



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
February 1, 2026

Ascension Lutheran Church
Landover Hills, Maryland
Church Phone: 301-577-0500
www.alutheranchurch.com

Welcome and Notices

Prelude

My Lord! What a Morning

arr. Sandy McIntire

(Stand)

Confession & Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

- 1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.**
- 2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.**
- 3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.**

Greeting

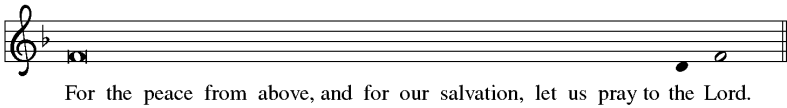
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

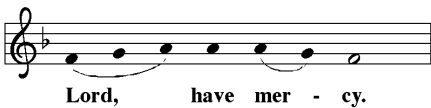
Kyrie



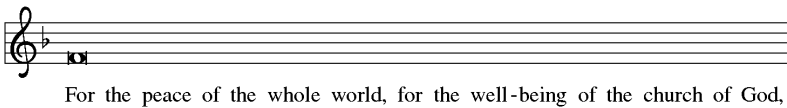
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



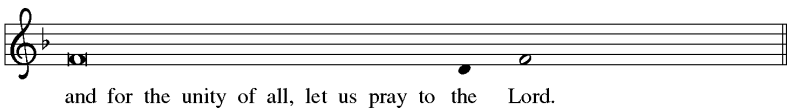
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



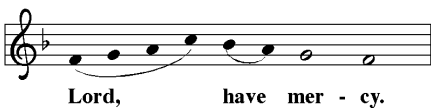
Lord, have mer - cy.



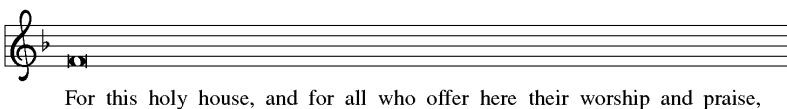
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



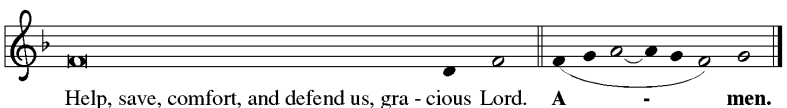
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*
- 3 Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving you kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord,

C: Amen.

(Sit)

First Reading:

Micah 6:1–8

R: A reading from Micah.

- 6 Hear what the Lord says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- 2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,

- for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- ³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”
- ⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Read Responsively

Psalm 15

- ¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- ² **Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**
- ³ who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
- ⁴ **in whose eyes the wicked are despised**

**but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**
⁵ who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in

Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

Sermon

(Stand)

Hymn of the Day

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW 768 Text and Tune: Doris Akers; © 1953 Doris Akers

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Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.**

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.**

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and
became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Kneel/Sit)

Prayers

“Jesus, Remember Me”

ELW 616 Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community; © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994: © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(After each portion of the prayers:)

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

(The prayers conclude:)

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, the Word made flesh and the Light of the world.

C: **Amen.**

(Stand)

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

All may greet one another with a word of peace:

“Peace be with you” ... “God bless you” ... “God loves you”...

The Gathering of Gifts

Any tithes or offerings may be placed into the offering plate by the entrance to the Sanctuary at the beginning or the end of service. For those who are worshiping with us via live-stream, please consider mailing your offering to the Church office or giving online through our website.

(Stand)

The Offering Hymn

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186 Text: Public Domain

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923:

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Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray.

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

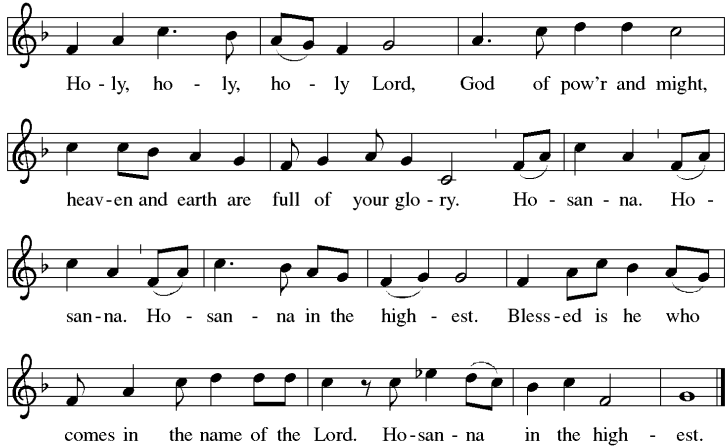
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned into wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen, amen, amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

(Sit)

Communion Distribution

Lutherans believe that in Holy Communion we are offered the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptized and Communicant members of all Christian denominations who share this belief with us are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Others, including children, may come forward to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 1 “Jesus the Very Thought of You”

ELW 754 Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878;
Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.**
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!**
- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!**
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."**

Communion Hymn 2

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

ELW 717 Text and Music: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall,

© 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications

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- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.**
- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.**
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.**

(Stand)

Post Communion Blessing

P: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, keeping you steadfast in your faith for life everlasting.

 Amen.

Post Communion

“May the God of All Healing”

ELW 220 Text: Augsburg Fortress; © 2002 Augsburg Fortress

Music: Jayne Southwick Cool, b. 1947: © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

A: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“We Shall Overcome”

TFF 213 Text: Traditional
Music: African American spiritual

- 1 We shall overcome,
we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
we shall overcome someday.
- 2 We'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand in hand someday.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
we'll walk hand in hand someday.
- 3 We shall all have peace,
we shall all have peace,
we shall all have peace someday.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
we shall all have peace someday.

- 4 We shall see the Lord,
we shall see the Lord,
we shall see the Lord someday.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
we shall see the Lord someday.
- 5 We are not afraid,
we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
we are not afraid today.
- 6 God is on our side,
God is on our side,
God is on our side today.
Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe
God is on our side today.

Sending

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

We Shall Overcome

Greg D'Amato

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Chris Agne
Assistant	Adam Kampia
Musician	Ben Harris
Reader	Aggie Jones
Greeters	Mike & Kathy Walker
Altar Guild	Wells Family, Ernestine Bivins, Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill
Ushers	Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit, Darrell Dockery
Counters	Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.

Acknowledgments

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Sunday @6

To the Homebound and Sick, we invite you to participate in Sunday @ 6, a weekly worship call. We have prayer, Scripture, a devotion and music. We invite, welcome and encourage you to join us in Christian fellowship every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. The call is toll-free:(267) 807-9601; Enter this code:773-431-475# For further information, call Dolores Prather (301) 459-7163 or Mary Tipton 301-257-7585!



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Kevin Schenk, Lyn Bailey-Waithe, Ademola Ojurongbe,
Demaurence Smith

75th Church Anniversary

For our 75th church anniversary, we are creating a special montage of photos to share at our celebration.

We need your help to fill it with cherished moments from our history! Please send digital copies of your favorite photos to Andy House at awhouse16@gmail.com by February 1, 2026.

Let's remember God's goodness and faithfulness together!

Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Chris for changes.

pastor@alutheranchurch.com,

Please put your prayer requests in the Prayer Diary at the rear of the Sanctuary so we can add your need to our prayers.

Healing

Sharon Agne

Olivia Powell

Dolores Prather

Helen Riley

Calvin Lee

Zachary Plue

Joyce Bailey

Kent & Walt Nilsson

Joan Prather

Rob Garrett

Alice McNeil

Ernestine Hayes

Herman McNeil

Susie Nilsson

Helen Bell

Passing

Jannie Goldston

Jenny DeMaio

Tami Smith Randolph

Ludie Sims

Alice Gaither

Homebound

John DellaGatta

Olivia Powell

Helen Riley

Lois Flemming

Arthur & Mildred Smith

Ascension Weekly

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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Information & Notices

February 1, 2026

Services

Please Note

Divine Worship

Sunday at 9:00 am

Holy Communion is celebrated in most services.

Holy Baptism

Arrangements for Baptism can be made through the Church Office.

Weddings

Weddings for active Ascension members are arranged through the Church Office.

Adult Bible Study: Bible study meets on Sundays after worship, at 10:30 am.

Staff:

Rev. Chris Agne.....Pastor
Gwen Neal.....Office Mgr.
Ben Harris.....Parish Musician

Office open Mon-Fri., 8-4:30
Closed Holidays

Please allow us to share Church News with you via email. Send your email address to the Church Office at office@alutheranchurch.com

This Week at Ascension

Sunday, Sunday, February 1

Epiphany IV

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

Wednesday, February 4

12:00 pm	Bible Study
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Sunday, February 8

Epiphany V

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Voters' Meeting
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

Coming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Ash Wednesday, noon

Sunday, March 22

75th Anniversary Service/Luncheon

Serving Us in Worship, Sunday February 8

Pastor	Rev. Chris Agne
Assistant	Adam Kampia
Musician	Ben Harris
Reader	Morris Hymes, Jr.
Greeters	Barbara & David Thom
Altar Guild	Cheryl Townsend, Carolyn Plue, Mary Tipton, Bose Osho
Ushers	Calvin Lee, Ronnie Townsend, Cris Bonner
Counters	Andy House, Adam Kampia, Dwight Mitchell