

The Baptism of Jesus

January 11, 2024 • 1st Sunday After Epiphany • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso

As We Gather

When the time came to start his ministry, Jesus began his work by being baptized. He didn't need to be baptized – he had no sins to wash away. He did it because he was making himself just like us. Jesus would carry our sins to the cross. If you are baptized, you have a special connection with Jesus. Through your baptism, God wants to encourage you and strengthen you to trust in Jesus as your Savior, to die to selfishness and sin and to live a new life for the Lord.

Prelude: "Beach Spring" (Janet Linker)
"King's Lynn" (David Cherwien)

Words of Welcome

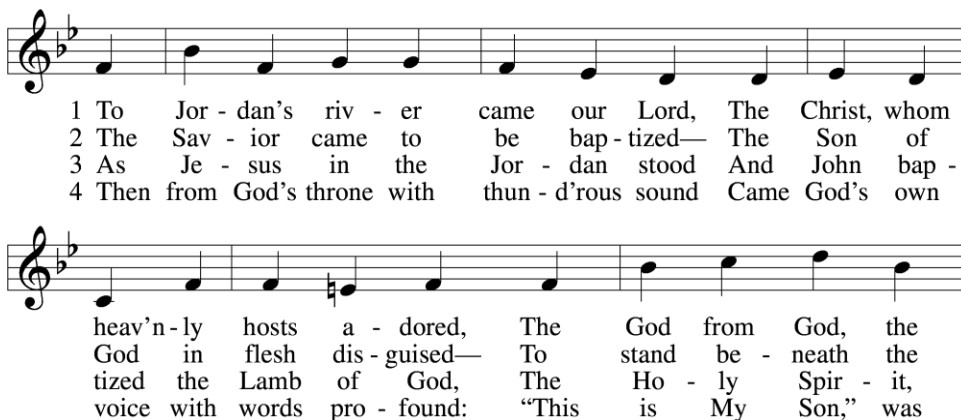
Stand

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)

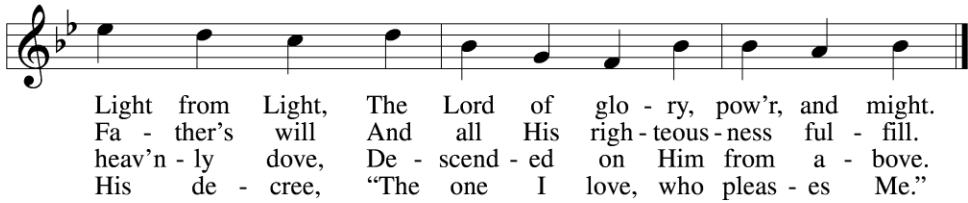
Opening Hymn: To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

Lutheran Service Book 405



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own

heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



5. The Father's word, the Spirit's flight, Anointed Christ in glorious sight
 As God's own choice, from Adam's fall To save the world and free us all.
6. Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute; This man is Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream, Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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Invocation

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

Prayer of Confession

- P** Heavenly Father, we live in a dark world. All around us we see selfishness, corruption, evil, sickness, strife, and problems. Other people have hurt us with their words and actions. We also have sinned in many ways. We have not always obeyed you nor have we loved others as you wish. Forgive us, Lord.
- C Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus Christ, the light, to our dark world. In the name of Jesus, cleanse me and forgive me. Take away my dark thoughts and feelings, my harsh words, and the things I have done that were not right. Take away everything that is bad in me and help me to live in the light! Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

- P** Jesus Christ is the light that drives out the darkness! He came to save us, to forgive us, and to give us a new life. The Bible says, "God is light... If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**" (1 John 1:5 and 7) Because we trust in Jesus as our Savior, I can tell you with certainty from the Word of God that our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit: Psalm 111:7-9

P The works of [the Lord's] hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast forever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

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.**

Kirie (Ancient Prayer: "Lord, have mercy")

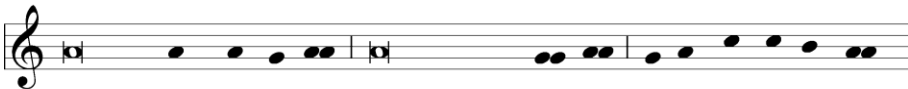
Lutheran Service Book 168



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.



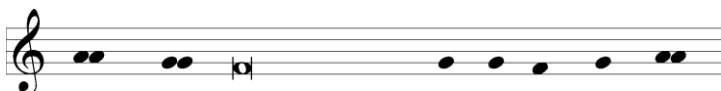
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Song of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis

Lutheran Service Book 170



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



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
 take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer for Today

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Father in heaven, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, you proclaimed him to be your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all of us who are baptized in Jesus' name faithful in our calling as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

(God promises to give his Spirit to his Servant (Jesus) who will bring salvation.)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them." (ESV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading (Epistle)

Romans 6:1-11

(When we are baptized, we are united with Jesus in his death and resurrection.)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

Lutheran Service Book 173



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 3.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

(Jesus, God's one and only Son, is baptized.)

When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you,

and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Song while Children Come to the Front:

This Little Gospel Light of Mine

This little gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!
This little gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!
This little gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!
Let it shine all the time, let it shine!

Children's Message

Hymn: When Jesus Came to Jordan

Hymnal "We Pray in Song" 397

1. When Jesus came to Jordan To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, But as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence With which good news begins.
2. He came to share temptation, Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation, To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended On him, the Son of Man,
The years of waiting ended. A dawning light began.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us To keep the vows we make.
This very day invade us, And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, Unite us with our Lord.
We share his resurrection, We stand upon his Word.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed (Public declaration of our faith)

Lutheran Service Book 175

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.
On 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. And 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.

Sit

Offering

The Bible says that the wise men from the east worshipped Jesus and “opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (Matthew 2:10, NIV). Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God’s love. What we give is used to support the work of our church and missions throughout the world.

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 (Choir): "Shall We Gather at the River"
(Robert Lowry)

1. *Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

2. *On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day. [Refrain]*
3. *Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]*

Stand

Offering Prayer of Dedication

- A Oh Lord, as the wise men from the East gave you gifts from their treasures, we too give you a part of the material things that you have blessed us with. Accept and bless these offerings, Lord. Let them be used so that your light may shine among all nations. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Offertory (Song of Dedication)

Jesus Christ, my God, my Savior, Sovereign King, my Lord most high!
I am small, yet here I give you all my heart, my hands, my life.

All I have is yours forever. Let me serve you faithfully!
With the Father and the Spirit, praise be yours eternally!

Installation of Council Members and Elders

Introduction

- P** In December we as a congregation elected several people to serve on the church council and to serve as elders of the church. The church council meets once a month and tackles all kinds of work related to our mission as a church. The council plans, facilitates communication and coordination between all the different leaders, and makes certain decisions as authorized by the congregation. We thank God for these servants and we pray for him to bless not only the newly-elected leaders but also those who are continuing their term of service through next year.
- The elders also meet once a month; they are assistants to the Pastor, doing work related to pastoral care. They plan and help with worship, Bible study, visiting people with God's Word, and help with shepherding all the members of our flock. We thank God for these elders and pray not only for the newly-appointed elders but also those who are continuing their term of service until the end of next year.

Scripture Reading

- P** Here is part of what the Bible says about serving in the church: "As in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:4-8, ESV)

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17, ESV)

The Promises

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have been chosen to serve as elders or as leaders on the church council at Ascension Lutheran Church. You are to work together with the pastor, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in God's sight.

As elders, you are to help oversee that the worship services are held and that the Word of God is preached according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are administered according to Christ's words, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of our

youth and new members, that spiritual care is given to those who are hurting or straying.

As leaders on the council, you are to help administer the different ministries or areas of service in our congregation, so that the mission to live and share Christ's love and salvation may go forward. In particular, some of you will be leading the ministries of Christian Education, Outreach, Fellowship, Christian Care for those in need, Church Finances and Stewardship, the Preschool, Administration, and other areas of service from organizing a meal at church to planning Vacation Bible School and more.

It is expected that all members of Ascension will imitate Jesus in their lives; but it is especially important that you, as leaders in his church, show yourselves by word and example, to be faithful.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: do you accept the position and of leadership entrusted to you, and do you promise to faithfully carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord? (If so, please answer, "Yes, with the help of God.")

L Yes, with the help of God.

P (to the congregation) You have heard the promise of these brothers and sisters. Do you as a congregation promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them in the mission that God has given us? (If so, please answer, "Yes, with the help of God.")

C Yes, with the help of God.

Prayer

P Heavenly Father, thank you for these brothers and sisters, for their willingness to serve, for their faith and love, and for their dedication to your mission. Help them now in their work as elders and as leaders on the church council. Encourage them and strengthen them so that what they do will be a blessing to many and a good testimony for you. We also remember with thanksgiving those who have completed their time of service on the council or among the elders and are moving on to serve in other ways. We pray that you would bless and guide each of them. In Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Installation

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: in the presence of God and of this congregation I install you as elders and leaders on the church council here at Ascension Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P As 1 Corinthians 15:58 says: "Be always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Heavenly Father, as you have promised, provide what we and our families need each day. Help those among us who are unemployed or who do not have food or other necessities. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, shine your light upon those among us who walk in the shadows of sickness, loneliness, hurt or grief. Heal us and help us. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Holy Spirit, help us to reflect the light of Jesus to all the people around us. Help us to show Jesus' love to everyone and to tell about Jesus' love at every opportunity. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord God, let our church and school – and every church and church school – be bright with your light. Guide our pastors and leaders and help us to love each other as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Heavenly King, shine the light of your peace in our country and around the world. Guide our leaders and protect everyone who serves and defends our nation. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Christ our Savior, let your love shine in our families and in our hearts. Help us to forgive each other and live together in peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord, we know that no darkness can stand before your light, and so we put all of our needs in your hands, trusting that you will help us at the right time and in the right way. In Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray.

C **Holy Spirit, thank you for strengthening my faith in this time of worship. Help me now to live according to your Word. Be with me wherever I go and help me to share Jesus' love! In Jesus' own name. Amen.**

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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)

Acknowledgments

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	David DeMartelaere
Acolyte:	Rahel Meraz
Crucifer:	Anthony Barron
Bible:	Anders Faugstad
Candle:	Rudy Valdes
Reader:	Anders Faugstad
Ushers:	Team 2
Altar Care:	Meitler/Radach
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.

Bob Gallagher, passed away recently. Please pray especially for **Melanie Gallagher** & their family as they grieve the loss of Bob. Melanie is grateful for everyone's support & prayers as Bob has struggled with various health challenges. Melanie shared that it's been a long journey, but well worth the blessing of having Bob as her husband & best friend over the years.

Illness and Recovery:

Jerry Rust, is experiencing memory & other health issues, & his wife, **Norma Rust**, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's have both been moved into Mountain View Nursing

facility, (please pray for God's guidance for Jerry, Norma, & his family for peace & strength as they adjust to their new living situation); **Cindy & Don Unsworth**, friends of former Ascension members Cathy & Randy Engel; Cindy has been in hospice care for lung cancer, that is now gone, but unfortunately the cancer, with the meds have done damage to the body & no more can be done; so she is bed ridden, on oxygen full time, & sleeping most of the day, (please continue to pray for God's will for Cindy to pass on, & for peace & strength for her husband, Don to let her go; and they are very grateful for everyone's prayers); **BJ Schwab**, had a biopsy on her thyroid, (please pray for a good outcome on the results); **David Behl**, Steve Behl's brother, needs both a heart & a kidney transplant (please pray for patience for both David & his family as there is a long waiting list for organ availability as well as skilled doctors to be available for the transplant); **Jaxon Coles**, nephew of Kari Larson Decker, had an unexplained seizure, had an ambulatory EEG test and are awaiting the results to be read & to have a brain MRI to determine the cause (please pray for correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Aaron Levenhagen**, Linda Canada's nephew & Cheryl Canada-Karl's cousin, continues to experience GI pain after bowel obstruction surgery (please pray for healing & relief from the pain, & the physical strength to return to his pastoral duties); **Wayne Woolery**, who is the chairman of the board of directors of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, asks to pray for his 12 year old grandson, **Reuben**, who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, waiting on the pathology results for evaluation of a nodule on her thyroid (asking for God's mercy & favor that the nodule is benign); pray for **Rachel**, Elizabeth Hinson's daughter, who is hoping to find employment (pray that she finds a nursing job soon); **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); **Bruce Walker**, father of Daren Walker, receives maintenance care for Parkinson's disease (please pray for strength & comfort for him and his family); **Kelly Alberson**, breast cancer (please pray for strength and comfort); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney, continues on in receiving different treatments for brain cancer, (please continue to pray for successful treatment); **Sandy Spott**, daughter-in-law of Barb Spott, is being treated by radiation & medication for recurring breast cancer (please pray for successful treatment); **Laurie Sterling**, continues to undergo treatment for colon cancer (please pray for treatment to be successful); **Maisie Warsau**, Marjy Brady's daughter Lauren's friend, at a facility in Atlanta that works with specialized injuries (pray for strength and continued healing for Maisie, & for peace and strength for her family); **Barbara Brock**, sister of Becky Hite, Becky & Gary Hite (former members), Barbara is in the hospital & she is not in good condition (please pray for healing); **Abigail Kailukatis**, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth, is still in a wheelchair, & limited in activities (praise the Lord that she is doing a little better, and please continue to pray for healing); **Martha Neal**, will need further leg surgery to improve blood circulation (pray for healing); **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); **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); **Marsha**, friend of the Barber's, has a lump in her breast, (please pray for strength); **Aubrey McDermett**, 15-year-old with MS, in hospital due to stroke (pray for healing); **Patty Jones**, Martha Neal's sister in stage 4 breast cancer (pray for strength); **Sean Sweeney**, has a brain tumor (pray for strength); **Mariella Kraus**, has cancer (pray for healing); **Brian Stickney** (pray for continuing health issues that cause them to be homebound); **Dick Seiders**, Ron Seider's father (continued cancer recovery); **Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health issues); **Daniel Mendoza** rapidly losing kidney function (pray for strength).

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Sharon, Melanie Gallagher's niece, cancer treatment was successful (give praise to God, & she is grateful for the prayers); **Coby Clark**, cancer is in remission (give thanks that he is doing well); **Barb Spott**, treatment for vertigo is working (give thanks for the relief from the condition).

Ascension News and Notes
Flowers for today's service
are provided by Gretchen Schmalz
in memory of her parents.



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.
SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.



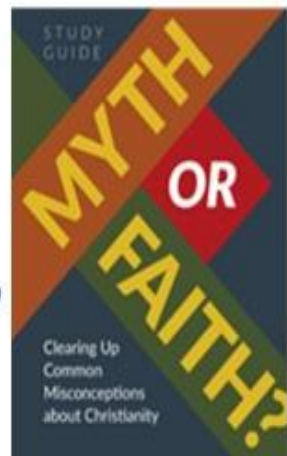
Jan. 14 — Ruth Ann Ostergren

TUESDAY NIGHT Men's Bible Study

in Ascension's Church Fellowship Hall

at 7 p.m.

**Currently studying *Myth or Faith | Clearing up
Common Misconceptions about Christianity*
(Concordia Publishing House)**



Contact Elliott Werner (915-603-7497) for more information

are all available for pick-up in the narthex entrance of the church.

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

January 2026

← NEW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28 Adult Bible Study Family Service 1:00 am Worship Full am Confirmation	Dec 29 Church Office Closed No School (2025) Winter Break Day 9 th Jan #1	Dec 30 8:00 am Holy Family No School (2025) Winter Break Day 9 th Jan #2 Family's mealtime Dec. 29 th Jan. 30 th	Jan 1 New Year's Eve No School (2025) Communion 8:00 am (2025) Family Service 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 2 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	Jan 3 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 4 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)
Jan 5 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Morning Prayer Full am Confirmation	Jan 6 Church Office Closed No School (2025) Winter Break Day 9 th Jan #1	Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Family 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 7 Feast of the Epiphany 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 8 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 9 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 10 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)
Jan 11 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Morning Prayer Full am Confirmation	Jan 12 Church Office Closed	Jan 13 Jan 14 8:00 am Holy Family 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 15 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 16 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 17 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 18 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)
Jan 19 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Morning Prayer Full am Confirmation	Jan 20 Church Office Closed	Jan 21 8:00 am Holy Family 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 22 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 23 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 24 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 25 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)
Jan 26 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Morning Prayer Full am Confirmation	Jan 27 Church Office Closed	Jan 28 8:00 am Holy Family 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 29 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 30 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 31 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)	Jan 31 8:00 am (2025) 9:00 am (2025) 10:00 am (2025) 11:00 am (2025) 12:00 am (2025)

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 Rob Ann O'Connell
 Sharon Wilk
 David Wilk
 Andrew Wilk
 Stephen Wilk
 Ann Wilk
 Mark Wilk
 David Wilk

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Ascension Lutheran Church

November 2025



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"Sharing God's Love By Connecting People To Christ"

Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter November 2025

Pastor's Desk

Count Your Blessings

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this: . . . Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. . . (Psalm 107:1, 2, & 4N)

Years ago, at Thanksgiving, Ascension used to pass out printed sheets with spaces to write down plenty of things we are thankful for. Each page had maybe 30 or so blank spaces to be filled in, when my family finished Thanksgiving dinner, my mom passed out the sheets and had us start writing. The first time this happened, I wasn't thrilled. I looked at that sheet with all the enthusiasm of a grade school kid having to write about how they did over summer vacation. Didn't we have enough forms to fill out in life? Why run Thanksgiving with another one?

I started writing, thinking that I would have to really stretch to be able to find enough things to be thankful to fill in all the spaces. But it wasn't at all like I thought it would be. I started with family. I wrote that it was thankful for my wife, for my son, for my two daughters, for my mother, for my mother-in-law, and each of my extended family members. . . in fact, I had to cut myself short because I could have filled in all of my spaces just with family. Then I started writing about the physical blessings that God had given me: clothes and shoes, food on the table, a roof over my head, a job with income, a phone, a computer, and on and on. . . again I had to stop because I could have used up every box given just with "blessings" with which God had blessed me. Then there were friends and co-workers and brothers and sisters at church. . . better just to write the parent category "friends" and not try to list them all because I was running out of room. And what about health and eyesight and hearing and being able to walk and talk and think clearly and taste and smell and like in the desert. . . better cut it short again! And then there were spiritual blessings: God forgives me, saves me through Jesus, gives me eternal life, gives me his word, it works me all the time, gives me strength when I face problems. . . hears me when I pray, encourages me, loves me no matter what, and so on. Then what about the country in which I live, the freedoms I enjoy, the people who sacrifice to serve my community. . .

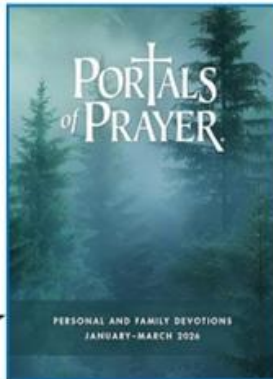
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 P: 970-338-1000
 F: 970-338-1000
 Email: info@ascensionlutheran.org
 Website: www.ascensionlutheran.org



Crested Butte, CO



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



Be refreshed daily in God's living Word!

Ladies Fellowship Opportunities in January

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



We gather 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 (915-584-6143)
or Jan Schlak (915-584-8920).



**Ascension Lutheran Women meet
Saturday, January 17th, 2026 at 10 a.m.**

**Ascension Fellowship Hall
for Bible Study and Fellowship**

All women of Ascension are Welcome!

>Contact Anita Werner (915-494-2335) for more information

Ladies Fellowship Opportunities in January 2026



Wed. Jan. 21, 2026

6 p.m.

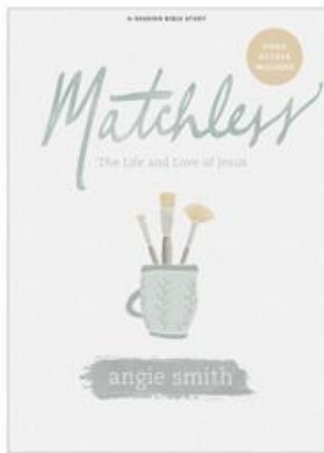
Ardivinos Pizza

865 Resler

**Please join us for food and fellowship!
(Dutch treat)**

**>Contact Robin Wiegert (915-581-5566)
for more information**

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study



Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 27th !

**Join Ascension Ladies & Friends
For Bible Study**

Via Zoom

6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Contact Anita Werner
For more information**

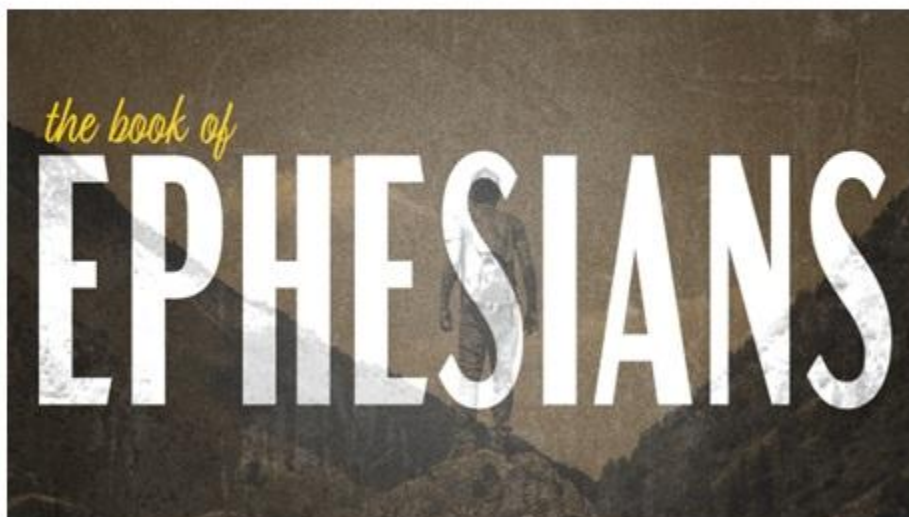


**2026 VBS
Planning
Meeting**

Join us on
Sun., January 25th
Immediately after
worship service in the
fellowship hall.

Adult Bible Study

9 to 10 am in the Fellowship Hall





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

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (January 11) The Lord's Baptism

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



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (January 12)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (January 13)

11:00 AM Preschool Meeting
3:30 PM Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM Mens' Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday (January 14)

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

Thursday (January 15)

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

Friday (January 16)

12:00-2:30 PM Preschool Extended Care

Saturday (January 17)

10:00 AM LWML Meeting (FH)