



Ascension Lutheran Church  
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"  
Sunday, August 20, 2023

## ALL CHURCH WORSHIP-FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Sunday August 20, 2023

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:**

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*)

**Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy:** *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgan con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

## + PREPARATION +

### Theme: "Friendship Sunday"

**As We Gather:** Despite all of our social media, good friends are hard to find. But when we have found someone who becomes a real friend, we have found a true treasure. Jesus often called His followers "friends." It's a beautiful word. And He proved it when He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). As He went to the cross and came forth from the tomb, Jesus established a friendship with all who believe in Him . . . a friendship He will never break. He is the only true Friend that we can rely on for all our needs.

#### Prelude

**How Deep The Father's Love For Us  
There Is A Redeemer**  
arr. Michael Lawrence  
Corey Ritchie, tenor sax

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**  
Quartet

**Amazing Grace**  
arr. Stan Pethel  
Corey Ritchie, tenor sax

#### Welcome

#### Brothers And Sisters In Christ

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.**

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)**

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)**

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ." Words and music by Terry K. Dittmer. Copyright (c) 1983 by the author. Used with permission.

### **Invocation and Call To Worship**

**P** Friends, we have come to worship in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen!**

**P** God is in this place. His creative power works among us.

**C** **The Holy Spirit comes in mercy and grace.**

**P** We are imperfect.

**C** **God is holy.**

**P** We are in time.

**C** **God is eternal.**

**P** We are vulnerable.

**C** **God is all-powerful.**

**P** We see problems.

**C** **God has plans.**

**P** We need a faithful friend.

**C** **God is our Friend in Christ Jesus.**

**P** Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

**C** **And bow down before Him.**

## Opening Prayer

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, we give You thanks today for the gift of friendship—especially with You. With hearts uplifted we would proclaim the words of the hymn...“Jesus! What a friend for sinners. Jesus! Lover of my soul...Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.” For, indeed, Jesus, You are the friend who sticks closer than a brother. You are the friend who made Yourself our servant in life that You might make us Your friends for eternity. You are the friend who laid down Your life on the cross that You might lift ours up in glory.

Lord, we thank You for the treasure of our earthly friendships and for our family in Christ here at Ascension. We pray that You would help us to go into the world to share Your gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation and an eternal friendship that is priceless. “Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus.”

**C** Amen!

## Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, one of the truths we know is that true friends do not support their friends when they do things that are harmful to themselves or destructive to others. God, as our true and best Friend, confronts us with this truth.

*(A moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.)*

**C** **Merciful God, by our many sins we have been destructive to ourselves. We have been less than friendly to others. We have been hurt by the unfriendly behavior of others. Our friendships seem so fragile. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** God's friendship to us is not fragile. It is a strong bond of unending love to us in Jesus Christ. By Jesus' death and resurrection, He forgives us all of our unfriendly behavior toward Him and toward those around us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** By His forgiveness, peace and love He renews us so that we might be true friends to each other.

**C** Amen.

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Prayer Of The Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, all good friendship simply comes back to You. Only Your true gospel gives us the kind of friendship for which we long—for which we have been made. How we praise You for calling us and making us Your friends—for this life and the life to come. May we increasingly offer one another a taste of the friendship we have only in You. With sincere hearts we pray and give You thanks, O Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Sharing The Peace of the Lord

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## + THE WORD +

### Song

**Be Exalted, O God**  
based on Psalm 57:9-11  
Karon Keup, soloist

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 33:11-17 (NLT)*

<sup>11</sup>Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting. <sup>12</sup>One day Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But You haven’t told me whom You will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’”

<sup>13</sup>If it is true that You look favorably on me, let me know Your ways so I may understand You more fully and continue to enjoy Your favor. And remember that this nation is Your very own people.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest-- everything will be fine for you.” <sup>15</sup>Then Moses said, “If You don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place.

<sup>16</sup>How will anyone know that You look favorably on me-- on me and on Your people-- if You don’t go with us? For Your presence among us sets Your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.”

<sup>17</sup>The LORD replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*Ephesians 1:3-11 (NLT)*

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup> Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. <sup>6</sup> So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. <sup>7</sup> He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup> He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> God has now revealed to us His mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill His own good pleasure. <sup>10</sup> And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ-- everything in heaven and on earth.

<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Lambs' Lesson**

Pr. Jim Sprengle

## Holy Gospel

John 15:12-17 (ESV)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

### Amigos De Cristo

(Refrain)

**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!**

Friends of the covenant renewed each morn,  
Baptized and lovin' it, we've been reborn;  
Gift of the dove is ours forevermore.  
Amigos de Cristo, We're friends of the Lord! **(refrain)**

Born of a family, the young and old,  
We'll be on hand to see new life unfold;  
We understand the need to be made whole.  
Amigos de Cristo, We're friends of the Lord! **(refrain)**

**Sermon**  
**“Best Friends Forever”**

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
John 15:12-17



## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
  
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
  
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86, Text: Public domain

## Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Tithes and Offerings**

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

**Proclaim The Glory Of The Lord**

**arr. Jack Schrader**

Karlee Wood, trumpet

**NEW MEMBER RITE OF RECEPTION**

Nancy Thomas - Adult Confirmation

Robyn Wymore - Adult Confirmation

Rick Wymore - Adult Confirmation

Sharon Stanley - Adult Confirmation

Bonnie Webber - Reaffirmation of Faith

Mark Wheeler - Transfer, Calvary Lutheran Church, Portland

Steven Schaefer - Transfer, Zion Lutheran Church, Portland

Kysa Schaefer - Transfer, Zion Lutheran Church, Portland

Benjamin and Jakob Schaffer - Transfer, Zion Lutheran Church, Portland

**Prayer Of The Church**

**P** We are grateful, Lord, for Your friendship all the days of our lives. You have remained faithful at all times. You have renewed Your friendship with us again and again through Your word of forgiveness and Your sacred meal. Continue to keep us in Your friendship and with one another. Gracious Lord,

**C** **You are our Friend.**

**P** We thank You, Lord, for all the friends that have graced our lives through the years and who befriend us now. We pray that we might be trustworthy and faithful friends to those about us. Bless our friendship as we share our faith in Christ with them so their times of joy may be doubled and their times of sorrow diminished. Forgive us when we have betrayed their trust. Gracious Lord,

**C** **You are our Friend.**

**P** Bless us, Lord, so we may model friendship in a world that so desperately needs friendliness. Bless the church in all its efforts to proclaim Christ as the Friend of all sinners. Gracious Lord,

**C** **You are our Friend.**

**P** We ask Your blessings, Lord, upon our friends who are ill, those who mourn, and those for whom life is very difficult...May they be encouraged by Your friendship and ours. Gracious Lord,

**C** **You are our Friend.**

**P** We thank You, Lord, for Your gifts being celebrated this week...Gracious Lord,

**C** **You are our Friend.**

**P** Hear our prayers we pray, Lord Jesus, our precious Savior and Friend.

**C** **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**C** **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.**

### Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

**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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### Announcements

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

### Pass It On

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it:  
You spread His love to ev'ryone, You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, When all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, The flowers start their blooming;  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it:  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found,  
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

Pass It On, CCLI Song No. 14284, © 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing), Kurt Kaiser, For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License No. 759893

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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*Thank you to Merci McNaney for the lovely Altar flowers,  
in honor of her dad's birthday*

**† CHURCH POTLUCK**

Join us for lunch in the Community Room after service.

**† NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED!**

Congratulations to the new members. Make sure you take a moment to say hello!

**† LWML MEETING AND GET-TOGETHER**

Saturday Sept 2, from 10am to 12pm in the Community Room. We plan on discussing the annual fundraiser and LWML Sunday. All ladies are welcome!

**† CHOIR BEGINS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

All singers are invited to join our choir! Just show up and you are a member. Choir practice is each Thursday at 7:00pm.

**† WOMEN'S RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE**

Beach Retreat for women of Ascension! January 12, 13 and 14, 2024. Talk to Michele Sprengle or Jan Oswald if you are interested in attending! Many more details to come.

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The family of Brayson Pardue, Diana Laxton, The Family of Rich Zahursky, The Brown Family, Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, Kevin McInaney, Randy Bryant's Brother, Alma Bangs, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacobs' Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart. \*Home Bound.

**† PRAYER NEEDS?**

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail: office@alcportland.org or call 503-665-8821 Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023**

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**10:30am**

**Elder:** John Hazen  
**Acolytes:** Jaden Mundo  
**Ushers:** Jonathan Mundo  
Joshua Mundo  
**Audio/Visual:** J.E. Knox  
**PowerPoint:** Rosemary Knox  
**Greeters:** Esperanza Gutierrez  
Margaret Hubbard  
**Readers:** Bonnie Webber  
**Altar Guild:** Margo Bachhuber  
**Flowers:** Merci McInaney  
**Counters:** Bob and Elaina Ritchie

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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, AUG. 27, 2023**

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**8:30am****11:00am**

<b>Elder:</b>	Bruce Blubaum	Herb Hoefler
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis Jim Eckart	Matthias McInaney Evan Kreps Eric Kreps Marcus Young
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Michele Sprengle	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sheryl Maier Heather Gulde	Riki Neagle Virginia Jacobs
<b>Readers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Carol Hoefler
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

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**EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., AUG 20 - SAT., AUG. 26**

<b>Sunday, Aug. 20</b>	10:30am	ONE Worship
<b>Friendship Sunday</b>	12:00pm	All Church Potluck
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 22</b>	NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	
<b>Wednesday, Aug. 23</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, Aug. 24</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
<b>Friday, Aug. 25</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
<b>Saturday, Aug. 26</b>	10:00am	Lutheran Latino Quarterly Meeting

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**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., AUG 27 - SAT., SEPT. 2**

<b>Sunday, Aug. 27</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish with Comm.
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Wednesday, Aug. 30</b>	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, Aug. 31</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
<b>Friday, Sept. 1</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

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**† MILESTONES - SUN., AUGUST 20 - SAT., AUGUST 26****BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:**

KaiLeah Woods Aug. 20

**BIRTHDAYS**

Matthias McInaney	Aug. 21	John Haase	Aug. 22
Taylor Osgood	Aug. 22	Grace Fogarty	Aug. 24
Andrew Freeman	Aug. 25	Bob Ritchie	Aug. 25

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

Tim and Katie Nelson Aug. 25, 2012

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## **Our Vision Statement:**

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## **STAFF**

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**  
[pastor@alcportland.org](mailto:pastor@alcportland.org)

**Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**  
[pastorekyah@alcportland.org](mailto:pastorekyah@alcportland.org)

**Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator**  
[worship@alcportland.org](mailto:worship@alcportland.org)

**Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator**  
[office@alcportland.org](mailto:office@alcportland.org)

**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers**  
[treasurer@alcportland.org](mailto:treasurer@alcportland.org)

**Wanda Cassetty,**  
Council Secretary  
[council@alcportland.org](mailto:council@alcportland.org)

**Hana Laughton,**  
Deaconess Intern  
[deaconess@alcportland.org](mailto:deaconess@alcportland.org)

**Laura Potter, Property Management**  
[property@alcportland.org](mailto:property@alcportland.org)

