make a good adjustment to this huge change in their lives.

Please pray for the people affected by the **flooding in Ruidoso & in central Texas**. Pray for peace & hope in Christ for **those who are coping with the loss** of loved ones & property.

Illness and Recovery:

Sandy Spott, daughter-in-law of **Barb Spott,** her breast cancer has returned after a 20 year remission & she had a lumpectomy this past week (please pray for a successful

surgery, & for peace and comfort for Sandy, her husband **Tim**, & all of the **Spott** family); Cynthia, Kristal Wade's sister, has a complicated medical history & will see a gastroenterologist for various health issues causing her to go in & out of the hospital (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment plan); **Troy**, Kristal Wade's brother, has been suffering from critically low potassium & elevated liver enzymes (pray for good doctors to diagnose & treat his issue(s), & that he will follow the doctor's orders for the treatment prescribed); **Becca**, daughter of **Mariy Brady**, had knee surgery, (pray for successful recovery from surgery & for Marjy who is in San Diego to help her); Cindy & Don Ensworth, friends of former Ascension members Cathy & Randy Engel; Cindy has been battling lung cancer for five years, & is close to being called home by God (pray for a peaceful release for Cindy, & for peace and comfort for both Don & the Engel's); Martha **Neal**, at home, continued recovery from surgery on her leg to improve blood circulation, but more surgery will be required before the doctors can begin on the other leg (pray for pain relief & that she will benefit from the surgery to improve her quality of life, healing quickly without complications); Ruth Ann Ostergren, completing treatment for the UTI (pray for continued improvement and strength); **Dorothy Lenz,** had more testing (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment); for **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, who has made some improvement after being hospitalized because of a seizure, but is still not tolerating the seizure medication that will be a lifelong necessity (thankful for the church's prayers this past week, & asks for continued prayers to improve, & for an appointment with a neurologist); pray for strength for Rachel, Elizabeth's daughter, who is struggling with personal challenges in addition to the stress of her mother's health; pray for peace & strength for Mary Lou Provencio, understandably upset for both her daughter & granddaughter; Gilbert Provencio, Mary Lou's husband, who has not improved since the shunt placement, (pray for the neurologist treating him to be able to increase the cerebrospinal fluid to improve his walking gait & balance); Gretchen Schmalz, receiving weekly injections for her bladder cancer (pray for a successful treatment regime over the next weeks); Mary Iwen Hansen, former Ascension member, (pray for effective treatment for her heart issues); Jennifer Solich, past Ascension administrative assistant, diagnosed with a brain tumor, (please pray for successful treatment & strength to tolerate the medication); Kirstin Hervin, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, experiencing a recurrence of lupus affecting her kidneys & is receiving injections, (please pray that the treatment is effective with no side effects); Sophia, the former caregiver to Concepcion Arellanes, mother of Lorena Rodriguez, our church custodian (Sophia has terminal cancer, prayers for peace & comfort); Melissa **Reddick,** friend of Barbara Lewis (thanksgiving that brain cancer is gone & continue to pray for complete recovery); Maritza Leon, Maritza Schlak's mother (for successful rehabilitation after knee surgery); Mark Pfeifer, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (thankful for improvement, prayer for continued healing); Andy Barber (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy & healing from spine fracture);

Aubrey McDermett, a 15-year-old with MS, in hospital due to stroke (for healing); Barb Spott (for no further medical issues & for relief from vertigo); Abigail Kailukatis, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth (for effective treatment); David Kwiatakowski, friend of Connie Swinney (for recovery & treatment for brain cancer); Brian Stickney (health issues); Rebekah Livesay (for healing & correct diagnosis); Dick Seiders, Ron Seiders' father (continued cancer recovery); Mary Spott, Barb Spott's niece, Keighley Spott's mother, (heart related issues); Patty Jones, Martha Neal's sister (stage 4 breast cancer); Robert & 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, Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders (pray for continuing health issues).

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Jessica Moran, the younger daughter of Jeanne, daughter of Jan Schlak, was induced into labor on this past Thursday. Please pray for a safe delivery, no complications, & a healthy baby boy.

Dick Seiders, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for continued improvement in recovery after hip surgery); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson,** niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer & is doing well, thanks be to God).

Ascension News and Notes

Flowers for today's service are provided by the DeMartelaere/Wade family in honor and praise to God's Glory.



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 OFFERING PLATE OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



10 August — Kristal Wade

11 August — Karsten Faugstad

12 August — Brian Stickney

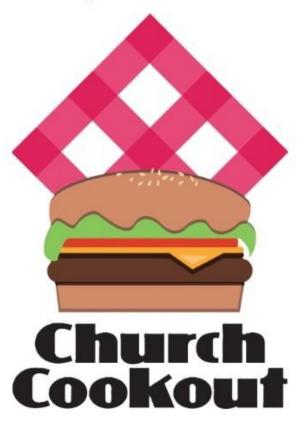
12 August — Dawn Yturralde

15 August — Kathy Kiphart

15 August — Martha Neal

Join us for food & fellowship! COOKOUT

AFTER this Sunday's, August 10th,
Preschool & Sunday School Teacher Installation
Sunday WORSHIP SERVICE!



NO NEED TO BRING ANYTHING, BUT YOURSELF!

There will be a hot dog/hamburger cookout with salad and desserts to go alongside.

PLEASE JOIN US for FELLOWSHIP! Sunday School begins, kicking off at 9am with a Bible Clue Scavenger Hunt & games; and the installation of our Preschool & Sunday School Teachers during the 10:30 worship service! Cookout immediately after!



August 10th: Rally Day

(Bible Clue Scavenger Hunt & Games)

August 17th: Lessons Begin

(Two classes: Pre-K to 6th grade & 7th grade to 12th)

Sunday School: God calls us to encourage each other in studying His Word and putting it into practice. A great way to do this is to come and join us for Sunday School and Bible Study right before church on Sundays! We meet from 9:00-10:00 am.

Kids meet in the Preschool Library Youth meet in the Church Library Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: August 20th, 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)



August 20th we will be meeting at:

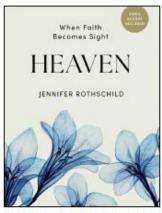
The Greenery Restaurant





Ladies Night Out

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



Tuesday Night Ladies Bible Study Fall 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests

[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]

Place: HYBRID! Ascension Church Library OR via Zoom*

Date: First session is Tuesday, September 2, 2025

(proposed schedule below)

Cost: Order Heaven (with video access)

directly from Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

*Zoom link is the same as always, email Anita (awerner@elp.rr.com) if you need the Zoom link.

HEAVEN | When Faith Becomes Sight By Jennifer Rothschild

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next?

In this 7-session video-based study, Jennifer Rothschild explores the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective. She will separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. As you walk through the study, you'll not only gain a deeper understanding of what God has prepared for His children, but also learn how to live with confidence today as you look forward to the glorious unending that awaits. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace.

Proposed Schedule:

Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos (approximately 25-30 minutes per session)
- 7 group sessions (6 weeks of homework, optional)

Benefits:

 Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer either in person at Ascension Lutheran Church Library (6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso) or from the comfort and convenience of your own home (via Zoom).

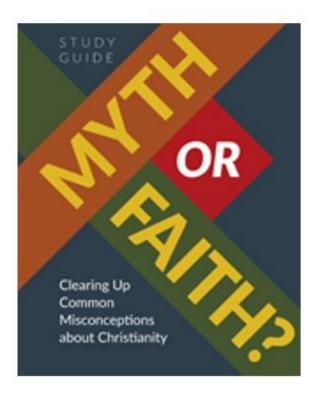
Date	Lesson #
Sept. 2, 2025	#1
Sept. 9	#2
Sept. 16	Break-Church Council Meeting
Sept. 23	#3
Sept. 30	#4
Oct. 7	#5
Oct. 14	Break-Anita Out of Town
Oct. 21	Break-Church Council Meeting
Oct. 28	#6
Nov. 4	#7 (Final)
Nov. 11	Dinner/Fellowship/Location TBD

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by August 31st (awerner@elp.rr.com)

Please visit Lifeway.com or Amazon.com and

order Heaven (with video access)

prior to our first session.



Myth or Faith? There is a limit to God's forgiveness.

Myth or Faith? If we take Communion too often, it will become less meaningful for us.

There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

Ascension Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study will resume on August 26, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



THURSDAY MORNING 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.

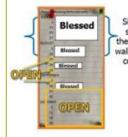
All women are welcome to join us as we study. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.







Sunday Morning Snacks Sign Up



Sign-up sheet on the kitchen wall next to counter

Monetary donations are also appreciated!

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...

Matthew 25: 35

God's blessings as we serve each other!





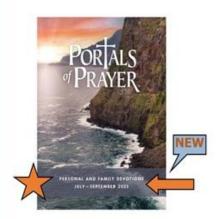
Pick up your **July** newsletter in the narthex. OR

You can also receive your newsletter by email.

If you do prefer email delivery, either call (915-833-1009) or email (ak6520@swbell.net) the office to subscribe the newsletter to your email.

NOW AVAILABLE

PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living

This Week @ Ascension



Sunday (August 10)

9:00 AM Bible Study (Rally Day)

Sunday School Begins

10:00 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship

(Preschool & Sunday School Installation)

11:30 AM Church Cookout

Monday (August 11)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (August 12)

5:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting (FH)

6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)

Wednesday (August 13)

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

Thursday (August 14)

11:00 AM Preschool Board Meeting

Friday (August 15)

Saturday (August 16)