



16th Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 a.m., Sept. 13, 2026

Worship Leadership

Rev. Chris Marien, *lead pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *pastor (on sabbatical)*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson **Cantor:** Liz Jacobson

Acolyte: Eli Escobedo, Madeline Paczesny **Altar Guild:** Marge Schroeder

Communion: Jim Hahn, Julie Kinuen, Al Wollschläger, Darlene DiBrito

Greeters: Joyce and Dennis Beauchene **Media:** Buck Houston

Reader: Sheri Greger **Ushers:** Dennis Mohr, Scot Werner

PRELUDE

Break Forth Into Joy, J. S. Bach

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Earth and All Stars (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

ELW 731

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

FIRST READING

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the

pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C:



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing

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. 146**

HYMNS **Bread of Life from Heaven** *(soloist sings verses; all sing refrain)* **ELW 474**
 Where Charity and Love Prevail **ELW 359**
 Great Is Thy Faithfulness **ELW 733**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace now and forever.
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 **Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven** **ELW 865**

SENDING

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

POSTLUDE **Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven**, *setting by Michael Burkhardt*

Worship Support https://tinyurl.com/worshipsupport		
Sept. 20	8:30	10:45
Acolytes	Madeline Paczesny, Benji Earnest	Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder, Audrey
Altar Guild	Chris and Jimmy Loos	Becky Hastings, Sandy Pfeiffer
Communion	Becky Pepper, Carol & Steve Spieker, Paul Wehmeier	Brad, Christine, & Jackson Piper, Mary Ellen Comp
Greeters	Sue Grams, Garnet Wolff	<i>Always appreciated</i>
Media	Todd Schroeder	Cheryl Ades Anspach
Ushers	Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer	Mark Pichler, Pat Tkach



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 and 10:45a in the sanctuary
- **Children's Ministry Kick-Off**, 9:45 a.m., Memorial Gardens or West Hall.
- **God's Work, Our Hands Newborn Kit Assembly**
- **Tanzania School Lunches fundraiser**
- **Outreach for Hope Ride-Run-Walk** info table, ofhrrw.org
- **CRASH Kick-Off**, 12p, West Hall

Tanzania School Lunches: Our goal is to raise \$16,500 for lunches for 1100 students to cover the entire school year. We are also raising funds for food storage at the primary school and a new computer/printer for the secondary school. Donate online or at the table in the narthex.

CRASH Kick-Off: We have our kick-off meeting today, 12 p.m. Parents and students are invited to the meeting. We will provide all the information about the program and a light lunch for you.

Gather In Group: Are you newer to Ascension and wish we had a certain type of ministry you would like to be involved in? Join us on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 11:15 a.m. for the Gather In Group as we discover ways for new members and long time members to plan how to do ministry together. Contact Shirley Wehmeier, shwehmeier@gmail.com.

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, contact Pastor Chris pc@ascensionelca.org. We'll figure it out!

Kindergarten Bible Stepping Stone: Kindergarten children and parents/adults are invited to the kindergarten stepping stone between services in West Hall on Sunday, Sept. 20. We'll be learning about God's love through some well-known stories in the Bible and fun activities, and we'll even have a few breakfast treats.

Easy Giving



- *Vanco Giving app*
- *Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

Sunday Fun Ride: Join us today at 2 p.m. for a short bike 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. Contact Melody Maass, pmmaass@gmail.com, with questions.

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.

Choirs Resumed! Choirs resumed but it's never too late to join us! The Ascension Choir for ages high school through adult rehearses on Wednesdays, 7-8:15 p.m. The Ascension Ringers Handbell Choir, ages high school through adult, meets on Wednesdays, 5:45-7 p.m. Contact Vicki Taylor with questions, vicki@ascensionelca.org.

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. Contact Ileen Marien or Sarah Aparicio, sarah@ascensionelca.org, with questions.

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.

Interested in Joining Ascension? We will have new member info sessions on Sundays, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, at 9:45 a.m. Sign-up online, tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers, or just show up. If you're interested but unable to attend, fill-out the form online or contact the church office, 262-547-8518, admin@ascensionelca.org, to let us know so we can follow-up with you. We will welcome new members with a brunch on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Ninth Grade Confirmands & Parents: Confirmation Sunday is on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, at both the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services. If you are a 9th grade student expecting to be confirmed and their parent, please mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 27, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. We will talk through confirmation requirements, share lunch, and answer all the questions. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

AMEN Book Study: AMEN, Ascension's men's ministry, will be studying 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 is 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 sboyer@HealthMarkets.com if you're interested in joining us.

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. Please contact Teri, tquam61@gmail.com, with questions.

Healing Hearts Meal: Ascension supports this community partner by providing a meal for their support groups. Our first meal is Monday, Oct. 12. We need people to donate food, cook food and serve food. Please see the Sign-Up Genius if you can help, <https://tinyurl.com/HealingH26>. Questions? Contact Amy Smith, aldgolden@gmail.com.

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, the free programs for all ages are designed to guide you through these challenges with compassion and care. Register online healing-heartswisconsin.org or by phone 262-751-0874.

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

Sun Sep 13

8:30am Worship S

9:45am CM Kick Off

10:45am Worship EH S

12pm CRASH Kick off WH K

2pm Fun Ride

7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 14

6:30pm AMEN CR

6:30pm Mutual Ministry

7pm Jubilate S

Tue Sep 15

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR

11:15am Gather In Group CR

12pm Staff meeting HR

6:30pm Church council HR

Wed Sep 16

12pm Young at Heart WH

5:45pm Ascension Ringers S

7pm AA WH

7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Sep 17

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

1pm Hansen Group CR

6pm JOLT Kick-off

Sun Sep 20

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Children's Ministry

9:45am Kindergarten Stepping

Stones WH

10:45am Worship EH S

5pm CRASH CR

6:30pm El Salvador Synod

Delegation Zoom Meeting

7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 21

6:30pm AMEN CR

6:30pm Caminando Juntos HR

Tue Sep 22

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR

Wed Sep 23

1pm Bunco WH

5:45pm Ascension Ringers S

7pm AA WH

7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Sep 24

10am Al Anon CR

10:30am Boyer Group HR

6pm JOLT EH

Sat Sep 26

7am OFH Ride Walk Run

9am Jubilate S

Sun Sep 27

Kindergarten Bibles

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Children's Ministry S

WH CR

9:45am New member conver-

sations HR

10:45am Worship EH S

12pm 9th Grade Confirmand/

Parent Gathering

7pm AA WH

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm
MG	Memorial Garden
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)



Ascension Lutheran Church
1415 Dopp St., Waukesha, WI
262-547-8518 ascensionelca.org

Please place in the offering plate.