



Christmas at Ascension

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025

3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Worship Leadership

The Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
The Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

The Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolytes: (3p) Eli Escobedo, Audrey Roehl
(5p) Ariya Jewett, Lexi Lytle, Hadley Marien, Madeline Paczesny, Brooklyn Stigler

Altar Guild: (3p) Julie Kinunen; (5p) Gary Bauer

Choir Accompanist: (5p) Kathy Johnson

Communion: (3p) Julie Kinunen, Jackson Piper, Julia Piper, Jennifer Werner
(5p) Cathy Rapp

Greeters: (3p) Nada Draeger, Garnet Wolff
(5p) Joyce Krueger, Doug and Sarah Paczesny

Media: (3p) Buck Houston; (5p) Anna Marien

Ushers: (3p) Scot Werner; (5p) Jim Hahn, Dennis Mohr, Mike Rapp

Welcome!

We pray God's blessing on your worship this day. Please introduce yourself to one of the pastors after service. Please see an usher for large-print bulletins.

Children Are God's Gift

We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby to give your child a chance to stretch their legs.

Schedule

Christmas Day (English): 10a, Thursday, Dec. 25. First Sunday of Christmas worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. on Dec. 28.

Office Closed: The church office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 1

PRELUDE

Angel Songs, arr. Joel Raney

Piano Duet

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *Refrain*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

PRAYER

P: O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless all who gather this night to celebrate your birth with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1) ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: (sung) Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 2) ELW 289

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 3) ELW 289

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SERMON**Pastor Tony**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please say, "Hear our prayer" after each petition.

SHARING OF THE PEACE**OFFERING**

O Holy Night, *Adolphe Adam*

Annemarie Wucker (3p)

In Bethlehem, *Erik Dewar*
arr. Erik Dewar, Dan Forrest

Ascension Choir (5p)

**Many Ways to Give Electronically**

- *QR code*
- *VancoMobile Giving app on your smartphone*
- *Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed ...

THE 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AND CANDLES

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer wheat wafers and wine, and gluten-free wafers and grape juice for holy communion.

SPECIAL MUSIC (5p)

O Holy Night, *Adolphe Adam*
arr. Shawn Kirchner

**Annemarie Wucker,
Liz Jacobson, Jeff Britton,
and Scott Greger**

HYMNS

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT CAROLSilent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Holy God, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, strength, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

SENDING

P: O, come let us adore him!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Merry Christmas!

C: Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn, setting by David Cherwein



Poinsettia Donations



In Memory of

Annette and Deb Formo by Vernon Formo
Arthur Leatherwood and Howard Anderson
by Dennis & Sara Leatherwood
Bill Riutta by Kathy Riutta and the Walczak Family
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Mel Streeter by Jerry & Sherry Olson
Our parents by Dennis & Joyce Beauchene
Papa Don Kvale by the Marien Family
Phyllis Petarius by Al & Linda Maechtle
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Vicki Marien by the Marien Family

In Honor of / Donado en honor a

Carol, Linda, Cynthia (TGIT) by Nancy Haker
My daughter Maelyn by Kristy Olson-Schubert
Our pastors and church family by the Kinunen Family

To the Glory of God

Akins Family
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Cathy Britton
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Kinunen Family
Ronald Marien
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In Celebration of the Birth of Jesus

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Accion de Gracias (Thanksgiving)

Familia Aparicio Quintanilla



ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We happily celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Year-End Giving: We appreciate your year-end donations to help us finish strong! Just a reminder, stock and year-end gifts need to be postmarked by Dec. 31 to count for 2025 giving.

Offering Envelopes: If you use offering envelopes, they are available for pick-up (or mailed by request to the church office, admin@ascensionelca.org). Don't forget to return your pledge cards or fill-out your pledge online, <https://tinyurl.com/ALCpledge>, for next year.

Church Office Closed: The church office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1. Staff will check their email and voicemail in case of emergencies.

Mt. Meru Coffee: Consider purchasing coffee for your Christmas gifts from Ascension's Mt. Meru Coffee Project self-serve cabinet. Please pay online or use the envelopes provided to pay (put them in the church office or in offering plate).

Poinsettias: If you donated a poinsettia, please take it home with you after whichever Christmas worship you attend. Thank you for donating!

Christmas Light Recycling: We are collecting broken or burned out tree lights for proper recycling. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Creation Care will recycle them.

AMEN January Book Study: Attention Ascension men! AMEN 2 will begin a study by author John MacArthur of his book "Hard to Believe," meeting in the Hearth Room biweekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 6. Please contact Steve Boyer at 262-366-4078 (text msg best) or email, boyersteve968@gmail.com, with questions, or if you're interested in joining us.

Winter Farmer's Market Jan. 18: Save the date! Our annual Farmers' Market is Sunday, Jan. 18. We will start selling brunch tickets starting Sunday, Dec. 28. If you buy your tickets by Jan. 11, you will be entered into a drawing for \$25 in Farmer Cash which can be used at the market.



Christmas at Ascension

Christmas Eve worship

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 3p, 5p & 9:30p

Nochebuena (*en español*)

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6p

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, Dec. 25, 10a

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 28, 8:30a & 10:45a

E-Giving



[Tinyurl.com/
SupportALC](https://tinyurl.com/SupportALC)

Wed Dec 24

Church office closed
3pm Christmas Eve worship
5pm Christmas Eve worship
6pm Nochebuena EH
 7pm AA WH
**9:30pm Christmas Eve wor-
 ship**

Thu Dec 25

Church office closed
10am Christmas Day worship

Fri Dec 26

Church office closed

Sun Dec 28

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Worship EH S
 7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 29

Church office closed
 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Dec 30

Church office closed
7am AMEN zoom
 10:30am Boyer group HR

Wed Dec 31

Church office closed
 7pm AA WH

Thu Jan 1

Church office closed
 10am Al Anon CR

Fri Jan 2

Church office open 9a-1p

Sun Jan 4

8:30am Worship S
 9:45am BLAST WH
 9:45am JAM S
 9:45am JUMP CR
10:45am Worship EH S
 2pm Wild Church MG WH
 6pm CRASH CR
 7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 5

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
 6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Jan 6

7am AMEN zoom
 9:30am Women's Bible CR
 10:30am Boyer group HR

Wed Jan 7

7pm AA WH

Thu Jan 8

9:30am TGIT HR
 10am Al Anon CR
 1pm Hansen Group CR
 6pm JOLT EH

Sat Jan 10

12pm PT Event EH WH K
 12:30pm Knit Fest HR

Sun Jan 11

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Worship EH S
 7pm AA WH

Key

CR Conference rm
 EH East Hall
 HR Hearth Rm
 MG Memorial Garden
 MR Meeting Room
 N Narthex (Lobby)
 PR Prayer Room
 S Sanctuary
 WH West Hall (Kit)
Italics Virtual or offsite

Worship Support <https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport>

Dec. 28	8:30a	10:45a
Acolytes	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Hadley Marien, Callum Reinfeldt
Altar Guild	Julie Kinunen	Kathy and Mike Tomchek
Communion	Darlene DiBrito, Julie Kinunen	Pat Boyer, Amy Smith, Mike Tomchek
Greeters	Nada Draeger, Linda Elder	<i>Always appreciated</i>
Media	Buck Houston	Cheryl Anspach
Ushers	Dennis Mohr, Todd Schroeder, Scot Werner	Mark Pichler, Patrick Tkach

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- Weekly e-alert
- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point class (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.



ASCENSION 1415 Dopp St. Waukesha, WI 53188
Lutheran Church 262-547-8518 ascensionlca.org