

# Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## God First

Sept. 7, 2025 • Proper 18 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather**

Jesus says that if we want to follow him, we should “count the cost” (Luke 14:28). Well, how much does it cost to follow Jesus?

In one sense, following Jesus does not “cost” us anything at all! Jesus already “paid” for our sins by dying on the cross. Jesus gives us – for free! – forgiveness and eternal life. Money can’t buy Jesus’ love, peace, joy, or hope; they are free when we trust in Jesus as our Savior. Praise God!

But in another sense, following Jesus is very “costly”. Why? Because Jesus wants to transform our lives and work through us to bring others to faith. And that might mean giving up some of the old junk we’ve been holding on to and starting a new way of life with Jesus at the center.

- For the Israelites, following God meant leaving behind old bad habits and keeping God’s commandments (Deuteronomy 30:15-20).
- For Philemon, following Jesus meant forgiving and treating a slave like a brother in Christ, and not seeking revenge or even repayment for what that slave had stolen from him. (Philemon 1-21)
- For us, following Jesus means not letting family members discourage us from living for Jesus (Luke 14:25-26). It means not letting persecution or even death threats keep us from following Jesus (Luke 14:26-27). It means not letting material wealth be more important than Jesus (Luke 14:33).

Sometimes we’ve been reluctant to leave behind our old life and to wholeheartedly live for Jesus. But Jesus has already wholeheartedly given everything for us. And his forgiveness, his love, his promise of eternal life, are priceless.

### **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: Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Lutheran Service Book 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.  
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

Lutheran Service Book 203

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
(Matthew 28:19)

**C Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C Who made heaven and earth.** (Psalm 124:8)

**P** If you, oh Lord, kept a record of sins, oh Lord, who could stand?

**C But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**  
(Psalm 130:3-4)

## Prayer of Confession

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us draw near to God now, with a humble heart. Let us leave behind all our excuses and acknowledge before God that we have done wrong; and ask him to forgive us and help us to do better.

*We take a few moments to pray in silence, asking the Lord for forgiveness.*

**P** We pray together:

**C Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

**P** Jesus Christ, out of his love, died and rose for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the Bible, Micah 7:18-19: "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl

all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” Today I have the privilege to announce to you what God says in his Word: You who believe in Christ are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalms 1

- P** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**C Nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**  
**P** But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
**C And on his law he meditates day and night.**  
**P** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither.  
**C In all that he does, he prospers.**  
**P** The wicked are not so,  
**C But are like chaff that the wind drives away.**  
**P** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
**C Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**  
**P** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
**C But the way of the wicked will perish.**
- 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.**

### Prayer for this Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C And also with you.**  
**P** Let us pray.  
**C Lord Jesus, you are the way and the truth and the life. Help us to set aside everything that hinders us from following you with all our heart and give us strength and courage to remain firm in your truth. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

### Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*(God calls us to leave behind all other "gods" and follow only him.)*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments

and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## New Testament Reading

Philemon 1-21

*(God calls Philemon to forgive and to accept his slave as his brother in Christ.)*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved

brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 205



### Reading from the Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-35

*(God calls us to count the cost and put Christ first, above anything else.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and

children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

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

Sit

**Children's Song:** Amigos de Cristo

(Little Ones Sing Praise # 23)

Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.  
 Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.  
 For we've been forgiven and we've been restored.  
 Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.

## Children's Message

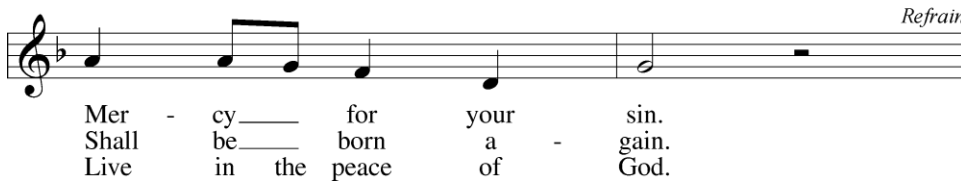
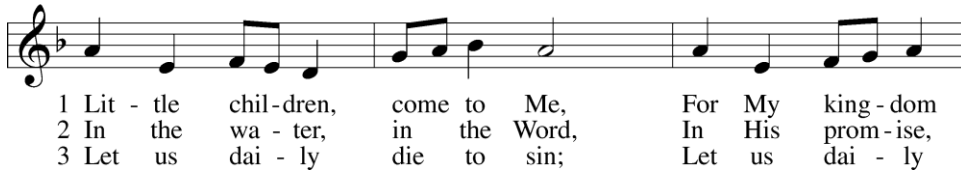
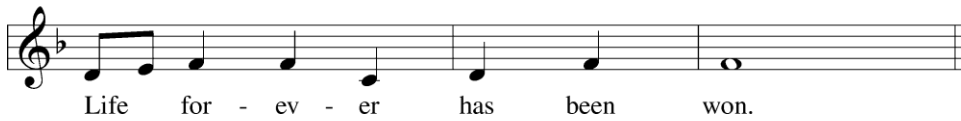
**Hymn: Father Welcomes All His Children**

Lutheran Service Book 605

*Refrain*

Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly

through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



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## Sermon

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 of the Church**

- P** Lord God, we praise your name and give you thanks for all things.
- C** **Above all, thank you for saving us through Jesus.**
- P** Father, the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.
- C** **Raise up faithful pastors, teachers, missionaries, and leaders.**
- P** Fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we might have a heart for those who are lost.
- C** **Encourage us and help us to share Jesus' love with others.**
- P** Remember our nation, Lord. Defend our liberties and give wisdom to our leaders.
- C** **Protect us from violence, discord, pride, and arrogance.**
- P** Touch the hearts of people from every nation, especially Israel.
- C** **Encourage them to turn to Jesus and be saved.**
- P** Guide the leaders of every land so that there may be peace and justice.
- C** **Have mercy on our fellow Christians who suffer persecution.**
- P** Heal those who are sick, especially our friends and family who are on our prayer list.
- C** **Help those who are struggling with trouble at home, at school, at work.**
- P** Comfort those who are grieving, especially those on our prayer list.
- C** **Grant them peace and the hope of eternal life with you.**
- P** Bless our families and protect our children.
- C** **Help and strengthen our teachers and all who guide children in your ways.**
- P** Thank you, Lord, for hearing all of our concerns, even those which we have not spoken aloud.
- C** **Into your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sit



## Prayer for Grandparents' Day

**A Lord God, thank you for the gift of grandparents and those who have loved us and supported us like a grandparent. Bless them with health and with joy, today and always. Guide them with your wisdom and surround them with your love. They are so special! Help them to trust in Jesus and live for you. And help us to share their faith and love. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Offering

The Bible says, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." (1 Corinthians 16:2a, NIV). Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love. 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: Great is Thy Faithfulness

(LSB 809)

*1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain*

*ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain*

*3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain*

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Stand

### Offering Prayer

**A Lord Jesus Christ, you have forgiven us and blessed us and you have given us eternal life! Accept these offerings, and use them so that the message of salvation may be proclaimed in every part of the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

### Offertory (Song of Dedication)

Lutheran Service Book 781 v. 1



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

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### 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

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** Lord God, it is truly good and right that we give you thanks and praise at all times and in all places, for all the countless blessings that you have showered upon us! Above all, we thank you for your incredible, undeserved love for us, which you showed by sending Jesus to bear our sins and suffer and die for us. As we celebrate Communion today, we remember his death and also his resurrection to give us eternal life. For this reason we lift up our voices to you today, together with all Christians in heaven and on the earth, to sing your praises!

## Sanctus (Song of Praise – Lutheran Service Book 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;



## 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 ("The Peace of the Lord" – John 20:19)

LSB 209

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

## Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God" – John 1:29)

LSB 210



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Hymns during Communion

### I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 729

1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,  
Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5. I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.
6. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Make a Joyful Sound (White Booklet) 15

1. I am weak but thou art strong. Jesus, keep me from all wrong.  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk, close to thee.

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toils and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more.  
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom's shore, to thy shore. (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lutheran Service Book 425/426



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public domain

# Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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Tune: Public domain



## After Communion:

**Song of Simeon** (Song at the close of communion)

Lutheran Service Book 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 the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Holy Spirit, help us to trust in Jesus Christ more and more each day. Increase our love and faith and unity and courage as we serve you together in our church. Encourage us to keep sharing Jesus' love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

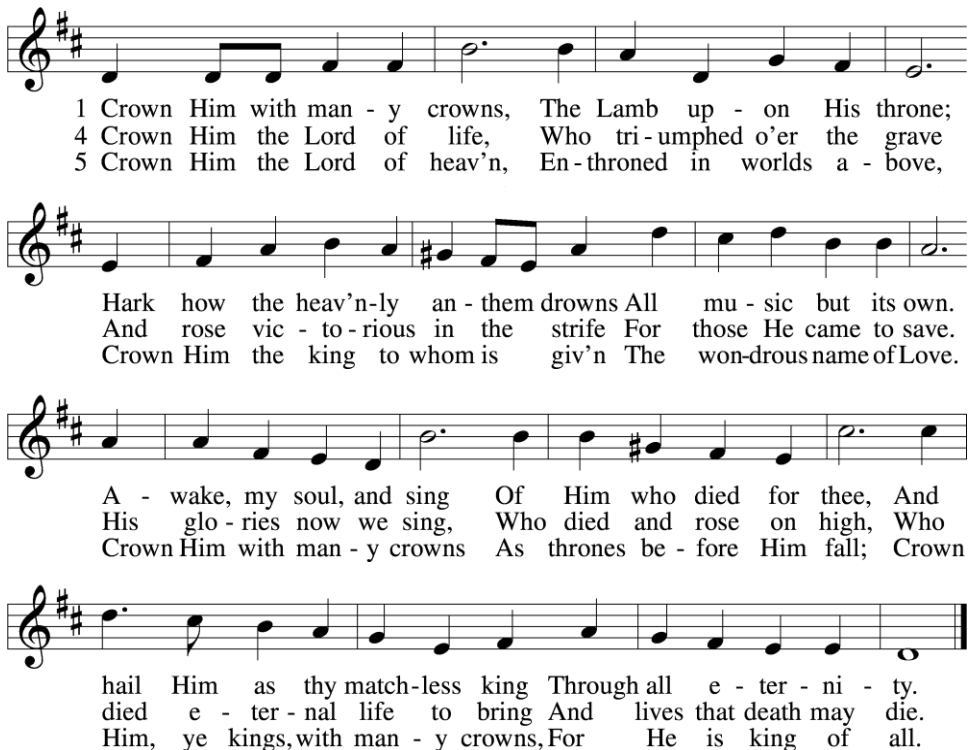
## Benediction

Lutheran Service Book 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.** (Psalm 103:1)  
**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.  
(Numbers 6:24-26)  
**C** **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Lutheran Service Book 525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,  
Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.  
A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown  
hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book  
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## **Worship Leaders**

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pastor:        | Richard Schlak                    |
| Organist:      | Ruth Ann Ostergren                |
| Elders:        | Dave Tuchenhausen/<br>Russ DeWitt |
| Acolyte:       | Thomas Karl                       |
| Reader:        | Jan Schlak                        |
| Ushers:        | Team 1                            |
| Altar Care:    | Mielke                            |
| 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 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); **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 (give thanks and praise for successful surgery & pray for healing and recovery with no complications); **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 Dave & Donna Tuchenhagen  
in celebration of their 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.**



**13 Sept. — Celest Balgemann**



**06 Sept. — Mike & Christy Mielke**  
**08 Sept. — Dave & Donna Tuchenhausen**





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**

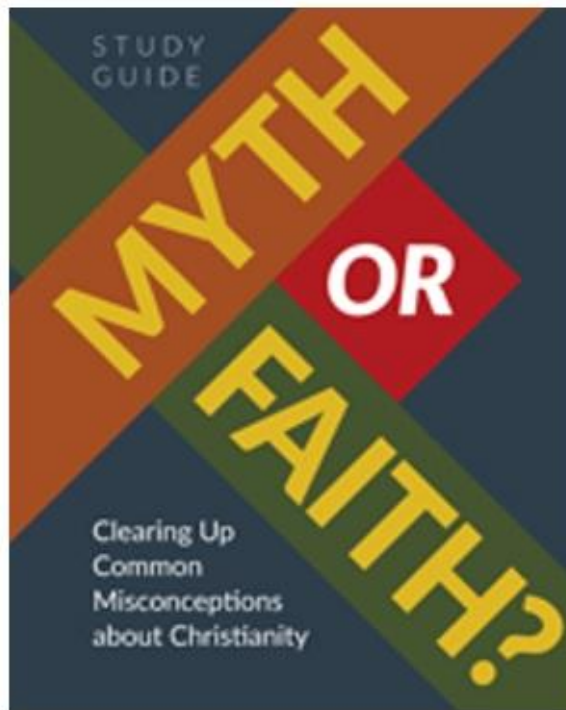
**Youth meet in the Church Library**

**Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall**

## **Adult Bible Study**

**9 to 10 am in the Fellowship Hall**



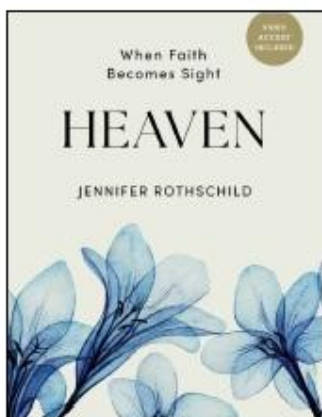


**Myth or Faith?** *There is a limit to God's forgiveness.*

**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**  
**7 PM 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 |

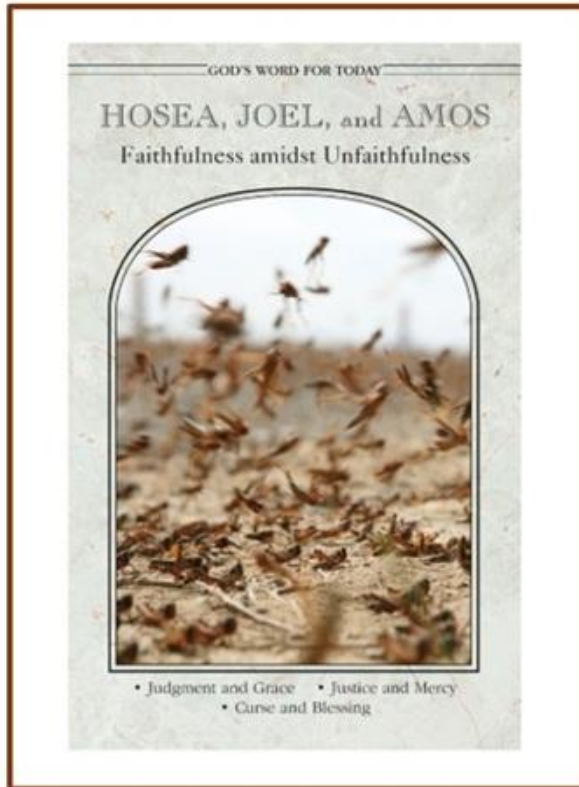
**Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by August 31st** (awerner@elp.rr.com)

**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

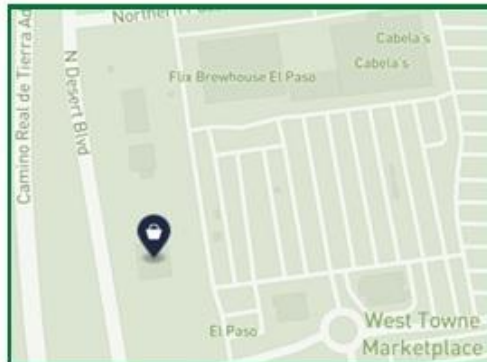
All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

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



**Cheddar's**  
SCRATCH  KITCHEN

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



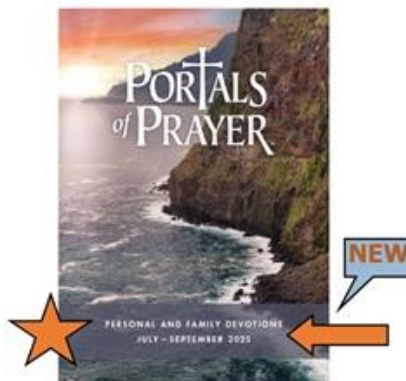
# Ladies Night Out

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

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

|  <b>September 2025</b>  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |  |  |
| <b>Aug. 31</b><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:45 am Confirmation   | <b>1</b><br><b>Labor Day</b><br>Church Office Closed<br><b>No School</b> | <b>2</b><br>9:00 am Prayer Breakfast<br><b>10:00 pm Worship Action Team Meeting (PH)</b><br>6:30 pm Boy Scouts<br>6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study (S & Zoom)<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)  | <b>3</b><br>9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S)<br>9:00 am St and Sew (PH)  | <b>4</b><br>6:30 pm Choir (S)  | <b>5</b><br>Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)                                  |  | <br>Cheryl Canada-Karl 9/01<br>Kent Koser 9/01<br>Billie Muller 9/01<br>Celest Salgemann 9/13<br>Richard Schick 9/18<br>I praise You because I am heavenly and wonderfully made.<br>Psalm 139:14a        |  |
| <b>7</b><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:45 am Confirmation   | <b>8</b><br>Church Office Closed   | <b>9</b><br><b>9:00 am Preschool Board Meeting</b><br><b>9:00 pm Board of Elders (PH)</b><br>6:30 pm Boy Scouts<br>6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study (S & Zoom)<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH) | <b>10</b><br>9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S)<br>9:00 am St and Sew (PH)   | <b>11</b><br>6:30 pm Choir (S)<br>7:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)   | <b>12</b><br>Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)                                 | <b>13</b>  |  |  |
| <b>14</b><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:45 am Confirmation  | <b>15</b><br>Church Office Closed  | <b>16</b><br>6:30 pm Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (PH)</b>   | <b>17</b><br>9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S)<br>9:00 am St and Sew (PH)<br><b>6:00 pm Ladies' Night Out at Cheddar's (S&amp;N, Closed Blvd)</b> | <b>18</b><br>6:30 pm Choir (S)<br>7:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)<br><b>3:00 pm - October newsletter due in office.</b> | <b>19</b><br>Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)                                 | <b>20</b><br><b>5:00 pm Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (PH)</b> | <br>Alfonso & Sylvia Diaz 9/4<br>Mike & Christy Melke 9/6<br>Dave & Donna Tuchenkagen 9/8<br>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.<br>1 Corinthians 13:13 |  |
| <b>21</b><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:45 am Confirmation  | <b>22</b><br>Church Office Closed  | <b>23</b><br>6:30 pm Boy Scouts<br>6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study (S & Zoom)<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)   | <b>24</b><br>9:00 am St and Sew (PH)<br><b>No School for Ascension Preschool (Professional Development)</b>                                  | <b>25</b><br>6:30 pm Choir (S)<br>7:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)   | <b>26</b><br>No Preschool Extended Care<br><b>5:00-7:30 pm Preschool Fall Festival</b> | <b>27</b>  |  |  |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:45 am Confirmation  | <b>29</b><br>Church Office Closed  | <b>30</b><br>6:30 pm Boy Scouts<br>6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study (S & Zoom)<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)   | <b>Oct. 1</b><br>9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S)<br>9:00 am St and Sew (PH)   | <b>Oct. 2</b><br>6:30 pm Choir (S)<br>7:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)   | <b>Oct. 3</b><br>Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)                             | <b>Oct. 4</b>  | Legend<br>(PH) - Fellowship Hall<br>S - Library<br>St - Sanctuary<br>PO - Pastor's Office  |  |

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



Be refreshed daily in God's living

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (September 7)**

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



### **Monday (September 8)**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday (September 9)**

11:00 AM Preschool Board Meeting  
5:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting (FH)  
6:30 PM Boy Scouts  
6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study (L & Zoom)  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (FH)

### **Wednesday (September 10)**

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

### **Thursday (September 11)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

### **Friday (September 12)**

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

### **Saturday (September 13)**