

Forgiven, We Forgive

September 13, 2026 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • Proper 19 A

As We Gather:

"Before embarking on a journey of revenge, dig two graves." That saying warns that if you seek revenge, you will harm not only your target, but yourself as well. "Two graves", not just one. Revenge is self-destructive. This is true even if you just harbor bitterness and resentment in your heart, wishing evil on the one who wronged you rather than taking direct action.

Oh, but it's hard to put aside that resentment when someone has hurt us. The sense of justice inside of us insists that they should pay for what they've done or said. But what about mercy? What about forgiveness?

There's a difference between restitution and resentment. Restitution means that if someone steals something, they should pay it back, as much as possible. Restitution is a good thing. Resentment, on the other hand, means that I refuse to forget what they did. I will not forgive them.

There's another saying: "To err is human; to forgive is divine." It's only through God's power and love that we can begin to show mercy to others who have done wrong. God has forgiven us so much. When we focus on his forgiveness, we will begin to be able to forgive others, even seventy-seven times (Matthew 18:21-35). We will begin to be able to forgive even our family who have hurt us, like Joseph did (Genesis 50:15-21). We will even begin to have find a way to live with those people at church who fight to have their own way over things that ultimately don't matter (Romans 14:1-2). Just remember how great God's love for us is – as high as the heavens are above the earth (Psalm 103). And how much he forgives us, removing our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103).

Prelude: "Andantino" – Cesar Franck

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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Lutheran Service Book 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

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 103:8-13

- P** The Lord is merciful and gracious,
C **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
P He will not always chide,
C **Nor will he keep his anger forever.**
P He does not repay us according to our sins,
C **Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C **So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**
P As far as the east is from the west,
C **So far does he remove our transgressions from us.**
P As a father shows compassion to his children,
C **So the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

Gloria Patri (traditional words of praise)

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

Kyrie (sung responsive prayer)

Lutheran Service Book 204



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

Sit



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

(Joseph forgave his brothers for all the evil they did to him.)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide

for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.
(NIV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Romans 14:1-12

*(Accept those who are weak in faith and
do not despise those who are immature.)*

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.

⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

“As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.”

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. (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 18:21-35

(How many times do we need to forgive someone?)

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

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

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (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, thank you for forgiving all our wrongdoing and bad attitudes. You love us even though we don’t deserve it. Help us to show that same forgiveness to other people who have hurt us with their words and actions. Help us to love even those who don’t deserve it. 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

Hymn: May Our Love For Others Be Sincere

Hymnal We Pray in Song 776

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.

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.**

Sit

Prayer for Someone Who Will Be Moving (Barb Spott)

- P** Barb, God has led you to a new stage in your life and a new place to live, close to your children. Moving can be very exciting but you may also feel a bit uncertain about the future and a little sad for what you are leaving behind. For our part, we will miss you a lot. But the Bible says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NIV). We know that God will be with you and that he has a plan for you in your new place. Don't forget him in all the changes of moving. Connect with a church family where you are going. Ask God to show you how he wants you to serve him there.

And don't forget that you will be in our hearts always. We will be praying for you. As Michael W. Smith says:

Friends are friends forever, if the Lord's the Lord of them.

And a friend will not say "never", for the welcome will not end.

Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hand we know

That a lifetime's not too long to live as friends.

Lord willing, we will see you again here on this earth; but if not, we know we will see you in heaven. *(to the congregation)* Let's pray together:

C Lord God, you are with us wherever we go. Be with our dear friend and sister in Christ as she moves from a familiar home to a new place. Support her in the challenges she will face. When she is lonely or nostalgic, remind her that she is not alone. Help her to connect with other Christians in her new community and to serve you together. And when we find ourselves missing her, grant us your peace and help us to be happy for her. We commend her into your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

P May the Lord bless your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. *(from Psalm 121:8)*

Stand

Song: God Be With You Till We Meet Again Evangelical Lutheran Worship 536

1. God be with you till we meet again, By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.

Till we meet, till we meet; God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round you. God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain)

Prayer for Grandparents

L On this special day, we pray together for all who are grandparents or who have loved and cared for others like an adopted grandparent.

C Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of grandparents as well as those who have loved others like a grandparent would, giving of themselves selflessly. Bless them with health, strength, and peace. May their days be filled with joy, and may they continue to share their wisdom, love, and faith in Jesus. Protect them from harm, comfort them in times of need, and let them feel the gratitude and love of their children and grandchildren. May their lives be a testimony of Your goodness and grace. Amen.

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: When We Are Living (Traditional Spanish)

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus.
And when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God, we belong to God.
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
We belong to God, we belong to God.
3. Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
When sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
Whether we suffer or sing rejoicing,
We belong to God, we belong to God.
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind.
But when we help them, or when we feed them,
We belong to God, we belong to God.

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.

Lord's Prayer

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

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
C **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.**

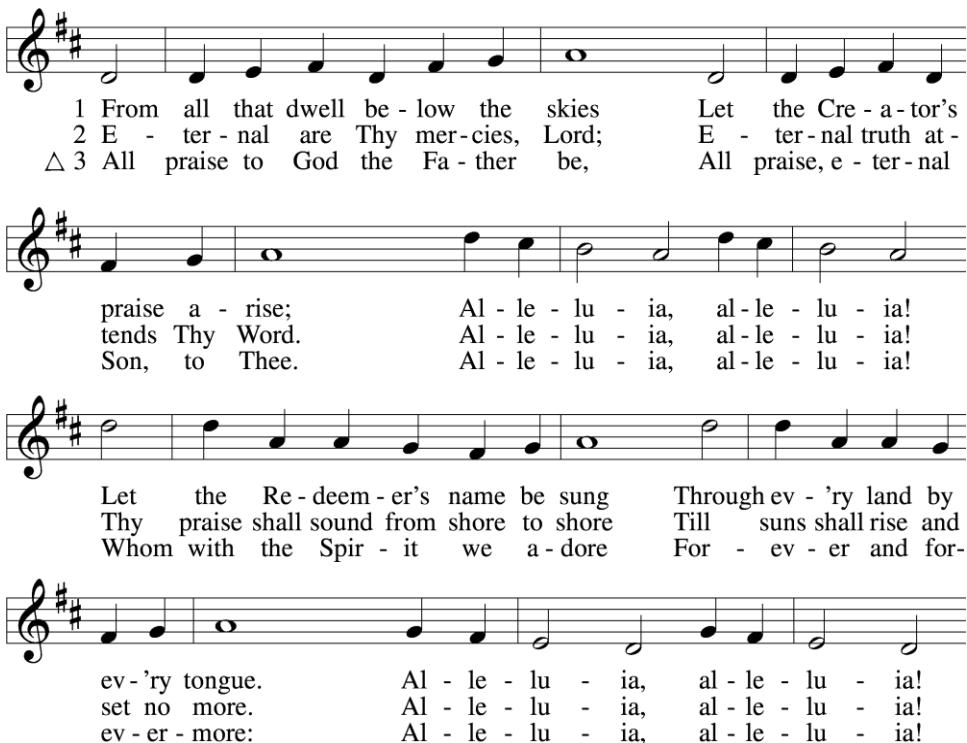
Benediction

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: From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Lutheran Service Book 816



1 From all that dwell be-low the skies, Let the Cre-a-tor's
2 E-ter-nal are Thy mer-cies, Lord; E-ter-nal truth at-
Δ 3 All praise to God the Fa-ther be, All praise, e-ter-nal

praise a-rise; Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
tends Thy Word. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Son, to Thee. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Let the Re-deem-er's name be sung Through ev-'ry land by
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
Whom with the Spir-it we a-dore For-ev-er and for-

ev-'ry tongue. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
set no more. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
ev-er-more. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

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
Elder:	Andy Barber
Acolyte:	Victor Valdes
Reader:	Barbara Lewis
Greeters:	Jake & Krissy Miller
Ushers:	Team 2
Altar Care:	Werner
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 Dave & Donna Tuchenhagen giving praise & thanksgiving for God's many blessings.



Both sets of flowers are \$70.

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE
OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**



September 13 — Celest Balgemann

September 18 — Richard Schlak

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. Also, October, November, & December have many openings. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Snack Refreshments: Oct. 4th & 25th are open. Next to the kitchen counter, there is a sign-up sheet that also includes November and December.

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.

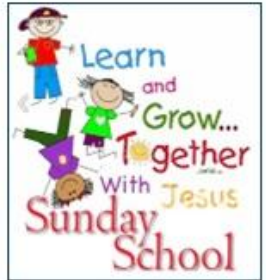
Bible Studies (Sunday & during the week):

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

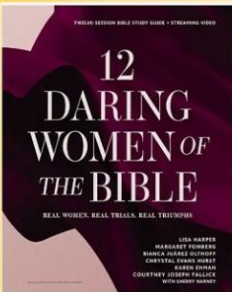
Bible Studies During the week:

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

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



Ladies
Bible Study



12
DARING
WOMEN OF
THE BIBLE
REAL WOMEN. REAL TRAILS. REAL TRIUMPHS.

LISA HARPER
MARGARET RUMEN
BIANCA REARER OUTROPP
CHRISTINA DAVIS HARRIS
KAREN REHAN
COURTNEY JOSEPH PALACE
WITH LORRY HENRY

**TUESDAY NIGHTS
LADIES' BIBLE STUDY
(Via Zoom)**

**Join Ascension Ladies & Friends
For Bible Study
6:30 – 8 p.m.**

**Contact Anita Werner:
awerner@elp.rr.com**

For more information

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 Calendar, Newsletter, & Portals of Prayer (July-Sept. 2026) are both available for pick-up in the **entrance of the church.**

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



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

*"freely you received; freely give"
Matthew 8:10*



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



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

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.



Photo Booth,
Jumping Balloon, & Games,
Food (Pizza, Nachos, Beverages)
Lots of FUN!
(CASH ONLY FOR TICKETS)

Preschool's Annual Fall Festival is one of the largest fundraisers they have to raise funds for items in the preschool.



LWML:

The **LWML Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally** will be on **September 26th** at **Trinity Lutheran Church** in **Alamogordo, NM**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.** (Ingathering of adult sizes of socks & underwear for Runner's Refuge (ministers to the homeless of Alamogordo); and RMD Delegate dues will be collected.

Next **LWML** meeting at Ascension will be on **October 17th at 10 am** in Ascension's fellowship hall. (Meeting will be brief due to Pastor's celebratory service and luncheon at 12 pm.)

**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.**



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*"Great is Thy faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:23*

FORTY YEARS

OF GRACE & SERVICE

Celebrating the 40th Ordination Anniversary of

REV. RICHARD SCHLAK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 • 12:00 NOON

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Service of Thanksgiving begins in the sanctuary,
followed by fellowship and lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

BRISKET & SIDES

*Sign up sheets to RSVP and to bring SIDE DISHES
are on the A-frame board at entrance. (Please RSVP by Oct. 7th.)*

6520 Loma de Cristo • El Paso, Texas • 915 833 1009

Congregational Meeting Oct. 11th, 2026



Please join us immediately after the worship service.

*The following items are available in both weekly Friday email
& the church office to be printed upon request:

Congregation Agenda for Oct. 11th, 2026 meeting

Proposed Church Budget for 2027

Proposed Council Elders Slate for 2027-2028

Congregation Minutes for prior meeting on July 12th, 2026

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (September 13th)

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



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (September 14th)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (September 15th)

6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday (September 16th)

10 AM-1 PM Sit-N-Sew group (FH)
6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out ([Great American Steakburger](#) at 701 S. Mesa)

Thursday (September 17th)

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

Friday (September 18th)

No Preschool Extended Care
5:00-7:00 PM Preschool Fall Festival

Saturday (September 19th)

10:00 AM Gretchen Schmalz Memorial Service