

The Acts of Ascension



Through
My
Window

By: Pastor



consider some practical ways to engage with it daily. Look at your schedule through the lens of stewardship—set aside a percentage of your time each day for God’s Word. Use electronic versions or apps that provide reading plans, reminders, and goals. Listen to Scripture while walking or doing chores. Choose devotionals that guide you through portions of the Bible each day. Select a book or books of the Bible to study and research their historical background beforehand; understanding the author, audience, and context can make reading more meaningful. Above all, pray for the willingness to be in God’s Word daily and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in receiving and sharing its blessings.

No matter how we engage with Scripture, it is always profitable and will make us complete. Though we do not have our Savior physically among us, His Word continually reveals Him in our lives. May God richly bless you as you journey through His Word.

In Christ,

Pr Jim

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

“¹⁶ Toda la Escritura es inspirada por Dios y útil para enseñar, para reprender, para corregir y para instruir en la justicia, ¹⁷ a fin de que el siervo de Dios esté enteramente capacitado para toda buena obra.” (2 Timoteo 3:16 NVI).

¿Cómo va tu plan de lectura de la Biblia? Muchas personas resuelven leer la Biblia en un año, a partir del 1 de enero. Sin embargo, no hay ninguna razón por la que deba comenzar ese día: cualquier día es bueno para comenzar a leer la Biblia de manera constante. Cualquier domingo es un buen día para asistir a la Clase Bíblica para Adultos. Cualquier día es bueno para comprometerse con la Palabra de Dios.

Estamos en el tiempo de Epifanía, un tiempo para reflexionar sobre Jesús dándose a conocer al mundo. A lo largo de nuestras lecturas en la adoración, escuchamos palabras como *revelar*, *manifestar* y *mostrar*. El Mesías, el Salvador del mundo, reveló su divinidad y su presencia entre nosotros. Aunque no tenemos a Jesús físicamente presente como lo hicieron los primeros cristianos, tenemos Su Palabra.

No hay duda de que leer regularmente y digerir interiormente las Escrituras requiere tanto disciplina como deseo. Los estilos de escritura, los lugares, los nombres y la longitud de la Biblia pueden hacer que sea intimidante leerla. (Continúa en la página 2)

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

“¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work,” (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV).

How is your Bible reading plan going? Many people resolve to read the Bible in a year, beginning on January 1. However, there is no reason why it must start on that day—any day is a good day to begin reading the Bible consistently. Any Sunday is a good day to attend Adult Bible Class. Any day is a good day to engage with the Word of God.

We are in the season of Epiphany, a time to reflect on Jesus making Himself known to the world. Throughout our readings in worship, we hear words like *reveal*, *manifest*, and *show*. The Messiah, the Savior of the world, revealed His divinity and presence among us. Though we do not have Jesus physically present as the first Christians did, we have His Word.

There is no doubt that regularly reading and inwardly digesting Scripture requires both discipline and desire. The Bible’s writing styles, places, names, and sheer length can make it intimidating to read. Yet, the Scriptures were never meant for a select few—God’s Word is for the entire world. Every tribe, culture, and language should have access to the life-giving Word of God. The Bible is for the blind, the deaf, those with dyslexia, those with learning challenges, people of every level of intelligence, and individuals of every economic background.

The miracle of God’s Word is its power to save. Not only does it teach, correct, and train in righteousness, but it is also the source of the good news of salvation. Tracing the history of God’s plan to redeem humanity, the Bible reveals God’s love in action, culminating in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Good News is this: Jesus died and rose again to save all people by grace through faith in Him. Reading the Bible is a journey to the cross—and from the cross into all of life.

Since we know how essential reading Scripture is,



The Acts of Ascension

Ascension Lutheran Church

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Portland OR 97233-5009
Church Office: 503-665-8821

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Web site:

www.alcportland.org

Our Mission Statement:

Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement:

Take part...

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THROUGH MY WINDOW

(Viene de la página 1)

Sin embargo, las Escrituras nunca fueron destinadas a unos pocos elegidos, la Palabra de Dios es para todo el mundo. Todas las tribus, culturas y lenguas deben tener acceso a la Palabra de Dios que da vida. La Biblia es para los ciegos, los sordos, los que tienen dislexia, los que tienen dificultades de aprendizaje, las personas de todos los niveles de inteligencia y las personas de todos los estratos económicos.

El milagro de la Palabra de Dios es su poder para salvar. No solo enseña, corrige y entrena en justicia, sino que también es la fuente de las buenas nuevas de la salvación. Trazando la historia del plan de Dios para redimir a la humanidad, la Biblia revela el amor de Dios en acción, que culminó con la muerte y resurrección de Jesús. La Buena Nueva es esta: Jesús murió y resucitó para salvar a todas las personas por gracia a través de la fe en Él. Leer la Biblia es un viaje a la cruz, y de la cruz a toda la vida.

Ya que sabemos lo esencial que es la lectura de las Escrituras, considere algunas formas prácticas de interactuar con ellas a diario. Mire su horario a través de la lente de la mayordomía: reserve un porcentaje de su tiempo cada día para la Palabra de Dios. Use versiones electrónicas o aplicaciones que proporcionen planes de lectura, recordatorios y metas. Escuche las Escrituras mientras camina o hace las tareas del hogar. Escoge devocionales que te guíen a través de porciones de la Biblia cada día. Seleccione un libro o libros de la Biblia para estudiar e investigar su trasfondo histórico de antemano; Comprender al autor, la audiencia y el contexto puede hacer que la lectura sea más significativa. Sobre todo, ora por la voluntad de estar en la Palabra de Dios diariamente y pídele al Espíritu Santo que te guíe para recibir y compartir sus bendiciones.

No importa cómo nos involucremos con las Escrituras, siempre es provechosa y nos hará completos. Aunque no tenemos a nuestro Salvador físicamente entre nosotros, Su Palabra lo revela continuamente en nuestras vidas. Que Dios te bendiga ricamente mientras caminas a través de Su Palabra.

En Cristo,

Pr Jim

PASTOR'S DECEMBER REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

- **Carol Hoefer** – died December 26, 2024 memorial on January 25, 2025 at Ascension.
- **Karla Deal** – died January 25, 2025, service TBA

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

Confirmation –

- Confirmation 2024-2025 will be Fridays from 5:30-6:30pm in Community Room
 - o 3 students

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.
- Friday Noche Familiar has come to an end.
 - o Due to low attendance, along with changing schedules, we will close this chapter on our Latino Ministry.
 - § In the future, Sunday after the Spanish service might be part of a Noche Familiar event, but it will depend on attendance.
 - o We replaced one of the Friday nights each month with Youth and Family Night, and that may expand to additional dates in the future.

Circuit Visitor Info –

- Immanuel, Sandy - I'm still covering one Sunday per month
- February 22, Saturday, at 10:30am, Ascension will host a Circuit Forum for the Northwest District to choose a Circuit Visitor for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Miscellaneous –

- Wyatt Brown

- o The Voters Assembly voted to sponsor Wyatt to become a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)
 - § 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 at the Seminary 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
 - § Additional details will be coming out for the congregation to review, but any questions may be directed to me

- Human Care Board

- o Planning for January-February donations to Ava Health (First Image) for Life Sunday on February 16, 2025

- Youth Board

- o Meeting regularly to plan youth activities
- o Third Fridays are still Youth and Family Night – with the latest gathering on Friday, January 17
 - § Decorated music boxes to give to homebound members and others
- o Next event will be Friday, February 21

Dates to remember 2025:

- February 16, Sunday – Sanctity of Life Sunday
- February 17, Monday – President's Day
- February 22, Saturday – Circuit Forum at Ascension (10:30am)
- 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



LIFE SUNDAY: A Time to Support New Life

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 16, as we come together to celebrate Life Sunday! We invite you to join us in honoring and supporting the gift of life.

Leading up to Life Sunday, the Human Care Board will be collecting monetary donations for Ava Health (formerly known as First Image). If you would like to contribute, simply mark your donation "Ava Health" and place it in the offering plate.

In addition to monetary gifts, we will also be collecting "layette" items to help provide for newborns in need. These items include diapers, onesies, receiving blankets, and other essential items for newborn care. Please place your donations in the baby crib located in the narthex.

On Life Sunday, February 16, we will come together to bless these offerings and items before they are delivered to Ava Health's recently re-opened location on Burnside in Gresham. Your generosity and care can make a profound difference in the lives of mothers and their precious little ones.

Thank you for your support as we stand together to cherish and protect the sanctity of life.

A WORD OF THANKS FROM WYATT BROWN

I want to sincerely thank the congregation for voting to sponsor my entrance into the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program at the most recent voters' assembly. This specialized program is designed to equip men for the pastorate at their home congregations, and I am deeply honored by your trust and commitment to supporting me on this journey.

Words cannot fully express the joy I feel knowing I have your encouragement as I pursue the education needed to help our congregation continue to grow and thrive. I am also profoundly grateful for the generosity that has made it possible for the costs of this program to be covered.

Serving as chair of the Youth and Family Board these past few months has been a true blessing, and working with the youth in our congregation brings me great joy. Thanks to your support, I look forward to continuing this ministry for many years to come.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Please submit
articles
on or before
Monday, Feb. 24

A new calligraphy class is being offered on Wednesdays, Feb. 5 through March 26, from 2:00 to 3:30pm in the Community Room.

This is a great opportunity to learn the art of beautiful lettering in a relaxed and supportive environment. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, everyone is welcome!

All supplies are provided, and the cost is just \$2 per session. Don't miss this chance to explore a creative and rewarding hobby! For more information, contact Carolyn Gordon at 503-674-6713.



YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

JANUARY YOUTH and FAMILY NIGHT

The Youth and Family Ministry gathered on Friday, January 17 for a night of fellowship and service. The event was full of fellowship and painting!

We began the event with a devotion centered on 1 Corinthians 12. We learned about the various gifts we can have and how each of us has different gifts. We talked about how we could use our gifts in service to love our neighbors.

After the devotion, we painted music boxes for our homebound members. Everyone could express their creativity, no matter how gifted they were at painting, and all the music boxes ended up looking great.

Youth and Family Night was a relaxing night of fellowship for everyone involved. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this gathering such a success!



YOUTH and FAMILY NIGHT for FEBRUARY



What: A potluck dinner, songs, and games

When: February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm

Where: Ascension Community Room

Who: Youth and Family Ministry
(Invite your friends!)

Why: Joining in fellowship as we continue to grow in our faith



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Alma Bangs | Feb 1 | Virginia Jacobs | Feb 12 |
| Danielle Brown | Feb 1 | Jim Conway | Feb 17 |
| Nekayla Maier | Feb 1 | Alex Ritchie | Feb 17 |
| Barbara Nelsen | Feb 4 | Jennifer Netsch | Feb 18 |
| Frances Rippon | Feb 4 | Tracy Schaffer | Feb 18 |
| Caleb Zeebuyth | Feb 5 | Marcia Bryant | Feb 19 |
| Bryant Sheppard | Feb 8 | Angel Mukul Aguilar | Feb 23 |
| Eli Deal | Feb 9 | Bradley Grosz | Feb 24 |
| Sharon Stanley | Feb 9 | Evan Kreps | Feb 24 |
| Christina Freeman | Feb 12 | | |

FEBRUARY

Baptisms

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Brandy Webber | Feb 1 | Gabriel Woods | Feb 24 |
| Lillian Lambert | Feb 2 | Stan Chapulis | Feb 28 |
| Alma Bangs | Feb 22 | Eric Kreps | Feb 28 |
| Bruce Blubaum | Feb 24 | Jennifer Netsch | Feb 28 |

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| John and Caroline Haase | Feb 14, 1970 |
| Erik and Erika Teyema | Feb 15, 2003 |
| Herb and Carol Reiniger | Feb 17, 1990 |
| Mike and Bobbie Adams | Feb 22, 1975 |

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in February! Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we



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)

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

The Family of Carol Hofer, 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

PRAYER CHAIN

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



FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 10:00am Lutheran Latino Ministry Meeting |
| 2 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted | 3 1:00pm Human Care Board Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study | 4 6:00pm Elder Meeting | 5 2:00-3:30pm Calligraphy Class | 6 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir | 7 5:30pm Confirmation | 8 |
| 9 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted | 10 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study | 11 2:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Council Meeting | 12 2:00-3:30pm Calligraphy Class | 13 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir | 14 5:30pm Confirmation | 15 |
| 16 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted | 17 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study | 18 6:00pm 3:10 Group | 19 2:00-3:30pm Calligraphy Class | 20 6:00pm NO Praise Team 7:00pm NO Choir | 21 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth and Family Event | 22 Private Event All Day |
| 23 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted | 24 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study | 25 | 26 2:00-3:30pm Calligraphy Class | 27 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir | 28 5:30pm Confirmation | |

**NEWSLETTER
ITEMS DUE**

FEBRUARY SERVANT SCHEDULE

| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | Early Communion | Late Communion | Early Communion | Late Communion |
| FEB. | | | | |
| ACOLYTES | Elder: 8:30 Bruce Blubaum 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED | Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Randy Schroeder Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED | Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 John Hazen Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED | Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Herb Hoefler Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED |
| USTERS | 8:30 Mike Adams John Aden Stan Chapulis 11:00 Marcus Young Paul Walter | 8:30 Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis 11:00 Matthias McInaney Marcus Young John Aden | 8:30 Mike Adams Randy Schroeder John Aden 11:00 Bob Freeman James Freeman | 8:30 Jim Eckart NEEDED 11:00 Matthias McInaney Marcus Young Neil Zeller |
| AV & PP | AV: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 NEEDED Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 John Hazen | AV: 8:30 Teresa Osgood 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8:30 Tom Osgood 11:00 Rebecca Williamson | AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 J. E. Knox Power Point: 8:30 Rebecca Williamson 11:00 Rosemary Knox | AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8:30 Debbie Rekdahl 11:00 Rebecca Williamson |
| READERS | Greeters: 8:30 Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado Riki Neagle Reader: 8:30 Peggy Hall 11:00 J.E Knox | Greeters: 8:30 Millie Edwards 11:00 Christina Freeman Reader: 8:30 Joann Schulz 11:00 Carlyn Staudt | Greeters: 8:30 Norma Dillon Jean Dillon 11:00 Margaret Hubbard Esperanza Gutierrez Reader: 8:30 Julie Williamson 11:00 Michele Sprengle | Greeters: 8:30 Nancy Thomas 11:00 Carrie Graham Reader: 8:30 Jim Eckart 11:00 Sue Rotramel |
| GREETERS | Altar: Virginia Jacobs Flowers: Counters: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson Sunday School: Michele and Carrie Vol. 9 Ep 2 | Altar: Debbie Rekdahl Flowers: Klara Schmidt Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier Sunday School: Hana and Gina | Altar: Wendy Hazen Flowers: Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald Sunday School: Carrie and Michele Carrie Leads | Altar: Margo Bachhuber Flowers: Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie Sunday School: Michele and Carrie Vol. 10 Ep. 1 |
| COUNTERS | | | | |
| FLOWERS | | | | |
| ALTAR | | | | |