

# Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

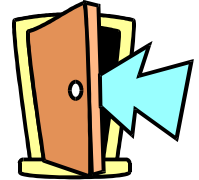
## Heaven is Wide But the Door is Narrow

August 24, 2025 • Proper 16 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### As We Gather

Will there be many people in heaven? Yes and no. On the one hand, heaven has plenty of room and God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). In heaven there will be a multitude of people from every nation under the sun (Isaiah 66:18-23).



But on the other hand, there is only one way for sinners like us to get into heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only one who died for our sins, and he is the only one who rose from the dead to give us eternal life. The door to get into heaven is narrow (Luke 13:23-24). People who reject Jesus will find themselves outside. Jesus said that even some of his own neighbors would find themselves excluded because they rejected him as Savior, while others from the east and west, north and south, would be at God's banquet feast (Luke 13:25-30).

Jesus, who died for us on Mount Calvary, is the only way for us to leave behind Mount Sinai (judgment on sin) and come to Mount Zion (salvation from sin). That's the message of the reading from Hebrews 12:18-29.

So are there many people in heaven? Yes, there will be followers of Jesus from every nation under the sun! But Jesus warns that there will also be many people on the outside. Go through the narrow door – Jesus!

### 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: Jesus Shall Reign

Lutheran Service Book 832



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -  
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es  
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -  
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.  
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

Lutheran Service Book 167

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**  
**P** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:8-9)

## 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 acknowledge that we have not always stood firm in the truth and love of Jesus. We have not always followed his example. We have often caved in to the pressure of the people around us instead of loving God with our whole heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**P** We pray together:

**C** **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. Even more, he rose from the dead to give eternal life to all of us. It is my privilege to announce to you what God says in his Word: all of us who trust in Jesus are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **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. //

## **Service of the Word**

**Introit** (Psalm 117, Psalm 96:6a, Psalm 115:18)

**P** Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C** **Extol him, all peoples!**

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** **And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!**

**P** Splendor and majesty are before him!

**C** We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

**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.

**P** Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C** Extol him, all peoples!

## Kyrie (sung responsive prayer)

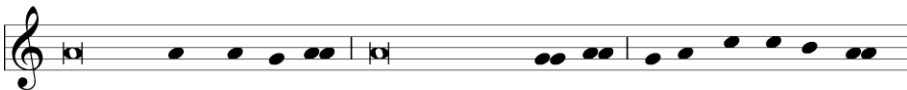
Lutheran Service Book 168



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



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



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



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



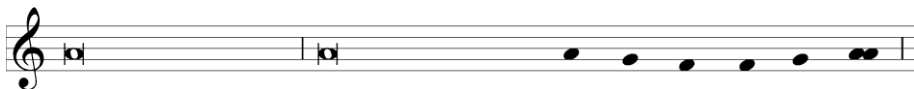
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



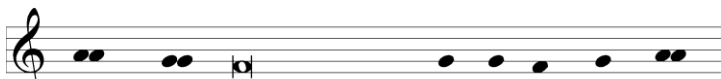
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**G** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)

Lutheran Service Book 170



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



**G** 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.

### Prayer for this Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Heavenly Father, you want all people to be saved and there is plenty of room in heaven for all the nations. But there is only one way for sinners like us to enter heaven, and that is through Jesus our Savior. Help us to show your love to everyone around us so that they too may come to trust in Jesus and be part of the great multitude in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:18-23

*(God saves people from all nations.)*

<sup>18</sup>For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup>And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain. <sup>23</sup>From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## New Testament Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

*(Through Christ we come to Mount Zion – salvation –  
instead of Mount Sinai – condemnation.)*

<sup>18</sup>For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also

the heavens.” <sup>27</sup>This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 173

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The melody for the first line of the Alleluia is: a quarter rest, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, a quarter note E, a quarter note D. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody: a quarter note D, a quarter note C, a quarter note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, a quarter note E, a quarter note D, a quarter note C, a quarter note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, a quarter note E, a quarter note D. The lyrics 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff.

### Reading from the Holy Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

*(Heaven is wide but the door is narrow – only through Jesus can we enter.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”



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

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

Sit

**Children's Song:** I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus (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.

### **Children's Message**

#### **Hymn: In Christ Alone**

Getty and Townend

1. In Christ alone my hope is found.  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns of calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

### **Sermon: Three Mountains**

(Based off of the New Testament reading from Hebrews 12:18-29)

Stand

**Apostles' Creed** (Public declaration of our faith)

**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.**

### **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](http://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: There is a Redeemer** (Melody Green)

1. *There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving the Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*
  
2. *Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving the Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

3. *When I stand in Glory, I will see his face.  
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving the Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

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** (Song of Dedication)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us, precious Redeemer, living Word.

### **Prayer of the Church**

- P** Lord, thank you for saving us, for forgiving us, for giving us eternal life and for being with us when we struggle. Help us to love others as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that our faith may be strong and so that we can walk in your ways without faltering. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us to take advantage of the opportunities you give us to share Jesus' love with others. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Thank you for the many material blessings you have given us. Guide us so that we use them for your glory, for the good of our families and for your mission here on this earth. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, protect your church throughout the world, that we may be bold in our witness and ready to serve others. Strengthen and defend those who are suffering persecution for their faith. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Help those who are sick or hurt or recovering from illness. Have mercy on them and heal them according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Comfort those who are grieving. Help those who are struggling. Grant us your peace in the midst of trouble and save us from the problems that seem impossible. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, send your Spirit to the hearts and minds of those who are far from you. By your Word of truth, help them to understand and to repent and to come to faith in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** We thank you, Lord, because we know you hear all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not spoken aloud. In Jesus' name.

**C** **Amen.**

Sit

### **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.**

### **Closing Prayer**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord God, thank you for your forgiveness, for your love, for your promises of eternal life. Go with us as we leave this place, and help us to worship you with our lives and to share your love with everyone that you put in our path. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Benediction** (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Lutheran Service Book 183

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

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

Hymnal "Praise" 502

(tune "Willar" from Culto Cristiano 372)

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

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn to the dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright,  
For the kingdom of Christ is coming soon,  
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 show to the nations  
That the Lord who reigns 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 people around us  
May come to the truth of God! (Refrain)

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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## Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Mike Mielke
Acolyte:	Thomas Karl
Reader:	Kristal Wade
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](mailto: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:

**Reina**, the sister-in-law to **Mamabella** (Maritza Leon, who is Maritza Schlak's mother), passed away (in Venezuela). Please pray for peace and comfort for her family.

Please pray for peace and comfort for **Melanie Gallagher & all of the family** of her brother, **Terry Appleton** & his wife, **Peggy**, who both passed away this past week after a tragic car accident.

For the **Perdue family** as they grieve the loss of **Ann Perdue**, **Bryan Perdue's** wife. Please pray for peace & comfort for Bryan and his whole family.

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.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Judith Moreno**, (pray for recovery from a recent surgery); **Bruce Walker**, **Daren Walker's** father, has Parkinson's disease & is not doing well (please pray for both Bruce & for Daren who has gone to North Dakota to visit his father); **Gretchen Schmalz**, struggling with a recurring UTI that interrupted her weekly injections for her bladder cancer (pray she will feel better, and for a successful treatment regime over the next weeks); **Dorothy Lenz**, recently had an MRI and will receive results in September (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Sandy Spott**, daughter-in-law of **Barb Spott**, her breast cancer has returned after a 20 year remission & she had a successful lumpectomy this past week (please pray for peace and comfort for Sandy, her husband **Tim**, & all of the **Spott family** as they await the pathology report this upcoming week); **Cynthia**, Kristal Wade's sister, has a complicated medical history & is still awaiting to see a specialist for various health issues causing her to go in & out of the hospital (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment plan); **Becca**, daughter of **Marjy 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); **Rose**, Mary Lou Provencio's sister, had emergency surgery for diverticula and possible sepsis (please pray for a successful surgery and healing); **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); **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); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands) & for his wife, **Suzette Barber** (pray for her as she copes with OCD & anxiety as a result of her condition); **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); **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); **Coby Clark and family**, (continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission); **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer); **Bob Gallagher**, **Brian Stickney** (pray for continuing health issues that are keeping them at home); **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health



issues); **Daniel Mendoza** (rapidly losing kidney function); and **Angel Hill** (recently diagnosed with three tumors, one of which is Stage 2).

### **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Bryan Perdue**, had outpatient neck surgery this past Tuesday (give thanks and praise for successful surgery & pray for healing and recovery with no complications); **Troy**, Kristal Wade's brother, had been suffering from critically low potassium & elevated liver enzymes (give thanks to the Lord for Troy's successful treatment); prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord that **Roger**, brother-in-law of **Ron Seiders**, was not injured worse in a BBQ tank accident that had blown out a flame cone. Roger received first & possibly second degree burns to the arm and face (pray for healing); give thanks and praise to God that **Jessica Moran**, the younger daughter of Jeanne, daughter of Jan Schlak, delivered a healthy baby boy named **Bennett Robert**. Mother and baby are both doing well; grateful that **Katherine, Yves, & the whole family**, Jan Schlak's granddaughter, Pastor Rick's & Maritza's daughter, arrived safely to Yves' new Air Force assignment in England. Please pray that the family will make a good adjustment to this huge change in their lives; **Mark Pfeifer**, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (thankful for improvement, now breathing on his own & doing better overall); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson**, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer & is doing well, thanks be to God); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for continued improvement in recovery after hip surgery).

## **Ascension News and Notes**

**Flowers for today's service  
are provided by Steve & Kathy Wilmeth  
in celebration of their 55th wedding 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.**



**28 August — Steve & Kathy Wilmeth's  
55th Anniversary**



**August 24th:** No Sunday School

(Ken McLennan is giving a special testimony about his near death experience during the Bible Study hour)

**August 31st:** Sunday School Lessons Resume

Kids meet in the Preschool Library

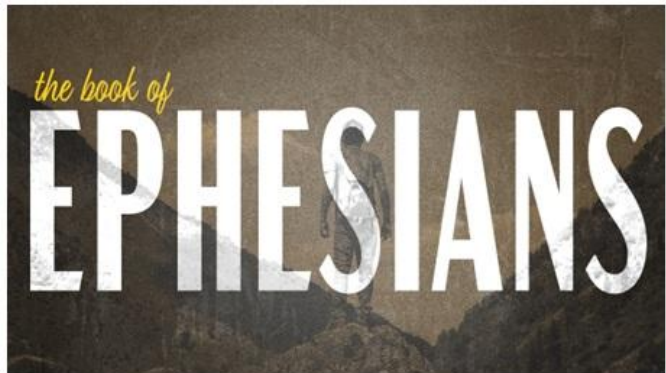
Youth meet in the Church Library

Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall

## Adult Bible Study

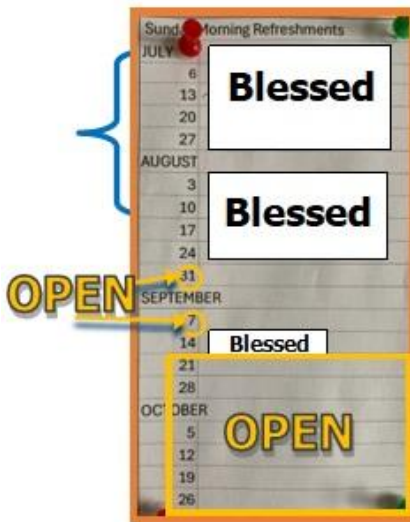
9 to 10 am in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study will resume with the book of Ephesians on Aug. 31st





## Sunday Morning Snacks Sign Up



Sign-up  
sheet on  
the kitchen  
wall next to  
counter

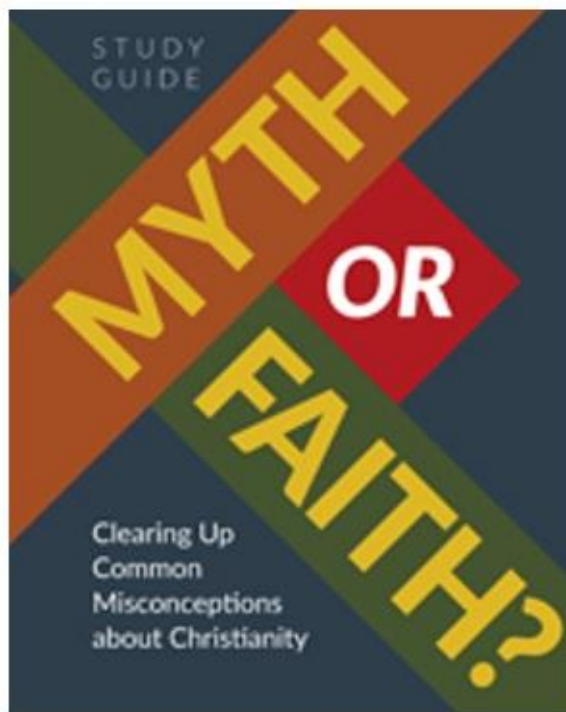


**Monetary  
donations are  
also  
appreciated!**

**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!**



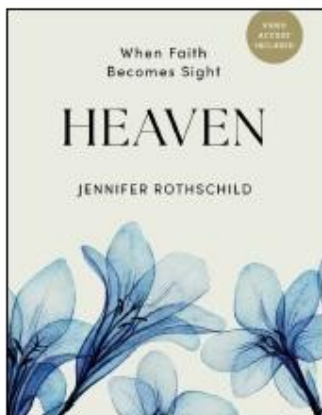
**Myth or Faith?** *There is a limit to God's forgiveness.*

**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.**





HEAVEN | When Faith Becomes Sight  
By Jennifer Rothschild

## 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. 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

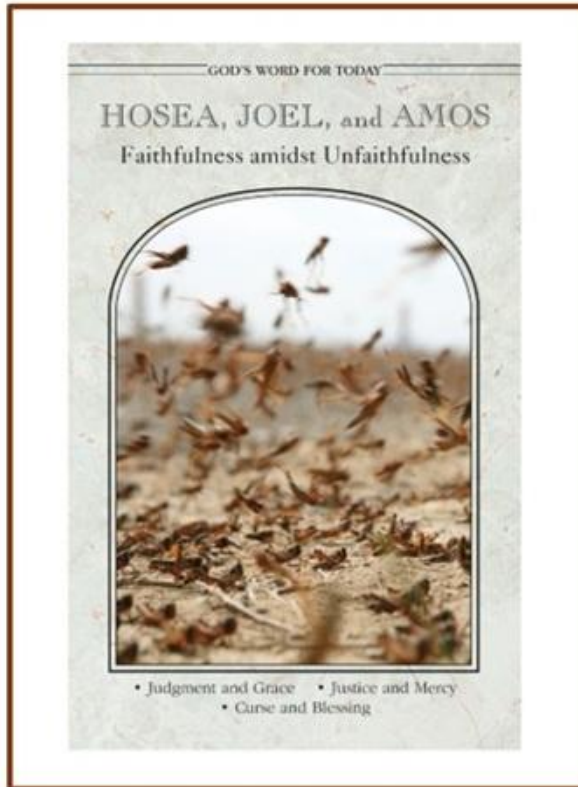
**Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by August 31st** (awerner@elp.rr.com)

**Please visit Lifeway.com or Amazon.com and  
order Heaven (with video access)  
prior to our first session.**

# Resuming Sept. 11th.

**The Thursday morning Women's Bible study  
is studying the 3 books of**

**Hosea, Joel, & Amos:  
"Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness"**



**We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.  
We gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 and begin  
the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.**

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



# LWML Rio Grande Fall Zone Rally



SAVE THE DATE

September 13, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church

2800 Pershing Dr , El Paso, TX 79903

9:30am - Registration

10:00am - Opening

Ingathering items will be  
collected for YLM  
Coats & Jackets for children  
ages 5-12



“Give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

## Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

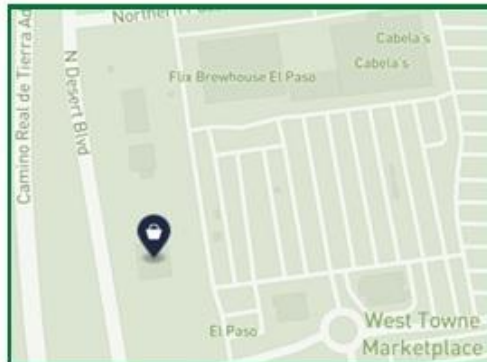
### Ladies Night Out: September 17th, 2025

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)



**September 17th**  
we will be meeting at:  
**Cheddar's**  
at 6460 N. Desert Blvd.



## Ladies Night Out

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 27 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	July 28 Church Office Closed 9:00 am Anamaram Preschool Staff Meeting	July 29 No Day School 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	July 30 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	July 31 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 1 8:00-10:00 am Anamaram Preschool Open House	Aug 2 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship
Aug 3 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 4 Church Office Closed 8:30 am Anamaram Preschool Begins	Aug 5 <b>3:30 pm Worship Action Team Training [P]</b> 8:30 pm Day School	Aug 6 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 7 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 8 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 9 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship
Aug 10 <b>9:00 am Bible Study</b> <b>9:00 am Fellowship</b> <b>10:30 am Worship</b>	Aug 11 Church Office Closed	Aug 12 <b>8:00 pm Board of Elders [P]</b> 4:30 pm Day School	Aug 13 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 14 <b>10:00 am Preschool Board Meeting</b> 8:00 pm - September registration due at office.	Aug 15 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 16 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship
Aug 17 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 18 Church Office Closed	Aug 19 <b>7:00 pm Church Council Meeting II</b>	Aug 20 9:00 am Preschool Chapel Begins 9:00 am Bible and Song [P] <b>8:00 pm Ladies' Night Out @ The Cinnamon Restaurant</b>	Aug 21 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 22 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 23 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship
Aug 24 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 25 Church Office Closed	Aug 26 6:30 pm Day School [P]	Aug 27 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 28 9:00 am Bible and Song [P]	Aug 29 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	Aug 30 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship

**PORTALS**  
*of* **PRAYER**

PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS  
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

**NEW**

Be refreshed daily in God's living

## **This Week @ Ascension**



### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday (August 24)**

- 9:00 AM Ken McLennan's testimony (FH)  
(About his near death experience)
- 10:00 AM Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Worship

#### **Monday (August 25)**

Church Office Closed

#### **Tuesday (August 26)**

- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study Resumes (FH)

#### **Wednesday (August 27)**

**No School for Ascension Preschool** (Professional Development)

- 11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

#### **Thursday (August 28)**

- 6:30 PM Choir Practice Resumes (S)

#### **Friday (August 29)**

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

#### **Saturday (August 30)**