



15th Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 a.m., Sept. 6, 2026

Worship Leadership

Rev. Chris Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor (on sabbatical)*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolytes: Hadley Marien, Brooklyn Stigler **Altar Guild:** Gary Bauer

Communion: Marge Schroeder, Lauren Birner, Darlene DiBrito, Jim Hahn

Greeters: Sharon Coralline -Bill and Bev Waltz

Media: Adam Boales **Ushers:** Dennis Mohr, Al Wollschlager

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, *setting by Paul Manz*

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH WITNESS: DAN BAUMANN

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

We Praise You, O God

ELW 870

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

p. 147

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

p. 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

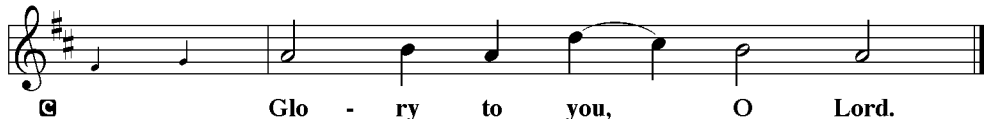


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

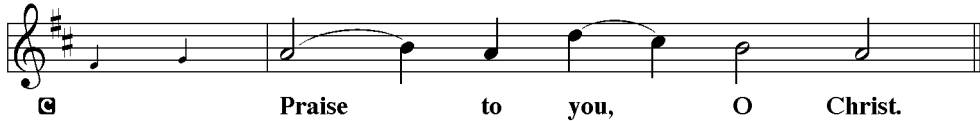
Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree

on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



SERMON

Pastor Chris

HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Comfort: David Williams and family at the death of sister Kathy
Zac Meyer and family at the death of mother Karen
Jimmy Loos and family at the death of sister Jeannie

Healing: Leo Perdzock, Kathy Tomchek's dad, pneumonia, rehab
Michael McGuire, rehab
Susan Williams, rehab
Susan Otto, surgery
Todd Schroeder, hip replacement
Mark Otto, hip replacement
Mike/Elaine Wilkinson's son-in-law Bill, awaiting biopsy results for lymphoma

Thanksgiving: For the birth of first granddaughter, Rosalina Leia, to Jimmy and Chris Loos
For good results following surgery for Don Steinke

God's Care: Dave Ludwig, Alzheimer's diagnosis, and wife Mary Ludwig
Kijenge Parish, Tanzania, as they fundraise for their church building
Nepal in recovery efforts from the floods

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

The Summons

Linda Elder

Scottish Traditional, arr. John Bell, Gary Daigle

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184



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

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

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 both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

LAMB OF GOD		p. 154
HYMNS	Let Us Break Bread Together	ELW 471
	Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace	ELW 716
	Go, My Children, with My Blessing	ELW 543

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord God, you call your servants into the world to follow where you lead. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Day by day, guide us and give us what is needed, friends to cheer our way, and a clear vision to which you call us. By your Holy Spirit, be present in our journeys, that we may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our 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	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	ELW 836
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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE	Hornpipe in D, G. F. Handel
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ASCENSION

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 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!

Today!

- **Worship** at 8:30a in the sanctuary and 10a in the Memorial Gardens
- **Children's Ministry** sign-up for kids and volunteers
- **God's Work, Our Hands** volunteer sign-up
- **Tanzania School Lunches** fundraiser
- **Outreach for Hope Ride-Run-Walk** <https://www.ofhrrw.org/> info
- **Wild Church**, 4 p.m., Memorial Gardens/West Hall.

Church Office Closed: Please note that the church office will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7.

Tanzania School Lunches: In worship today, hear from Tanzania trip participant Dan Baumann about the importance of this annual fundraiser to provide school lunches in Tanzania. Our goal is to raise \$16,500 for lunches for 1100 students to cover the entire school year. Donate online <https://tinyurl.com/SupportALC> or today at the table in the narthex.

Children's Ministry Sign-Up & Volunteers Needed: Please register your children online <https://tinyurl.com/CMregistration26> for our fun and faith-filled Children's Ministries. Kick-off is Sunday, Sept. 13, between services!

Volunteers Needed: We're also looking for volunteers for Children's Ministry. Whether you have a gift for teaching, love leading crafts, would like to provide snacks, are able to set up/clean up at events, or simply want to provide a welcoming environment, there is a place for you here. Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the narthex and chat with Sheri Greger and Amy Koenig.

Choirs Resume! The Ascension Choir, ages high school and adults, begins rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at a new time, 7 to 8:15 p.m. This choir provides musical leadership in worship approximately three Sundays per month, primarily at the 8:30 service (occasionally at 10:45), and at special evening worship services. Contact Vicki Taylor. **Ascension Ringers**, our handbell choir, resumes Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the new time of 5:45 to 7 p.m. The handbell choir, for high school through adults, provides music in worship once per month, primarily at the 8:30 service (occasionally at 10:45). Joining the Ascension Ringers does not call for previous experience with handbells but some level of music literacy is helpful. Reading music is an acquired skill and those interested in learning to read music with the goal of joining the handbell choir are encouraged to contact Vicki Taylor, vicki@ascensionelca.org.

CRASH Kick-Off: We have our kick-off meeting on Sunday, Sept. 13, after the second service. Parents and students are invited to the meeting. We will provide you with all the information about the program. And also, we will share information about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering 2027. We will have a light lunch for you.

JOLT: JOLT, our Confirmation ministry at Ascension, begins on Thursday, Sept. 17 with a student/parent kick-off event from 6-7:30 p.m. We will fill-out/update registration forms, pay fees, take pictures, and share the schedule for the year along with a couple of games to test our knowledge and win some prizes. If there are schedule conflicts, reach out to Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

God's Work, Our Hands Newborn Kits: Sunday, Sept. 13, is our chance for everyone to use our hands to assemble newborn kits that will be distributed to provide some basic needs but also are an incentive for moms in high-risk areas to seek prenatal care. Our synod companion synod in Tanzania is one of the areas that will receive the kits. Plan to take a short time next week to go through the line to assemble one or more kits. All ages can participate.

Sunday Fun Ride: Join us on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. for a bike ride. Dust off your bikes and join us for a short ride on the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Meet outside the EB Shurts Nature Center, 810 W. College Ave., Waukesha. All ages are welcome. We will finish back at the Nature Center and end our ride with root beer floats. Questions? Contact Melody Maass, pmmaass@gmail.com.

Women's Gathering Pizza on the Farm: We will be hosting a get-together for women of all ages on Friday, Sept. 18, at 5 p.m. at Grassway Organics Pizza Farm, W2716 Friemoth Road, East Troy. Sign-up is not required. The cost is \$15 paid upon arrival, which covers your pizza meal. You will be responsible for purchasing your own beverages. Please let us know ahead of time if you have any food allergies. Tables are provided onsite, but you will need to bring your own chair. Please keep in mind that the event is entirely outdoors with a slightly rugged environment, so be sure to dress comfortably for the weather. In case of rain, watch the church Facebook page for cancellation. Due to limited parking at the farm, carpooling is highly recommended. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ileen Marien or Sarah Aparicio.

Young at Heart: Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at noon for a potluck lunch followed by cards, games and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend! Bring a dish if you're able; if not, come anyway and enjoy some fun.

Discover El Salvador: Are you interested in traveling to El Salvador in January as part of the synod delegation? Join Pastor Edwin to experience an overview of the Salvador Lutheran Church throughout the country. There will be an informational Zoom meeting on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Edwin, edwin@ascensionelca.org, for the link.

AMEN Book Study: AMEN, Ascension's men's ministry, will be starting a study this fall on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together," the classic exploration of Christian in community. This daytime group of AMEN generally meets biweekly Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. However, the study starts Thursday, Sept. 24, at 10:30 a.m. It's a short, four-chapter book but packed with lots of wisdom. The book can be ordered on Amazon for under \$10. Please contact Steve Boyer via text msg at 262-366-4078 or email sboyer@HealthMarkets.com if you're interested.

Healing Hearts' Support Groups: Healing Hearts' fall support groups begin, Monday, Sept. 28, for those in need of healing, connection, and growth. Whether you're navigating grief, dealing with life transitions, or seeking a community of support, our free programs are designed to guide you through these challenges with compassion and care. Register on their website healingheartswisconsin.org or by phone 262-751-0874. The sessions begin with dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by small group sessions and are held at First United Methodist Church, 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteer gardeners are needed to help with the community garden that provides fresh produce for the Hope Center. Contact Shirley Wehmeier if you can help, shwehmeier@gmail.com.

Book Study: Join us for a book study of “An Altar in the World” by Barbara Brown Taylor. Led by Teri Quam, this discussion group will read and think about how practices help us walk with God and others on our journey of life. We will meet in the Hearth Room on Mondays, Oct. 5 – 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Books are available on Amazon or Half-Price books. The library might also have a copy. Please contact Teri, tquam61@gmail.com, with questions.

CALENDAR

<https://ascensionelca.org/events/>

<u>Sun Sep 6</u> 8:30am Worship S 10am Outdoor Worship MG 10am Worship EH 4pm Wild Church MG WH 7pm AA WH	<u>Sun Sep 13</u> 8:30am Worship S 9:45am Children's Ministry Kick Off N WH HR 10:45am Worship EH S 12pm Crash Kick off WH K 7pm AA WH	<u>Sun Sep 20</u> 8:30am Worship S 9:45am Children's Ministry S CR 9:45am Kindergarten Stepping Stones WH 10:45am Worship EH S 5:30pm CRASH CR 6:30pm <i>El Salvador delegation</i> Zoom 7pm AA WH
<u>Mon Sep 7</u> Office closed 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH	<u>Mon Sep 14</u> 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH 6:30pm AMEN CR 7pm Jubilate S	<u>Mon Sep 21</u> 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH 6:30pm AMEN CR
<u>Tue Sep 8</u> 7am AMEN zoom 9:30am Women's Bible CR 6:30pm SOPHIA Immigration HR	<u>Tue Sep 15</u> 7am AMEN zoom 9:30am Women's Bible CR 12pm Staff Meeting HR 6:30pm Church council HR	
<u>Wed Sep 9</u> 5:45pm Ascension Ringers S 7pm AA WH 7pm Adult Choir S	<u>Wed Sep 16</u> 12pm Young at Heart WH 5:45pm Ascension Ringers S 7pm AA WH 7pm Adult Choir S	
<u>Thu Sep 10</u> 10am Al Anon CR	<u>Thu Sep 17</u> 9:30am TGIT HR 10am Al Anon CR 1pm Hansen Group CR 6pm JOLT Kick-off	
<u>Sat Sep 12</u> 12pm Private event EH WH 12:30pm Knit Fest HR		

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Room
MG	Memorial Gardens
MR	Meeting Room
MS	Music Room
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall (Kit)
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>

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?

- ☐ 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 (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.



Ascension Lutheran Church
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