

Ascension Lutheran Church "A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone" Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, September 10, 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: "Humble Faith"

As We Gather: So often we hear society's call to be inclusive to all people. The Bible tells us the same thing. Including all people from the world's perspective and a Christian perspective is different though. Most people want to be included on their terms, rather than within God's will. Welcoming all people is the hallmark of the Christian faith, but it also means repentance and a humble willingness to change. Each of us were welcomed with open arms into God's kingdom through faith, which humbly acknowledges and turns from our sins. We walk this road together, humbly repenting of our sins and encouraging one another in our faith and life.

Prelude

Welcome

Father Welcomes

Refrain Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son. Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

- 1 Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these. Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **(refrain)**
- In the water, in the Word,
 In His promise, be assured:
 Those who are baptized and believe
 Shall be born again. (refrain)
- Let us daily die to sin;
 Let us daily rise with Him,
 Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
 Live in the peace of God. (refrain)

Father Welcomes, Text: Robin Mann, 1949, Text: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Invocation

- C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
- whose sin is covered.
- P Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity.
- **G** and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- P For when I kept silent,
- **G** my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Psalm 32:1-3; 5

- **P** I acknowledged my sin to You,
- **G** and I did not cover my iniquity;
- I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 32:1

Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

(In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.)

- P Most merciful Father,
- we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.
- Bessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered." God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the H Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Chief of Sinners Though I Be, Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt., Text: Public domain

Salutation

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sharing The Peace of the Lord

- P The peace of the Lord be with you all.
- And also with you.

+ THE WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9 (ESV)

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Holy Gospel

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵"Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me. ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church. let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them."

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

- Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
 Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
- Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere; Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.
- Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
 And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands—
 'Tis a delightful road—
 Nor let my head or heart or hands
 Offend against my God.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., Text: Public domain

Sermon "CALLING SINNERS HOME"

Pr. Jim Sprengle Matthew 18:1-20

Nicene Creed

 I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. 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.)

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

Words and Music by Robert Lowry Carlyn Staudt, soloist

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness of God may be shared. And we pray for those who lead the Church, that, mentored by Your mercy, they do so with devotion and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- We pray for the nations of the world, asking that voices that call for peace be heard and that the rich bounty of creation be carefully nurtured and thoughtfully shared. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We pray for our families and everyone in them. Remove any sense of envy from among all of us, Lord, that we rejoice in the gifts You have given to each of us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We pray that our offerings given here this day be sacrifices acceptable to You, O Lord, and that, with Your blessing, they find holy usage to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We pray for those whose lives know burdens and challenges, whose petitions are joined with ours. Today, we pray for...and all Your children who are in need of prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We give You thanks for Your bountiful goodness, and we lift up those who are celebrating this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- These things and whatsoever else we should have asked of You, grant us by Your mercy, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
- C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

(8:30am service, please turn to page 13 for the benediction.)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT + We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini

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

+ DISTRIBUTION SONGS +

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I Who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, If You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send? (refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? **(refrain)**

Here I Am, Lord, by Daniel Schutte, text and music s 1981 OCP Publications. Used with permission under OneLicense #A-729093.

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord; We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord; And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **(chorus)**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. (chorus)

They'll Know We Are Christians, © Copyright: Words and Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 to Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation). Used by permission under CCLI # 759893.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, giver of every good gift, You are worthy to receive the devotion of our hearts and the dedication of our lives. We thank You for having refreshed us at Your Table. By the working of Your Holy Spirit within us, lead us to be people who faithfully offer to You the best of all that we have and all that we are with thankfulness and joy. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our loving Savior.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

C Amen.

Announcements

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

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story Because I know 'tis true, It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, For some have never heard The message of salvation From God's own holy Word. (refrain)

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. (refrain)

I Love To Tell The Story, Hankey, A. Catherine / Fischer, William G., Public Domain 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 4.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

† WOMEN'S RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE

Seaside Oregon 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.

† ROMANS BIBLE STUDY COMING!

Pastor Jim will begin this Bible study on September 17, and we'll be meeting every Sunday at the Adult Bible Class from 9:45-10:45am in the Community Room. Please come prepared to discuss the readings and to ask any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!

† CONFIRMATION TO BEGIN SOON!

A parent / student informational meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 1:00-2:30pm in the Community Room. If you have questions about whether Confirmation is right for you, please contact Pastor Jim: pastor@sprengle.com or 503-665-8821

† MAYAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday Aug 27 the 2nd Annual Mayan Cultural Festival was held on the grounds of Trinity Lutheran Church, Killingsworth. Our Mission Board had allocated \$100 to have the Lutheran Heritage Foundation pamphlet, "Jesus Never Fails", translated into Mayan. The evangelistic project initiated by our Mayan Latino pastor, Rev. Ruberto Ek Yah, was distributed at the festival. Since many of our Latino members are part of the Mayan culture, we have been learning about that history and culture in our monthly newsletters. Look for the final installment in the current Sept. issue. God bless. P. Herb Hoefer

† CHRISTIANITY 101

Join Pastor Jim for an 8-week journey examining God's Word from a Lutheran perspective. Whether you have no experience with Christianity or want to review what you learned long ago; this class is for you! Wednesday, Sept. 20 to Nov. 8, 8 Sessions from 6:00-7:00pm.

† LWML SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 1

You will have the opportunity to learn more about God's LWML ministry around the world through mite offerings, service, and prayer. We will also have our annual fundraiser between church services. If anyone can donate small craft items and/or baked goods to our fundraiser held between church services on October 1. Make sure they are packaged, clearly priced and labeled "LWML". Perishable items may be dropped off in the Community Room prior to Sunday morning Worship or on Saturday, September 30, between the hours of 1:00 and 2:30pm. We will be setting up our display in the Narthex during that time. We do appreciate all who help to support our mission and missionaries!!!

† THANKS

My thanks to all of you for the messages and cards. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Carol Hoefer

† 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.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Carol Hoefer, The family of Brayson Pardue, Diana Laxton, Carolyn Barendse, Herb Reiniger's brother, 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 FOR OUR MILITARY

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

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and 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).

EVENTS THIS WEEK	(– SUN., SE 1	PT. 10 – SAT., SEPT. 16
Sunday, Sept. 10	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish w/Comm.
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Sept. 12	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 13	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Sept. 14	6:00pm	Praise Team
•••••	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Sept. 15	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	·	
EVENTS NEXT WEE	K – SUN., SE	PT. 17 - SAT., SEPT. 23
Sunday, Sept. 17	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday, Sept. 18	6:00pm	Altar Guild Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 19	6:00pm	3:10 Group
Wednesday, Sept. 20	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 (Week 1)
Thursday, Sept. 21	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
	·	Newsletter Items Due
Friday, Sept. 22	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	-	

† MILESTONES - SUN., SEPTEMBER 10 – SEPTEMBER 16

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Jim Eckart	Sept. 10	Jonathan Mundo	Sept. 14
BIRTHDAYS			
Kaye Beaulieu	Sept. 9	Bill Guthrie	Sept. 11
Peggy Hall	Sept. 11	Jonathan Mundo	Sept. 12
Rob Haase	Sept. 14	Karen Zahursky	Sept. 14
Josie Latter	Sept. 16	Whitney Latter	Sept. 16
Emily Whitney	Sept. 16		
WEDDING ANN	IVERSARIES:		

None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPT. 10, 2023

Elder:	8:30am Randy Bryant	11:00am Bob Ritchie
Acolytes: Ushers:	Stan Chapulis	Matthias McInaney
	NEEDED	Marcus Young Bob Freeman James Freeman
Audio/Visual:	NEEDED	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis	Christina Freeman
	Heather Gulde	Virginia Jacobs
Readers:	Randy Bryant	Julie Williamson
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Karla Deal
Flowers:	Both Services	Karla Deal
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT. 17, 2023

Elder:Herb HoeferDan ParshallAcolytes:Jaden MundoUshers:Stan ChapulisJonathan MundoBob RekdahlJoshua MundoRandy SchroederNEEDED
Ushers: Stan Chapulis Jonathan Mundo Bob Rekdahl Joshua Mundo Randy Schroeder
Bob Rekdahl Joshua Mundo Randy Schroeder
Randy Schroeder
NEEDED
NEEDED
Audio/Visual: Laura Potter NEEDED
PowerPoint: Debbie Rekdahl John Hazen
Greeters: Norma Dillon Esperanza Gutierrez
Jean Dillon Margaret Hubbard
Readers: Sheryl Maier J. E. Knox
Altar Guild: Both Services Jan Oswald
Flowers: Both Services Wanda Cassetty
Counters: Both Services Dave and Jan Oswald

scension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: 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 Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator worship@alcportland.org

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