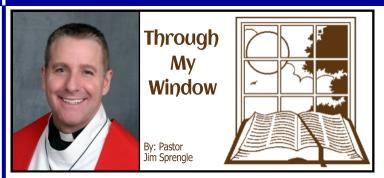
MARCH 2025

ne Acts of Ascension



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin," (1 John 1:3, 7 ESV).

In January, I introduced three areas that we will emphasize this coming year: growing deeper in the Word of God, fellowship, and outreach. Last month, I asked how your Bible study is going. This month, I wonder: how is your fellowship going? We humans are social by nature, and God created us with a need for connection. Even more than that, God created us for a relationship and fellowship with Him.

The Gospel writer John also wrote several letters, including 1 John. He begins this letter by emphasizing the importance of fellowship. The Greek word for fellowship is koinonia (coin-oh-KNEE-ah). One Greek lexicon defines it as "close association involving mutual interests and sharing; association, communion, fellowship, close relationship." (BDAG, U of Chicago Press, 2000)

Consider how John presents the idea of koinonia. First, he and the other apostles saw and heard Jesus in the flesh. They passed on this Good News of salvation to others, "so that you too may have fellowship with us." Not only that, but fellowship with the apostles means fellowship with the Father and the Son. Now, as we continue to live for Jesus in faith, "we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Long ago, the apostles passed on the Gospel to others, and down the line, it came to you and all who believe. The Bible tells us that faith in Jesus Christ is fellowship with other believers—communion, sharing, a close relationship. In what ways does Ascension foster this koinonia? Is worship the sole place where you connect with other Christians? What steps can you take to build fellowship with other believers?

Church is more than a place of worship; it is a place of

fellowship and life that God gives us as a gift. Yes, the people who sit next to you in the pews are a gift from God, just as you are a gift from God to them. As we experience life together, our fellowship is a source of support and strength amid constant trials and temptations. Let's go through this life together in koinonia—because God created us with this in mind.

In fellowship with you,

Pr Jim

¡Gracia y paz a vosotros de parte de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo!

"Les anunciamos lo que hemos visto y oído, para que también ustedes tengan comunión con nosotros. Y nuestra comunión es con el Padre y con su Hijo Jesucristo. Pero si vivimos en la luz, así como él está en la luz, tenemos comunión unos con otros, y la sangre de su Hijo Jesucristo nos limpia de todo pecado," (1 Juan 1:3, 7 NVI).

En enero, presenté tres áreas en las que haremos hincapié el próximo año: profundizar en la Palabra de Dios, la comunión y la evangelización. El mes pasado, le pregunté cómo va su estudio bíblico. Este mes, me pregunto: ¿cómo va tu beca? Los seres humanos somos sociales por naturaleza, y Dios nos creó con la necesidad de conexión. Incluso más que eso, Dios nos creó para una relación y comunión con Él.

El escritor del Evangelio Juan también escribió varias cartas, incluyendo 1 Juan. Comienza esta carta enfatizando la importancia de la comunión. La palabra griega para compañerismo es koinonía (coin-oh-KNEE-ah). Un léxico griego lo define como "asociación estrecha que involucra intereses mutuos y el intercambio; asociación, comunión, compañerismo, relación estrecha". (BDAG, U of Chicago Press, 2000)

Considere cómo Juan presenta la idea de la koinonía. Primero, él y los otros apóstoles vieron y escucharon a Jesús en la carne. Transmitieron esta Buena Nueva de salvación a otros, "para que también vosotros tengáis comunión con nosotros". No solo eso, sino que la comunión con los apóstoles significa comunión con el Padre y el Hijo. Ahora, a medida que continuamos viviendo para Jesús en fe, "tenemos comunión los unos con los otros, y la sangre de Jesús su Hijo nos limpia de todo pecado".

Hace mucho tiempo, los apóstoles transmitieron el Evangelio a otros, y más adelante, llegó a ti y a todos los que creen. *(Continúa a la página 4)*





Hana Brandt, Deaconess Intern deaconess@alcportland.org



Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday and ends on April 20, Easter Sunday. There are many ways you can connect with your church home and with our great God during this season.

Devotionals:

In the Narthex you will find daily devotionals from The Lutheran Hour printed for your use. They are also available online here: https://www.lhm.org/subscribe/

Take a look at the schedule for Ascension:

Ash Wednesday Worship March 5 - 3:30pm and 7:00pm

Wednesday Midweek Worship

March 12, 19, and 26, April 2, 9 3:30pm and 7:00pm

Palm Sunday April 13 at 8:30am and 11:00am

> Maundy Thursday April 17 at 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

April 21 at 8:30am and 11:00am Breakfast 9:30am to 10:45am

PASTOR'S FEBRUARY REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials -

- -Helen Penk former member, service at Ascension, Saturday, March 8, 1:00pm
- -Karla Deal died January 25, 2025, service St. Michael's – 6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland, Saturday, March 22, 1:00pm

Marriages –

-None to report

Baptisms –

-Arlo Reinert, son of Brandon and Vanessa (Cindy's son), TBA

Transfers, New Members, etc. –

- -No new members to report, but many visitors and people considering membership
- -18-20 repeat visitors
- -C-101 class is possible during the next few months depending on interest level

Confirmation –

- -Confirmation 2024-2025 will be Fridays from 5:30-6:30pm in Community Room
 - 3 students
- -Confirmation Day, Sunday, June 8 at 11:00am service

Latino Membership –

- -Pastor Ruberto is home! He returned on January 22
- -The Voters Assembly agreed to offer Pr Ruberto a contract to cover all Spanish worship services, with the option of extra hours as needed

Circuit Visitor Info –

- -Immanuel, Sandy I'm still covering one Sunday per month, along with Brad, our Coordinator of Worship and Music who is playing the organ on the same Sunday
- -On February 22, Saturday, Ascension hosted a Circuit Forum for the Northwest District to choose a Circuit Visitor for the 2025-2028 triennium.
 - I was elected to serve another 3-year term and will be installed at the 67thNorthwest District Convention, June 19-21 in Spokane, WA

Miscellaneous –

-Wyatt Brown

- Completed his application and District interview for the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP)
 - § All paperwork will be reviewed by the admissions program at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis

- § We continue to pray for God's will to be done in this process
- The Voters Assembly voted to sponsor Wyatt throughout his Specific Ministry Pastor Program
 - § Wyatt's tuition, books, travel expenses, and fees will be covered by the congregation for four years beginning in the fall of 2025
 - § The program includes 4 online seminary classes per year, with additional onsite training in St. Louis two times per year
 - § Wyatt will be considered a vicar from the time he begins school, and I will be his vicarage supervisor

-Human Care Board

 Donations to Ava Health (First Image) were delivered after a blessing on Life Sunday, with the Gresham location receiving the gifts with thanks

-Youth Board

- Meeting regularly to plan youth activities
- Last Youth and Family event was February 21 with a devotion and music, dinner, and games
- Next event will be Friday, March 21

-Stewardship Board

- Resumed meetings on February 4, and will meet on the second Mondays each month at 1pm
- Ongoing plans to support inactive boards to begin operating again

Dates to remember:

March 5, Wednesday – Ash Wednesday (3:30, 7pm)

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, Wednesdays – Lent Midweek (3:30, 7pm)

April 13, Sunday – Palm Sunday

April 17, Thursday – Maundy Thursday (7pm)

April 18, Friday – Good Friday (7pm)

April 20, Sunday – Easter Sunday

May 11, Sunday – Mother's Day

May 26, Monday – Memorial Day

May 29, Thursday – Ascension Day (7pm)

June 8, Sunday – Pentecost Day /

Confirmation Day

THROUGH MY WINDOW

(Viene de la página 1)

La Biblia nos dice que la fe en Jesucristo es comunión con otros creyentes, comunión, compartir, una relación cercana. ¿De qué manera Ascensión fomenta esta koinonía? ¿Es la adoración el único lugar donde te conectas con otros cristianos? ¿Qué pasos puedes dar para edificar la comunión con otros creyentes?

La iglesia es más que un lugar de culto, es un lugar de comunión y de vida que Dios nos regala. Sí, las personas que se sientan a tu lado en los bancos son un regalo de Dios, así como tú eres un regalo de Dios para ellos. A medida que experimentamos la vida juntos, nuestra comunión es una fuente de apoyo y fortaleza en medio de constantes pruebas y tentaciones. Vamos a pasar por esta vida juntos, en koinonía, porque Dios nos creó con esto en mente.

JE IS RISEN

En comunión contigo,

Pr Jim

thrivent[®] CHOICE DOLLARS

Support Ascension Through Thrivent Choice!

Would you like to help strengthen and support Ascension in a meaningful way? If you have a Thrivent account, you may be eligible to participate in Thrivent's charitable outreach program, Thrivent Choice. This program allows eligible members to direct Choice Dollars to enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations— including Ascension!

If you've previously directed Choice Dollars to us, thank you for your generosity! Your support makes a difference. If you haven't yet participated but would like to learn more, visit www.thrivent.com/ thriventchoice or reach out to Neil Zeller for assistance.

With gratitude, Your Stewardship Board

EASTER BREAKFAST

The Human Care Board invites you to our Annual Easter Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday April 20, Easter Sunday from 9:30 to 10:45am. This special event will support the Benevolence Fund, which provides assistance to those in need.

Tickets will be available between services starting Sunday, March 23, to help us estimate attendance, but no advance purchase is required. Be sure to hold onto your ticket, as it will also enter you into a drawing for door prizes! The cost is \$5 per adult, and children under 12 eat free. Freewill offerings are also welcome and appreciated.

If you'd like to contribute food items, check out the whiteboard in the Narthex after March 23 for the sign-up list.

We look forward to celebrating Easter morning with you!

NewsLetter DEADLine Please submit articles on or before Tuesday, Mar. 26

YOUTH AND FAMILY **FEBRUARY YOUTH MARCH YOUTH and FAMILY** and FAMILY NIGHT NEWS What: A night of fellowship When: March 21, 2025 at 6:30pm

Friendship Friday with Food

The Youth and Family Ministry got together on Friday, Feb. 21 for a night of fellowship, singing, eating, and playing games!

The night began with music as we sang hymns, some old and some new. Afterwards we moved the focus to a devotion about how God works in our lives no matter the circumstances. Next, we prayed for the food that was graciously prepared for us by those in the youth and family ministry and we got to eat! Thank you to everyone who brought food; it was very delicious and much appreciated by all who attended. As the night ended, we expended some of our energy by playing games.

The February Youth and Family Night was a blast for everyone who attended. It was a pleasant night to spend with friends around delicious food that was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who attended; you made this event memorable.

Where: Ascension Community Room

- Who: Youth - 29 years and younger, and Family! (Invite your friends!)
- Why:
- To bring together the youth and families of our church for a night of fellowship

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday at 6:00pm, we gather for our Young Adult Bible Study at the church. Over the past few months, we've enjoyed meeting in different spaces, but we now meet regularly in the Youth and Family Room. Our time together has been filled with fun, laughter, prayer, and meaningful conversations as we study God's Word, share our personal journeys, and seek to discern God's will for our lives.

If you're a young adult, we'd love to have you join us! And if you know a young adult who might be interested, please invite them — we'd be so happy to welcome them into our fellowship!

FROM ENGAGEMENT TO GOLDEN



There were 2 wonderful celebrations on February 22. Wyatt and Katherine celebrated their engagement and later that day Mike and Bobbi celebrated their 50th anniversary. Congratulations to both!

Birthdays

Margo Bachhuber	Mar. 1	Wilma Mukul Aguilar	Mar. 17
Alex Hodges	Mar. 2	Margaret Hubbard	Mar. 19
Eileen Hatley	Mar. 4	Karon Keup	Mar. 20
Ayde Alvarado	Mar. 6	Corey Ritchie	Mar. 21
Catalina Hernandez	Mar. 9	Ruby Sylvia	Mar. 22
Ellie Graham	Mar. 10	Pam Eilers	Mar. 23
John Hazen	Mar. 11	Madison Fogarty	Mar. 25
Amy Sheppard	Mar. 11	Carolyn Shore	Mar. 28
Linda Tatum	Mar. 11	Janice Hart	Mar. 29
Jenny Schuldheisz	Mar. 12	Steven Schaefer	Mar. 29
J.E. Knox	Mar. 13	Hilary Sylvia	Mar. 29
Deb Zeller	Mar. 14	Clydette Hilliard	Mar. 31
Don Hilliard	Mar. 17	Barb Patch	Mar. 31



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve, Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)



Celia Kreps Caleb Zeebuyth Amy Sheppard Mike Potter Corey Ritchie

Mar. 1	Jenny
Mar. 13	Karen
Mar. 19	Tracy S
Mar. 21	Luke T
Mar. 21	

Schuldheisz	Mar. 21
Zahursky	Mar. 23
Schaffer	Mar. 25
Teyema	Mar. 30



Paul and Debbie Walter

Mar. 29, 1975

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in March! Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

The Family of Carol Hoefer, Bobbie Adams, The Family of Karla Deal, Riki Neagle, Mike Fogarty, Jan Galberth, Randy Bryant's friend (Robert), Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Ed Hubbard, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821



If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821

LWML = Lutheran Women In Mission

We have a few calendar intems coming up and some additional information about LWML that you may want to read about and consider.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

Are you familiar with the Structure of LWML (The Lutheran Women's Missionary League)?

- National = <u>The L</u>WML is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).
- <u>Districts</u> = usually conform to LCMS district boundaries link individual members, local groups, and zones to the LWML.
- <u>Zone</u> = is a group of local LWML groups and individual members in the same geographic area united to promote the object of the LWML. Ascension is included in the Mt. Hood Zone)
- Local groups and individual members = are the foundation upon which the LWML is built.

Objectives – Mission: Education, Inspiration, and Service; Financial Grants for Mission Needs. *Motto* - Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Lutheran Women in Mission 41st Biennial Convention Omaha, Nebraska June 26-29, 2025



Mite Explanation and History

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1– 4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.



Want to know more about us and our calendar items? Visit: * Ascension's LWML Bulletin Board: near the inside south __entrance_to_our Community Room.

* Oregon District Website: https://www.lwmlor.org/ * National Website: https://www.lwml.org



And to ALL the Ladies AND Gentlemen in our midst — Thank you for your Prayers and generous Donations to our LWML Missions by contributing to our LWML MITES!!!

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19at 10:30am

Children under 5 only from 10:30 to 10:45am Children 5 to 10 may join in at 10:45am Children over 10 may join in at 11:00am

Join us in Vance Park next to Ascension

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland



KARLA DEAL MEMORIAL

Everyone is invited to a celebration of life for Karla on Saturday, Mar. 22 at 1:00pm. The service will be at St. Michael's Lutheran



The service will be at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Avenue, Portland

SPRING FORWARD

Remember when going to bed Saturday night, March 8, to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

You get to sleep in an extra hour, and still be on time for service Sunday morning!



LIFE SUNDAY DONATIONS: SO APPRECIATED

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Life Sunday collection of baby items for Ava Health Center. The ladies who work at Ava Health, Gresham were very happy when they received the donations. They stated that the young women they serve will be so happy to receive the wonderful items which were donated by members of our congregation.

The following is a list of the items (all brand new) which were donated and delivered to Ava Health: 3 cases of diapers and 6 packages of diapers, 1 case of baby wipes and 6 packages of baby wipes, 3 baby towel and washcloth sets, 1 package of milk storage bags, 1 complete baby bath tub set with accessories, 1 infant feeding support pillow, 5 burp clothes, 76 adorable baby outfits, 2 bottles, 5 pacifiers, 5 bottles of baby wash/shampoo, 5 bibs, 1 baby neck/head support pillow, 2 pairs of booties, 2 baby food storage containers, 1 tube of baby ointment, 7 baby blankets and 3 baby books.

Thank you again for your generosity and support of this wonderful organization which supports young mothers and their babies.

The Human Care Board

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A T T T T C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Altar: Barb Cochran ASH WEDNESDAY: (Karen/ All Altar Guild) Flowers: NEEDED Counters: Bonnie and Rebecca Sunday School: Michele and Carrie	Altar: Jan Oswald (and 12) Flowers: Brown Family Counters: Dave and Jan March 5 and 9 Sunday School: Hana and Gina	Altar: Margo Bachhuber (and 19) Flowers: John and Wendy Hazen Counters: Karon and Sheryl March 12 and 16 Sunday School: Carrie and Michele / Carrie Leads	Altar: Debbie Rekdahl (and 26) Flowers: Merci McInaney Counters: Bob and Elaina March 19 and 23 Sunday School: Michele and Carrie	Altar: Wendy Hazen (and Mar. 2) Flowers: Wilma Aguilar Counters: Bonnie and Rebecca March 26 and 30 Sunday School: Michele and Carrie