

When Someone Stumbles

September 6, 2026 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • Proper 18 A

As We Gather:

"Love your neighbor as yourself." That seems so simple, doesn't it? All of God's commandments come down to just this: love God, love your neighbor (Romans 13:8-10). Why then do we have such a hard time putting this into practice?

Loving our neighbor includes being a good citizen and having respect for the laws of our country (Romans 13:1-7). But we find it so easy to complain about our government and to hurl insults at our leaders instead of getting involved and making a positive difference.

Loving our neighbor includes being patient with kids and showing them real love (Matthew 18:1-10). But we only like kids to be around when they are cute, not when they are inconvenient. We feel like children should be seen and not heard – at all.

Loving our neighbor includes talking things over with other people when they hurt us. It includes forgiving others and reconciling with them (Matthew 18:15-18). Instead, we talk badly about them behind their backs and let resentments fester.

Loving our neighbor includes warning them when they are far from God, that they need to turn back to the Lord (Ezekiel 33:7-9). But we often don't care all that much that some of the people around us are walking on the road to hell.

It's a good thing Jesus loves us more than we have loved others! Jesus loves us so much that he died for us! Jesus forgives us for the times we have failed to love others the way we should. Then he gives us a fresh opportunity to pass on God's love to our neighbors.

Prelude: "When Love is Found" – James Biery, James Chepponis

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: O Savior, Precious Savior

Lutheran Service Book 527



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought
4 O grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove



O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,
In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;



We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where per - fect prais - es ring,



We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our ho - ly Lord and King.
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our gra - cious Lord and King.
And ev - er - more con - fess Thee, Our Sav - ior and our King!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Lutheran Service Book 203

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 Jesus commanded us: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31, ESV) We have not always loved God with everything we are, and we have not always loved others the way we should. We need God's forgiveness each day.

- A** Lord God, you know that our hearts all too easily wander from your ways. But out of your love for us, and for the sake of Jesus our Savior, forgive us and renew us. Keep us from falling into the same old sins; rather, help us to love you, worship you, and glorify you in everything we think, say, or do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** The Bible tells us that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NIV) Jesus did die for our wrongdoing and he rose again to give us a new life. As pastor, I therefore proclaim to you by God's authority what Jesus says here in his Word: through faith in Jesus all our sins and wrongdoing have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- A** Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalms 32:1-2, 5

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C **Whose sin is covered.**
P Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
C **And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity.
C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Gloria Patri (traditional words of praise)

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

Kyrie (sung responsive prayer)

Lutheran Service Book 204



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

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

(If someone falls into sin, God wants us to speak with them and warn them.)

[God said to Ezekiel,] "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸ When I

say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹ But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved." (NIV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Romans 13:1-10

(Love fulfills God's Law.)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (NIV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-20

(God does not want anyone to be lost – not even the littlest ones nor the ones who stumble and hurt someone.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 18.

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

⁶ “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is

better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

¹² "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Salutation and Prayer for This Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We pray together:

C **Lord God, it is so easy for us to stumble and to do or say something that hurts others. Forgive us and help us to do a better job of loving others. When someone else hurts us, help us to talk it over with them in love, instead of reacting in pride or looking to get even. We need your help, Lord, to love others the way you love us! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

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.

Story Time

Sermon Hymn: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Lutheran Service Book 843



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls

You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

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Sermon

Stand

Small Catechism

- P** In the Lord's Prayer we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Together let us declare what this prayer means, using words from the Catechism:
- C** **We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them. But we ask that he would give them all to us by grace, for we**

daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Prayer of the Church

We pray for all the people of God and for the world around us.

- L** Lord God, we ask that you bless and protect all of us in our work and daily lives. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Heavenly Father, we pray for this city, for our country, and for the whole world, that there may be peace and justice and mercy. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Holy Spirit, we pray for our leaders, that they may have wisdom and that their decisions may be in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord Jesus, we ask for your comfort and help for those who are anxious and worried. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Almighty God, we pray for those who are sick or who are in need, especially those who are facing situations that are more than they can handle. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Heavenly Father, please grant your comfort and strength to those who are missing a family member or friend who has passed away. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Holy Spirit, we ask that you would guide and help us in the church and in the preschool, that there may be love and unity and joy in your mission. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord Jesus, just as you gave yourself for us on the cross, help us to dedicate our lives to serving you each day. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Thank you, Lord, for hearing all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not expressed aloud. We love you and praise you forever! In Jesus' name.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Jesus gave everything for us. In gratitude, we give a portion of our material blessings so that others may also know his love. The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

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.

Ascension Lutheran Church is a non-profit organization. Donations to Ascension qualify as charitable donations for tax purposes.



Choir Anthem during the Offering: Let Love For Others Be Sincere

1. May our love for others be sincere, shown in deeds, not merely spoken.
May our love for others be sincere, shown in deeds, not merely spoken.
Then when Christ returns in glory, when Christ returns in glory,
He will find us all united.
Then when Christ returns in glory, when Christ returns in glory,
He will find us all united.
2. Dare we come to God in prayer, filled with anger toward our neighbor?
Dare we come to God in prayer, filled with anger toward our neighbor?
God will listen to our prayer, God will listen to our prayer,
When we seek and offer pardon.
God will listen to our prayer, God will listen to our prayer,
When we seek and offer pardon.
3. Are there limits to the times we must offer our forgiveness?
Are there limits to the times we must offer our forgiveness?
We must pardon every time, we must pardon every time,
Even seventy times seven.
We must pardon every time, we must pardon every time,
Even seventy times seven.

Stand

Offering Prayer

- A** **Almighty God, these offerings are but a tiny part of the many blessings you have given us. Please use these gifts to extend your kingdom throughout the earth, and help us to use all of your blessings in ways that glorify your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Offertory: Jesus, Name Above All Names

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

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Invitation and Preparation for Communion

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

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

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

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

Special Instructions for Communion:

- Children and adults who are not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms when the elders or pastor come by. 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.

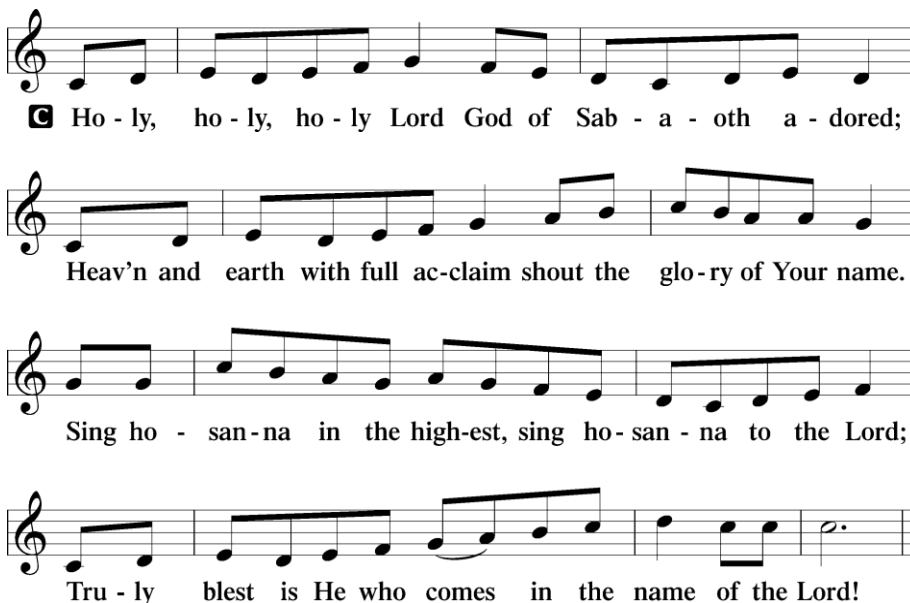
If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

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

Lord's Prayer

- A** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

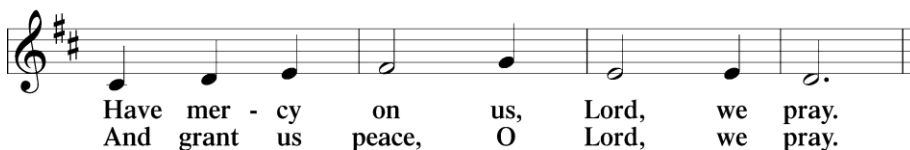
Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord" – John 20:19) Lutheran Service Book 209

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

Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God" – John 1:29)

Lutheran Service Book 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

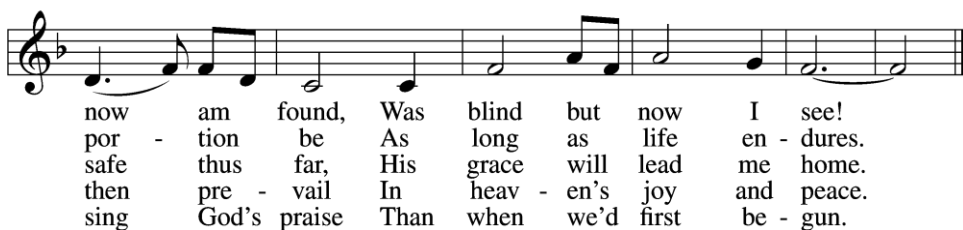
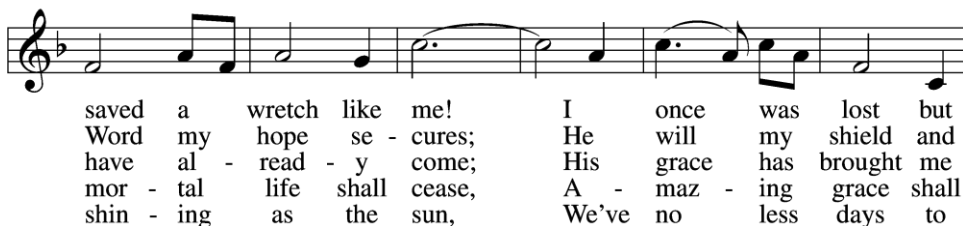
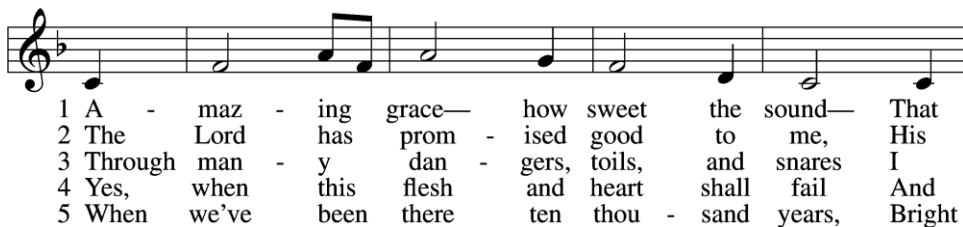


Sit

Hymns during Communion

Amazing Grace

Lutheran Service Book 744



Text and tune: Public domain

What Wondrous Love is This?

Lutheran Service Book 543



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text and tune: Public domain

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Lutheran Service Book 649



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be-fore our Fa-ther's throne We pour our ar-dent prayers;
3 We share our mu-tual woes, Our mu-tual bur-dens bear;
4 When here our path-ways part, We suf-fer bit-ter pain;
5 From sor-row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text and tune: Public domain

Bind Us Together, Lord

Hymnal "With One Voice" 748

Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord.
Bind us together in love.

1. There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. (Refrain)
2. You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire. You are the glorious wine. (Refrain)

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Holy Spirit, help us to trust in Jesus more and more each day.
Encourage us to keep sharing Jesus' love. Make us all one as we
serve you together as your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

Lutheran Service Book 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**
- 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.**

Hymn: Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Make a Joyful Sound (white booklet) 28

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

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

2. Man walked alone and in need, without faith, hope, or promise, or creed,
Wandering aimlessly lost, unaware of the staggering cost:
That God in his mercy would save all his people from death and the grave.
(Refrain)

3. Lord, teach us how to proclaim all your goodness, your love and your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love, teach us, Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we belong. (Refrain)

Sending

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	Don Wiegert/Mike Mielke
Acolyte:	Nedavia Meraz
Reader:	Jan Schlak
Greeters:	Patrick & Landrey Mars
Ushers:	Team 1
Altar Care:	Mielke
Projectionist:	Jacob Canada
Sound/Camera:	Mike Mielke/Ron Seiders

Prayer Ministry Philippians 4:6-7

Please fill out the blue friendship card or call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or an update for the prayer list. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com. The prayer list is no longer included in the bulletin; but can be picked up alongside of the bulletins in the entrance. It is also available to view in the weekly email sent out on every Friday.

Ascension News and Notes

Altar flowers for today's service are provided by Mike & Charlene Radach in memory of June Radach.



**Both sets of flowers are \$70.
PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE
OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

September 6th – Mike & Christy Mielke

September 8th – Dave & Donna Tuchenhausen



Giving in September 2026 **Utah Mission**



Rocky Mountain District's focused outreach effort 2025–2028

Mission

- Supporting established congregations and faithful pastors/teachers
- Encouraging Godly laity in the field
- Partnering with local churches to strengthen witness and ministry



"In Utah the proclamation of the Truth faces more opposition than in most areas of our country"

Donation envelopes are in the pews and can be dropped in the offering plate.



Operation Christmas Child

It's almost Shoebox Collection Time!!!

Start collecting treasures to include in the shoeboxes you'll be packing in October.

- School Supplies
- Toys
- Hats & gloves
- Hair & grooming accessories
- Coloring books
- And lots more!

Points of Contact: Melanie Gallagher
& Charlene Radach

Ronald McDonald House



Please save the **aluminum pull tabs** from canned drinks and bring them to the kitchen area or the church office. They are used by the Ronald McDonald House to provide a home away from home for hundreds of families with seriously ill children.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our bible studies and our worship service by either supplying treats for everyone in fellowship with others, beautifying our altar with flowers in honor of God, or preparing our altar for worship.

Altar flowers, Sunday Snacks, & Altar Care:

Altar flowers: September 20th is open. **Altar care:** December is open. Both sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Snack Refreshments: Sept. 13th & 27th are open. Next to the kitchen counter, there is a new sign-up sheet up for September, October, November, and December.

Fellowship Opportunities:

LADIES NIGHT OUT

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

September 16th
at Great American Steakburger

Located at 701 S. Mesa Hills Dr.



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

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

Next **LWML** meeting will be on **September 19th at 10 am** in Ascension's fellowship hall.



Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally

September 26, 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church
1505 College Avenue
Alamogordo, NM 88310



Coffee, Pastry, & Visiting	8:30 to 9:30am
Greetings & Bible Study	9:30 to 11:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Business Meeting/Elections	12:45 pm
Followed by Installation of new officers & closing devotion.	



Ingathering: Adult sizes of socks & underwear for Runner's Refuge
(minister to the homeless in Alamogordo.)

Reminder: Please bring your RMD Delegate Dues to the Fall Rally.

FORTY YEARS OF GRACE & SERVICE

Celebrating the
40th Ordination Anniversary of
REV. RICHARD SCHLAK



“Great is Thy faithfulness.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

12:00 NOON

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A short worship service in the sanctuary as we give thanks to God for 40 years of faithful ministry.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Join us in the fellowship hall for brisket and sides as we celebrate and share memories together.

Please join us as we celebrate God's grace
and thank Him for Rev. Schlak's 40 years of service.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

RSVP appreciated for planning purposes by October 7.

There is a sign up sheet for specific sides to bring to the luncheon.
Also, please sign your name on the RSVP sheet next to the sign-up sheet.
The sheets are on the A-frame board at the entrance.

Bible Studies (Sunday & during the week):

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study:

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 worship service on Sundays!

We meet from 9:00 to 10:00 AM.



Sunday
Adult Bible Study
9 to 10 AM
in the Fellowship Hall



The Book of Isaiah

Nursery Care

available for 2 & under

Pre-K to 6th grade:

Kids meet in the Preschool Library

7th grade to 12th grade:

Youth meet in the Church Library

Adults: Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Men's Bible Study meets in the fellowship hall at **7 PM**. They are currently studying "Myth or Faith/Clearing up Common Misconceptions about Christianity." Contact Elliott Werner for more information: 915-603-7497.

Ladies' and Women's Bible Studies Resuming this week:

Tuesday Nights Ladies Bible Study will resume **Sept. 8th (6:30-8 pm)**. Contact Anita Werner for more information. 915-494-2335 or awerner@elp.rr.com.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study will resume **Sept. 10th** to complete the book of Matthew. **Gather at 9:45 am and begin at 10 am**. For more information, contact Jan Schlak: oveja6925@aol.com or Gretchen Schmalz 915-284-6143.

September 2026 Calendar, Monthly Newsletter, and Portals of Prayers (July— September 2026) are all available for pick-up in the narthex entrance of the church.

Be sure to pick up your September calendar in the narthex entrance.

September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship after service: Church Potluck (P)	Aug 31 Church Office Closed	September 1 9:00 am Day School 10:00 am Men's Bible Study	September 2 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 10:00 am 1st and 2nd (P)	September 3 9:00 am Choir (S)	September 4 Preschool Extended Care 10:00-3:00pm (P)	
September 5 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Communion 12:00 pm Confirmation (P)	September 6 Church Office Closed Labor Day No School	September 7 9:00 am Worship: Action Team Meeting (S) 9:30 am Day School 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study (Resumes 12/1) 10:30 am Men's Bible Study (P)	September 8 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 10:00 am 1st and 2nd (P) 10:30 am Elder's Meeting (P)	September 9 9:45 am Women's Bible Study Resumes (P)	September 10 Preschool Extended Care 10:00-3:00pm (P)	September 11 Chapel Cantata: Karl Karl Kantor Bills Miller Anthony Barron Caleb Benjamin Richard Schick Anders Faugstad
September 12 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation (P)	September 13 Church Office Closed	September 14 9:00 am Day School 10:00 am Youth-Council Meeting (P)	September 15 10:30 am Preschool Meeting 10:00 am 1st and 2nd (P) 10:30 am Ladies Night Out (First American Roundtable at 11:15) (P)	September 16 9:00 am Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (P)	September 17 No Preschool Extended Care 10:00 am 1st and 2nd Preschool Fall Festival	September 18 10:00 am 1st and 2nd Meeting (P)
September 19 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation (P)	September 20 Church Office Closed	September 21 9:00 am Day School 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 10:30 am Men's Bible Study (P)	September 22 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 10:00 am 1st and 2nd (P)	September 23 9:00 am Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (P)	September 24 Preschool Extended Care 10:00-3:00pm (P)	September 25 10:00 am 1st and 2nd Meeting (P)
September 26 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation (P)	September 27 Church Office Closed Fall Intercession Sept. 28th through Oct. 1st	September 28 9:00 am Day School 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 10:30 am Men's Bible Study (P)	September 29 9:00 am 1st and 2nd (P)	September 30 9:00 am Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (P)	October 1 Preschool Extended Care 10:00-3:00pm (P)	October 2 10:00 am 1st and 2nd Meeting (P)

Legend:
(P) = Fellowship Hall
(S) = Sanctuary
(P) = Pastor's Office

Cor
Newsletter of Ascension Luth.
"Sharing God's Love"
Ascension

Pastor's Desk

Begin the Right Way

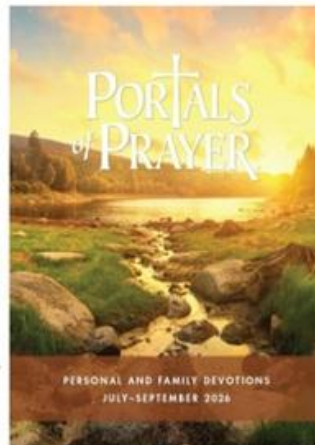
*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1, NIV)*

"All I really needed to know, I learned in kindergarten." You've probably heard that phrase before. It's the title of a famous book by Robert Fulghum. Like most pithy phrases, it exaggerates, but there's still a kernel of truth in it. What we learn as children serves as the foundation for everything that we do and say and think for the rest of our lives. That's the way, in one of the reasons why our preschool is so important. That's why God calls us to pray for all the children in our church, to give the good example, to sacrifice to have Sunday School and "story time" as part of the worship service, to be patient whenever a kid cries in church.

Whenever we launch a new project or a new program or a new mission, the beginning is very important. The famous preacher Charles H. Spurgeon said, "Begin as you mean to go on, and go on as you began, and let the Lord be all in all of you." That means that whenever we start something new, we need to begin with the mindset and discipline and habits that we intend to sustain. Lay a good foundation and the house will stand strong.

In the Bible, the beginning is the book of Genesis. This book lays the foundation for everything that follows. And according to Genesis, the beginning of everything, the solid foundation, is God. God was there before the universe existed. God created everything. If we want to begin our life the right way, we need to begin with God.

July-Sept. 2026



NEW

Be refreshed daily in God's living Word!

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (September 6th)

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion
12:00 PM Confirmation (PO)

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (September 7th)

Labor Day -- NO SCHOOL

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (September 8th)

3:30 PM Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)
6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study Resumes (L)
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday (September 9th)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel (S)
10 AM-1 PM Sit-N-Sew group (FH)
3:00 PM Elders' Meeting

Thursday (September 10th)

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

Friday (September 11th)

12-2:30 PM Preschool Extended Care

Saturday (September 12th)



The WORSHIP ACTION TEAM will be having a
MEETING ON TUESDAY, **September 8th**, at
3:30 PM in the fellowship hall. PLEASE JOIN US!

