



17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m., Sept. 20, 2026

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *lead pastor*

Rev. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, *pastor*

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

Ben Janzow, *Praise Band leader*

Acolyte: Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder, Audrey Roehl **Altar Guild:** Becky Hastings, Sandy

Pfeiffer **Communion:** Brad, Christine, & Jackson Piper, Mary Ellen Comp

Media: Cheryl Ades Anspach **Ushers:** Mark Pichler, Pat Tkach

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

P: Most merciful God ...

C: **Have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth.**

P: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SONGS

Before the world was made
Before You spoke it to be
You were the King of kings
Yes, You were, yes, You were
And now You're reigning still
Enthroned above all things
Angels and saints cry out
We join them as we sing

**Glory to God, glory to God
Glory to God, forever
Glory to God, glory to God
Glory to God, forever**

Glory to God Forever

Creator God, You gave
Me breath so I could praise
Your great and matchless name
All my days, all my days
So let my whole life be
A blazing offering
A life that shouts and sings
The greatness of our King
(*Chorus*)

Take my life and let it be
All for You and
for Your glory
Take my life and
let it be Yours
Take my life and let it be
All for You and
for Your glory
Take my life and
let it be Yours
We sing (*Chorus*)

Majestic

Oh Lord, our Lord
How majestic is
Your name in all the earth (2x)

The heavens declare Your greatness
The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You
So I'll join with the earth and
I'll give my praise to You

I will worship you, oh Lord
I will worship you, oh Lord
We will worship you, oh Lord
We will worship you, oh Lord

The heavens declare Your greatness
The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You
So I'll join with the earth and
I'll give my praise to You

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Elisabeth

SONG

Holy Is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He
And together we sing, everyone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne

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the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Elisabeth

SONG

I Will Lift My Eyes

God, my God I cry out, your beloved needs You now
God be near, calm my fear and take my doubt
Your kindness is what pulls me up
Your love is all that draws me in

**I will lift my eyes to the maker, of the mountains I can’t climb
I will lift my eyes to the calmer, of the oceans raging wild
I will lift my eyes to the healer of the hurt I hold inside
I will lift my eyes, lift my eyes to You**

God, my God, let mercy sing a melody over me
And God right here, all I bring is all of me
Your kindness is what pulls me up
Your love is all that draws me in (*Chorus*)

PRAYERS

Please say, “Hear our prayer” and sing the above refrain after each petition.

Healing: Gil Wagner

Andrea Reinfeldt's father, Rodney, open heart bypass surgery
Pat (sister of Cindy Finn & Kris Wells), waiting for biopsy results
Barb (sister of Cindy Finn & Kris Wells), broken knee

Comfort: For the family and friends of Dennis Mohr following his recent death

Becky Pepper at the death of her brother, Tom Detko
For the Tangerstrom family (the Gregers’ friends) at the death of their dad, Scott

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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OFFERING

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand

**And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise my
Soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours, and You are mine**

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now
(Chorus)

Oceans

Spirit lead me where my trust
Is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet
Could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior (Chorus)



E-Giving

- VancoMobile Giving app
- Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC
- QR code

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 grape juice are available.

SOLO

Gratitude

SONGS

Holy Spirit

There's nothing worth more
That will ever come close
No thing can compare, You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord
I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
By Your presence, Lord (Chorus)

I've Witnessed It

When I was lost and all alone
Your presence was where I found home
You were there and You're here right now
In every high and every low
You never left me without hope
You were good and You're good right now

**I've witnessed Your faithfulness
I've seen You breathe life within
So I'll pour out my praise again
You're worthy, God
You're worthy of all of it
Your promises never fail
I've got stories I'll live to tell
So I'll pour out my praise again
You're worthy, God
You're worthy of all of it**

You left the throne and chose the cross
Laid down Your life to rescue us
The savior then, the savior now
But even death was not the end
You conquered hell so I could live
Resurrecting then, resurrecting now **(Chorus)**

You're good and I've witnessed it
You're strong and I've witnessed it
You're constant, I've witnessed it
And I'm confident I'll see it again and again
You love and I've witnessed it
You heal and I've witnessed it
You save and I've witnessed it
And I'm confident I'll see it again and again
(Chorus)

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SONG

You Are Good

I want to scream it out, from every mountain top
Your goodness knows no bounds
Your goodness never stops, your mercy follows me
Your kindness fills my life, your love amazes me

**And I sing because you are good
And I dance because you are good
And I shout because you are good
You are good to me (2x)**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.



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!

- **Worship** at 8:30a and 10:45a in the sanctuary
- **Children's Ministry**, 9:45a, sanctuary, Conference Room
- **Kindergarten Stepping Stones**, 9:45a, West Hall
- **Tanzania School Lunches fundraiser**
- **Outreach for Hope Ride-Run-Walk** (<https://www.ofhrrw.org/>) .
- **CRASH**, Conference Room, 5p
- **El Salvador Synod Delegation Zoom Meeting**, 6:30p

Kindergarten Bible Stepping Stone: Kindergarten children and parents/adults are invited to the kindergarten stepping stone between services today in West Hall at 9:45 a.m. We'll learn about God's love through some well-known stories in the Bible and fun activities.

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 today, 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: 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. Confirmation Sunday is on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, at both the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

Third Grade Stepping Stone: Third grade students and parents are invited to our 3rd Grade Stepping Stone program where we will explore God's love in bible stories and activities on Sunday, Oct. 4, between services in West Hall.

Many Ways to Give



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

Bunco: Join a fun group of people for bunco on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 1 to 3 p.m.

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. 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.

Suicide Prevention Month: Each September, NAMI recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope, and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time. The goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and seek help. Start a conversation and be the difference. With one conversation, asking someone how they're really doing — and being ready to truly listen — can save lives. No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible. And all it can take is for one person to start a conversation. Find out more online, <https://www.nami.org/stay-connected/events/awareness-events/suicide-prevention-month>.

Outreach for Hope: This is the final week to sign up to ride, walk, run or volunteer for Outreach for Hope. The big day is Saturday, Sept. 26, in Waukesha, <https://www.ofhrrw.org>. Beth and her bike will be in the narthex for more information or to register. If you can't participate, you can donate, or volunteer.

Gethsemane Pumpkin Patch: Everyone is invited to purchase high-quality, inexpensive pumpkins from Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 13200 W. Greenfield Ave., and benefit the Navajo Indian Nation in New Mexico. The event runs Sept. 26 through Oct. 10, Monday through Friday, 12 to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Meru Common Day of Prayer: We gather on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 a.m. for breakfast and a common day of prayer service Zoom with our siblings in Tanzania. If you would like to join us, please consider bringing a dish to share and your heart ready to pray. The actual Zoom service begins at 7:30 a.m.

Finding Your Faith Witness: Beginning on Monday, Oct. 5, and continuing on Oct. 12 and 26, we will gather at either 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. to invite you to craft your own faith witness to share with others and possibly in worship as you might choose. It is the same event at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Bring yourself and an openness to conversation. Questions, contact Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

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.

Calendar on next page

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?
- ☐ JAM, BLAST, JUMP (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.

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

Sun Sep 20

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Children's Ministry S WH CR

9:45am Kindergarten

Stepping Stones WH

10:45am Worship

5pm CRASH CR

6:30pm *El Salvador*

Zoom Meeting

7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 21

6:30pm AMEN CR

6:30pm Caminando Jun-
tos HR

Tue Sep 22

7am *AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible

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

Sun Sep 27 cont.

9:45am Children's Ministry S WH CR

9:45am New member
conversations HR

10:45am Worship

12pm 9th Gr Confirmation Mtg WH

7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 28

6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Sep 29

7am *AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible

7pm Holloway Grp HR

Wed Sep 30

5:45pm Ascension
Ringers S

7pm AA WH

7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Oct 1

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

11:30am *Knit Wits*

Lunch N Knit

1pm Hansen Group CR

6pm JOLT EH

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>



Ascension Lutheran Church
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262-547-8518 ascensionelca.org