



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 4, 2026



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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 an usher or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Ron Curcio

ACOLYTE: Christian Fleishauer

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Alan Gard & Dave Dille

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Matt Gunther

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - No Body

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 - Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912

Exhortation

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

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

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 - God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 5:1–7

- ¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts

is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b–14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33–46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a

tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day - My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430

Sermon

Lutheran Catechesis - The First Commandment

C You shall have no other gods.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Lutheran Catechesis - The Second Commandment

C You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Stand

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Man of Sorrows

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

LSB 955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80
Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010
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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 - Here is Bread, Here is Wine

Verse 1

Here is bread here is wine
Christ is with us He is with us
Break the bread drink the wine
Christ is with us here

Chorus

In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment by the Spirit
Christ is with us here

Verse 2

Here is grace here is peace

Christ is with us He is with us
Know His grace find His peace
Feast on Jesus here
(Chorus)

Verse 3

Here we are joined in one
Christ is with us He is with us
We'll proclaim 'til He comes
Jesus crucified
(Chorus)

Tag

Christ is with us here

The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

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 - O Love, How Deep

LSB 544 st. 4

4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,
By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.

Tune: English, 15th cent.

Text: Public domain

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 – Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil
(Chorus x2)

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne
(Chorus x2)

Verse 2

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Philippians 3:14: - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and
- C** serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Phil. 4:4-13; Matt. 22:1-14

This week we pray for:

- For guidance, peace, and increased reliance on faith in God's provision at Ascension Lutheran Church during the transition of Pastor Thompson's departure and our vacancy.
- Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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 Birthday: Cristen Fiffik October 10th

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11:00am (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. Rajendaran; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mr. Obringer/Mrs. Mayes. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room for Hebrews 11 Heros Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Adult Topical Study:** Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Nurturing Your Faith: Identity which is a four-session Bible study that examines our identity as children of God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are ambassadors of reconciliation. Jesus is made known to others through our word and witness. Our hope is that God uses our identities, born again through faith, to serve Him and to draw others to His Son—who alone deserves all honor and praise.

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.

Children's Message: Interested in leading a Children's Message during a Sunday worship service? During our vacancy Cristen Fiffik will be coordinating volunteers to help with this very important part of our worship. Ideas that coincide with the weekly Gospel reading will be provided to you! Please contact Cristen if you are able to help. clfiffik66@gmail.com or 412-496-9118

Pumpkin Fest/Flea Market: Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex under Serve for dates and ways you can help with this important project.

Vintage Truck Needed: You may have noticed our logo for this year has a vintage truck on it. If you have an old/vintage pickup truck we could park in front of church and use for advertising the Pumpkin Fest, please call the church office and leave a message for Trish or Lisa.

Shepherd's Heart Clothes Drive: October once again is our clothes drive. Shepherd's Heart is looking for coats, gloves, hats, socks, thermal underwear, regular underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters, or any winter item NEW or USED. Women and men's items are needed-sizes M to XXL. There will be baskets in the Narthex under SERVE. We will be collecting these items through the month of October. Thank you!

Attention Singers: Choir will be singing on Nov. 15, Nov. 22, and Christmas Eve this semester. Rehearsals will be held 7:15-8:00 on the following evenings for anyone interested in joining us! Rehearsal tracks are available, so you do not need to attend every rehearsal. Wed, Oct 14; Wed, Oct. 21; Wed, Nov. 11; Wed, Dec. 2; Wed, Dec. 9; Wed, Dec. 16

Solo/Small Groups Also Needed, if you would be interested in performing any special music for Christmas Eve, please let Lisa know!
(LMarcellus@ascensionpgh.com)

Christmas Cards Needed: Karen Booth is looking for about 150 Christmas Cards to bless our shut-ins and the residents at Concordia Homes. If you can help, please see Karen or Bob Booth.

Thank You: Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who helped with, attended, or contributed to our showers. We were blown away with everyone's kindness and generosity. Our church family is truly amazing to provide us each with beautiful events only two months apart! And thank you for welcoming our guys to the family as we know you would! We are so blessed. We have tried to keep up with thank you notes, but just in case we missed anyone or for those who did things behind the scenes...THANK YOU! ~Emily Shildt and Lisa soon-to-be McMillan

Operation Christmas Child - Kick-off is only two weeks away! On October 18th we will be kicking off our 14th season of packing shoeboxes. Our goal this year is 230 boxes. We hope to make this our best year yet! Lots more info to follow including a short briefing on the 18th. See Bob Marcellus for more details.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 10/04	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Outreach Committee Meeting Christian Education Meeting Worship Committee Meeting	1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Thursday	Pumpkin filling/Apple Pie baking	9:00 AM
Friday	Pumpkin Pie Baking	9:00 AM
Saturday	Pumpkin Fest/Flea Market	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sunday 10/11	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM