

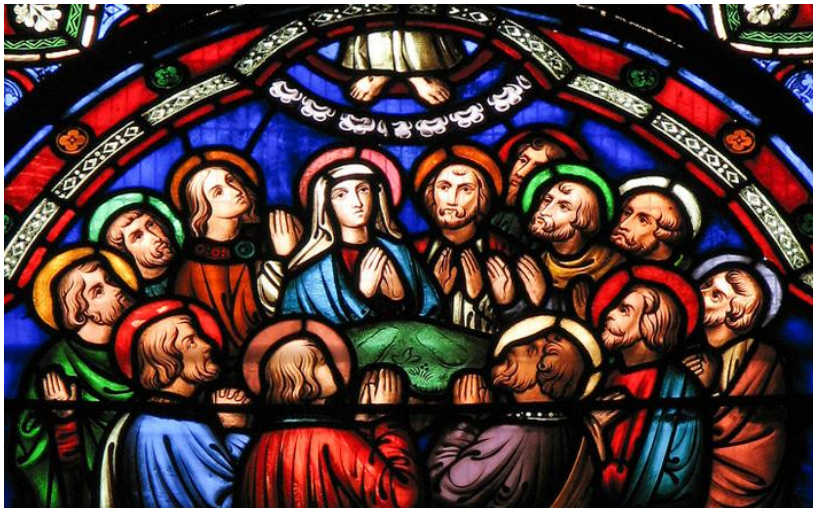


ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

A **Christ-centered** community where we **connect, learn, and serve.**

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Cooper Blake & Bob Booth
LAY READER: Darryl Gunther
USHERS: Lora Koontz & Lynn Gunther
ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Mike Fiffik & Dave Dille
LAY READER: N/A
USHERS: John Russler & Edie Krom
ACOLYTE: Dalaney Gard

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Pre-Service - The Cross of Christ

Welcome

Prelude

Stand

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn - Jesus Your Mercy

Verse 1

Jesus Your mercy is all my plea
I have no defense my guilt runs too
deep

The best of my works
Pierced Your hands and Your feet
Jesus Your mercy is all my plea

Verse 2

Jesus Your mercy is all my boast
The goodness I claim the grounds of my
hope
Whatever I lack it's still what I need most
Jesus Your mercy is all my boast

Chorus

Praise the King who bore my sin
Took my place when I stood condemned

Oh how good You've always been to me
I will sing (of Your mercy)

Verse 3

Jesus Your mercy is all my rest
When fears weigh me down and
enemies press
A comfort I cling to in life and in death
Jesus Your mercy is all my rest
(Chorus)

Verse 4

Jesus Your mercy is all my joy
Forever I'll lift my heart and my voice
To sing of a treasure no pow'r can
destroy
Jesus Your mercy is all my joy
(Chorus x2)

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Hymn of Praise - Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
 There is no more for heaven now to give
 He is my joy my righteousness and
 freedom

My steadfast love my deep and
 boundless peace
 To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
 For my life is wholly bound to his
 Oh how strange and divine I can sing all
 is mine

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend
me

Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been
paid

For Jesus bled and suffered for my
pardon

And he was raised to overthrow the
grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated

Sit

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of

Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I
am free

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me
home

And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him

When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your

brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 17:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856

Lutheran Catechesis - Confession Part 3

P *Where is this written?*

C This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)

P *What do you believe according to these words?*

C I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - A Christian's Daily Prayer

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory – Majesty

Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honor and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise
So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.

The Words of Institution *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

LSB 623

A Christian's Daily Prayer

Verse 1

As morning dawns and day awakes
To You I bring my need
O Gracious God my source of strength
In You I live and breathe
Each hour is Yours by Wisdom planned
Each deed empower'd by sovereign
hands
Renew my spirit help me stand
Be glorified today

Verse 2

As day unfolds I seek Your will

In all of life's demands
And though the tempter tries me still
I cling to Your commands
Let every effort of my life
Display the matchless worth of Christ
Make me a living sacrifice
Be glorified today

Verse 3

As sun gives way to darkest night
Your Spirit still is here
And though my strength fades like the
light

New mercies will appear
I rest in You abide with me
Until our trials and suffering

Give way to final victory
Be glorified today

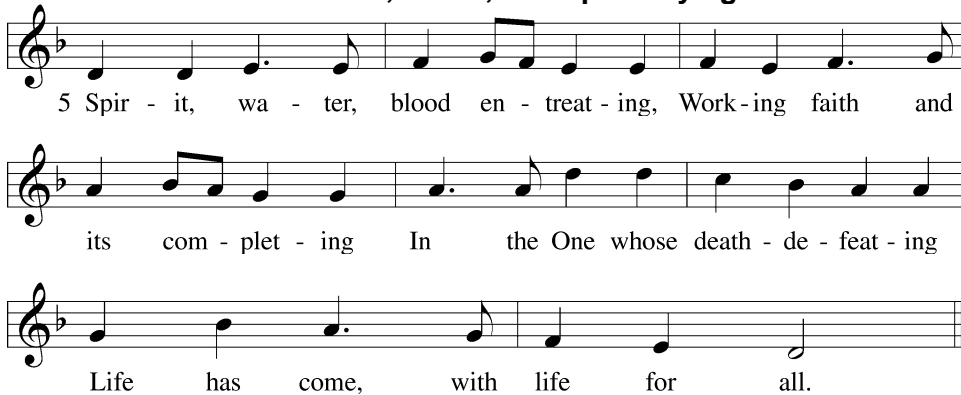
Communion Dismissal

- P** Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

LSB 597 st. 5



5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and
its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing
Life has come, with life for all.

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Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** 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.

Closing Song - Father, We Thank Thee

LSB 652

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Acts 1:23 - And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.

Dismissal

P Go in peace and

C **serve the Lord!**

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Num. 11:24-30; Psalm 25:1-15; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
- For pregnant moms Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel, and Claire Fiffik, daughter of Mike and Cristen Fiffik, that they and their unborn babies remain healthy throughout their pregnancies and result in the safe and joyous delivery of new life.
- Thanksgiving for faith given to Craig and Concetta and for continued faithfulness throughout the rest of their earthly lives.
- For protection for all who serve in our armed forces and especially for Joshua, Lynn Rodina's grandson, who is a marine deployed in the conflict in Iran.

- Arlene Rusnica, who sustained a broken arm in a fall, that she recovers quickly and is relieved from pain.
 - John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.
 - Kurt Dolph's continued cancer treatment and for a quick recovery and healing.
 - Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
 - Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
 - We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
 - Shirley Waselko's continued cancer treatments to give good results and for continued faith in the midst of her suffering.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary to: John & Nelle Powers May 17th

Happy Birthday to:

Gabrael Gard	May 19 th
Gabriel Blake	May 20 th
Matthew Gunther	May 20 th
Beth Gard	May 21 st

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

Sunday School- Sunday school meets on the 2nd floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Adult Book of the Bible Study-** Join Cooper Blake for an adult book bible study on Proverbs.
- **Adult Topical Study:** Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Junk Drawer Jesus study. In *Junk Drawer Jesus*, the spiritually exhausted are invited to examine our religious clutter and compare it to the person and the promises of Jesus Christ. We'll discover what—if anything—of our spiritual collection should be kept.

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

New Members needed for Praise Team – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

Board of Stewardship- We are currently looking for someone to fill the Head of the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship's main objective is to initiate programs of good stewardship attitudes amongst the Congregation members regarding their time, talents, and treasures. This can include, but not limited to recognizing members for their stewardship, annual pledges, training opportunities, and assistance with finding ministry opportunities. If you feel called to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Thompson, pastor@ascensionpgh.com or Beth Gard, president@ascensionpgh.com

Christmas Pageant Team Needed: Will Ascension continue to have a children's Christmas pageant? If yes, a team of members is needed. Costumes, scripts, and operations instructions are available and organized, as is help from the Music Director. If you are interested, please let Janeen Daftary know. A team of 2-3 members must be in place by September 20 in order for a 2026 pageant to take place.

Speaker Series: We are so excited to tell you about the Speaker's Program being held this **Wednesday, May 20** at 6:30 pm. It will be presented by Jeff Wissner, Town of McCandless Fire Marshal, and will be a fire safety class. We will be **giving Fire Blankets** to the first of you that sign up and ultimately

attend. The limit will be one blanket per church family. We aren't absolutely sure how many we can get with our Thrivent grant so be one of the first to sign up. It will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. We welcome friends, family, and neighbors.

Baby Bottle Campaign: Ascension's yearly BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN runs through the end of May. The bottles are available to you in the Narthex. If you have questions, please see Cheryl Sedar, 412-400-4392.

UPDATED Paving Project: The paving project will now start on Monday, May 25th.

Outdoor Sign Ideas: Have a funny saying idea for our church sign? We'd love to hear it! There is a jar in the Narthex under "Connect", please submit your ideas for consideration! We always need 1-2 sentence ideas for: church holidays, seasonal holidays, etc!

Congregational Meeting: There is a congregational meeting after the Divine Service on Sunday, May 31st.

Bridal Shower: Women and girls of Ascension, help us celebrate the upcoming nuptials of Emily Marcellus and Michael Shildt with a bridal shower on Saturday, July 11th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by text to Janine Nicolette at 412-965-0428. Emily and Mike's registry can be found through theknot.com. Please contact Janine Nicolette if you'd like to help with food and set up at 412-965-0428.

Save the Date: Mark your calendars for the upcoming end of the year picnic on June 7th after service.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 05/17	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Elders Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Speaker Series-Fire Safety Talk	10:00 AM 6:30 PM
Saturday	Men's Bible Study	8:30 AM
Sunday 05/24	Divine Service	9:30 AM