



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Divine Service **Reformation Sunday**

*Great is the Lord and greatly
to be praised
in the city of our God!
Walk about Zion, go around
her, number her towers,
Consider well her ramparts,
go through her citadels,
That you may tell the next
generation
that this is God, our God
forever and ever.*

Gradual for Reformation Day
Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a

Friends of God,

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

What is a king or an emperor compared with the Son of God? Furthermore, what is a beggar's filth or stench compared with the filth of sin which is ours, stinking a hundred thousand times worse and looking infinitely more repulsive to God than any foul matter found in a hospital? And yet the love of the Son of God for us is of such magnitude that the greater the filth and stench of our sins, the more He befriends us, the more He cleanses us, relieving us of all our misery and of the burden of all our sins and placing them upon His own back. All the monastic holiness of men stinks in comparison with this service of Christ, the fact that the beloved Lamb, the great Man, yes, the Son of the Exalted Majesty, descends from heaven to serve me.

Martin Luther*

OCTOBER 29, 2023 8:30AM & 11AM

SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We are so glad that you are here! This is God's House and He put the wiggle in children, so please feel completely at home and try these tips from parents who've gone before you:

Sit towards the front: That's where children can easily see the procession, note the colors and watch the pastor and leaders.

Help your child look and listen: Tell them key words that will be used often. Point out crosses, banners and other reminder of Jesus and His Good News.

Participate joyfully! Sing, fold your hands for prayer, stand and kneel. Bring them to the Communion rail for a blessing. Your child will model your actions. He or she watches everything that you do.

Involve your child: Encourage them to say and pray their parts: "Amen. Lord have mercy. I believe... Our Father..." Ascension at Prayer allows you to learn songs and prayers ahead of time so that children recognize them as their own.

If You and Your Child Must Leave: There is a nursery for emergencies, but please come back. What we do here promises to engage your children little-by-little and shape them powerfully and forever.

If you need help, just ask! We are here to serve Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)



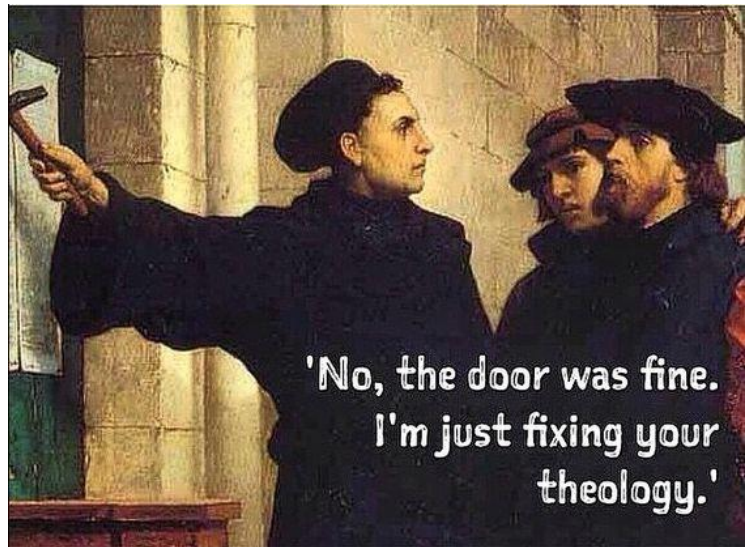
WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

If you are a visitor, we are delighted to have you join us in worshiping God and hearing His Word! Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor. You are cordially invited to join in our congregation's fellowship and study of God's Word between services and all week long.

Today we rejoice to celebrate the festival of **Reformation Day!**

On October 31st in 1517, an Augustinian monk posted ninety-five statements for discussion on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. Martin Luther hoped that posting these would bring about an academic debate regarding repentance, the sale of indulgences, and other matters of concern within the Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately, the Roman curia at the time was hopelessly corrupt. Church officials had no interest in a debate which might interfere with the money indulgences were intended to raise in Germany to construct a basilica in Rome. Pope Leo X eventually excommunicated Luther as a heretic, but Luther's study of the scriptures had convinced him that he was not wrong to teach what had been the ancient doctrine of the church: that a believer is justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. He refused to recant his writings in the famous words: "my conscience is captive to the Word of God...here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, may God help me. Amen."

Luther's example sparked a movement of religious reform, as well as great upheaval, all across Europe. A distinctly Lutheran church took shape within the catholic tradition, which prioritized the Word of God and the saving Gospel.



'No, the door was fine.
I'm just fixing your
theology.'

Gathered Together...

PRELUDE As The Deer

Handbell Choir

Composer: Martin Nystrom arr. Karen Thompson

After the announcements, please stand. Turn and face the cross as it processes.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Psalm 57:7-9

657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

INVOCATION

1 Kings 8:27-30; Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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. *1 John 1:8-9*

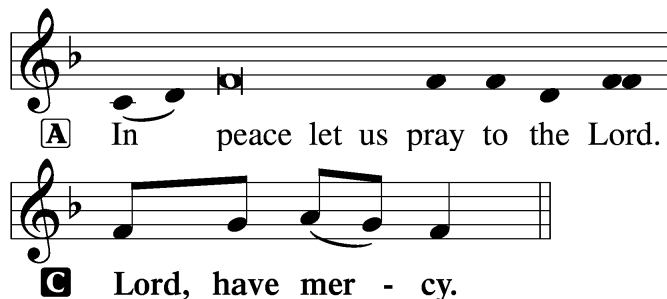
Kneel or sit forward. Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then 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. *Luke 18:13-14*
- 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. *Matthew 16:19; John 20:19-23*
- C** Amen.

Stand.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47; Luke 18:13; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1

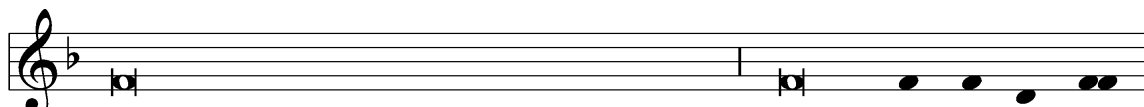


A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

When the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this:
"I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also..."

Martin Luther



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



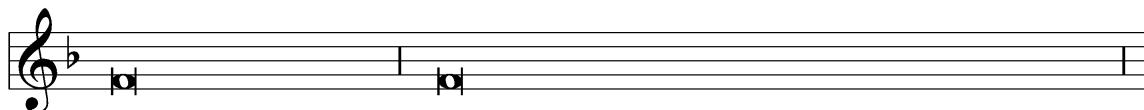
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



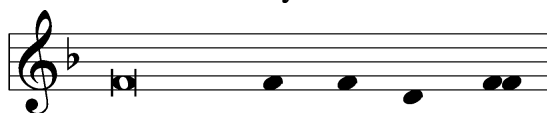
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



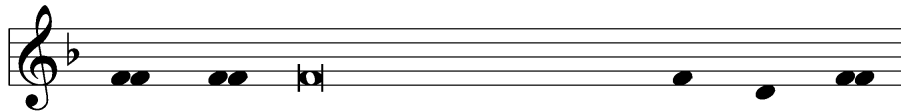
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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




C A - men.


THIS IS THE FEAST

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9


Refrain



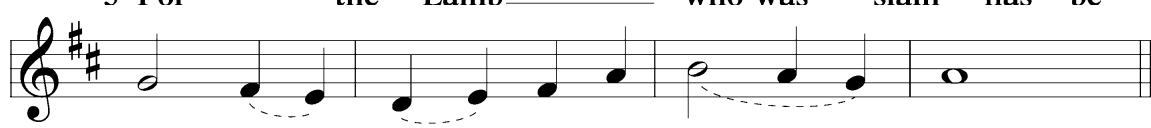
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



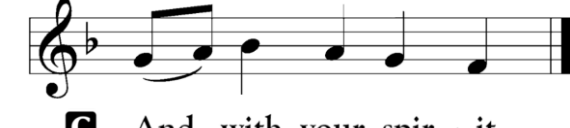
Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22, et.



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

L Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit. All the candidates for membership and new members are invited forward to gather at the baptismal font.

RITE OF WELCOME FOR NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES

P Beloved in the Lord, today we joyfully give thanks to God for the gift and witness of these individuals who God has made His own children in Holy Baptism, raised up and brought to this place to take part in the witness of our Lord Jesus Christ in the company of this altar. Let us ask the Lord to continue His good work among us, and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—all the more as we see the Day of Lord Jesus Christ approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

The following New Member Candidates are introduced and presented with a Catechism.

Will Adams
Sarah Buie
Daniel Richard
Nicholas Sbardella

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, by the cross of Jesus Christ you have opened the door to heaven and made us heirs of life everlasting. We ask you to bless Your church by surrounding these children of Yours with special care and building them up in the same faith that sets each of us securely in a family formed by the saving death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ. Let them find in Your Word the renewing fountain of Your forgiveness and the living water of which Jesus said whoever drinks of it will never thirst. By Your Sacraments, make them living proof of the saving power of Your Gospel that together we may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and be filled with all the fullness of God.

To You who is able to do far more than all we ask or imagine, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 68:6; Ephesians 3:18-19

C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord!

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS BY TRANSFER & PROFESSION OF FAITH

The following members are acknowledged and received into full church membership at Ascension:

Simon Buser
James & Laura Dake
Alice Dollar
Ben Finlay
Paul Fretz
Laura Jordan

Frank & Sandra Moravec
Dan & Cindy Nelson
Caroline Noonan
Gale Perez
Caroline Sbardella

P Dearly Beloved, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R Yes, I do.

P Do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works and all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

*Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

C 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.

*John 3:16; Romans 10:9
Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35
Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:23-25
Matthew 27:26; John 19:1-3
Mark 15:25; John 19:30; Luke 23:53
Acts 2:24; 1 Peter 3:19*

The third day He rose again from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6

He ascended into heaven

Acts 1:9

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

Acts 7:55

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Acts 10:42; Matt. 26:64

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

*John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:1-6; 15-16; Revelation 7:9-17
Luke 24:46-48; Acts 13:38; Col. 1:14; 1 John 1:7
John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:35-49; 1 Thess. 4:13-18
Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*

- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?
- R** *I will, with the help of God.*

Each of the new members is greeted by name, and all are welcomed and blessed by the congregation:

- A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you members of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brothers and sisters in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- C** **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

All Stand.

- P** Let us pray,
Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these sons and daughters of Yours into the fellowship of this congregation where, together, we may continue steadfast in the one true faith. Grant that, by Your Word and Sacrament, we may be one in Jesus, a living sacrifice of service and praise, ever bearing witness to His love, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The grace of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
- C** **Amen.**

...Around the Word...

FIRST READING

REVELATION 14:6-7

A The First Reading is from Revelation, the fourteenth chapter.

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice,

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

CHANCEL CHOIR

Lay up Your Treasures in Heaven

Pepper Choplin; Matthew 6:19-34

EPISTLE

ROMANS 3:19-28

A The Epistle Reading is from Romans, the third chapter.

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a

gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68



C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:12-19

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their

playmates,” ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit. The pastor may invite the children forward for a children's message.

Man finds it hard to get what he wants because he does not want what is best; God finds it hard to give [to man] because He would give the best, and man will not take it.

George MacDonald

3000 Quotations from the Writing of George MacDonald, p.116, edited by Henry Verploeght

HYMN OF THE DAY

578 Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

SERMON

Stand.

SUPPLICATION OF THE FAITHFUL

Ephesians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:26

- P** Heavenly Father, strengthen us, your unworthy servants, for Your service with the power of Your Holy Spirit.
- C** Now let us, the faithful, proclaim the death of the Lord, confess His resurrection, and await His coming with joy. Amen

...And Blessed

OFFERING

*Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates as the ushers pass by.
Take a moment to sign and pass along the red books found at the end of each pew.*

954 We All Believe in One True God

We all believe in one true God,
Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love
Has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us;
All we need His hand provides us;
Through all snares and perils leads us,
Watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us by day and night;
All things are governed by His might.

We all believe in Jesus Christ,
His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might,
Source of ev'ry grace and blessing;
Born of Mary, virgin mother,
By the power of the Spirit,
Word made flesh, our elder brother;
That the lost might life inherit,
Was crucified for all our sin
And raised by God to life again.

We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who, in highest heaven dwelling
With God the Father and the Son,
Comforts us beyond all telling;
Who the Church, His own creation,
Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation
Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be
In bliss with God eternally.
Amen. Amen.

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is joyfully received here today! Since this meal unites us by faith in the Word of God, we ask all Christians who wish to commune to prepare their hearts. Holy Communion is for all who:

- Have been baptized and confirmed, publicly confessing this sacred gift and its blessings.*
- Believe Jesus' words that the bread and wine are, in fact, His own body and blood, given and shed for you.*
- Come to receive the assurance of forgiveness, healing from doubt and shame, God's gift of a holy life and reconciliation through Jesus.*

Those who are not prepared to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing at God's altar. Please fold your hands over your heart during the distribution of the sacrament and join in our prayers for God to unite all people and unite all divisions in the Faithful Love of Christ according to His Word.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- L** That we may love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind, and that we may love our neighbor as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- L** For all Christians and saints who bear the Gospel, that they would be preserved holy and righteous, blameless, ever turning to Christ and so free from all error or deceit; and for all who hear, that the Gospel would work life and salvation in them, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- L** For parents, that God would strengthen them to recount His wondrous deeds to their children to the thanks and praise of His goodness, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who suffer, that they may find in Jesus their Stronghold, that His joy in enduring the cross and despising its shame would comfort and preserve them in the joy of His salvation until His deliverance comes. We pray especially for...

our members:

Kate Mervine
Al Schmidt
Ruth Pilsbury
Louise Nordman
Cissi Burtner
Brittany Hatfield
Hazel Peek
Sharon Gugel
Elaine Elston

those at home:

Betty Treat
Helen Gounis
Mary Seiler
Jackie Elam
Bob & Louise
Nordman

Ann Weers
Mary Keefauver
Doris Falconieri
Karen Priebe
John Lindgren

those dear to us:

David Scripture
Kathy Morris
Gina Moravec
Mary Jacob
Betty Simmons
Megan Ivester
Beehler Family
Maureen Valentine
John McCurdy
Rita Latham
Bob Dollar

Jackson Buser
Jeanne Henry
MaryAnne Miller
Marti & Jim Sonderberg
Terri Johnson
Jyl Acker
Ramey Burch
Jannis Thomas
Hermione Moul
Carol Chapman
Elizabeth Marciniak
Ron Meyer
Gloria Bueschel
Moul Family
Bob Miller
Lewiston, Maine victims

- let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all those suffering in conflicts around the world, including the war in Israel and Gaza, the war in Ukraine, and the violence in Haiti and Afghanistan and in our own land, that the Lord who does not look away from the pain in this world, might restore hope and bring relief to all the suffering, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For grace to constantly give thanks for one another as precious holy gifts of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who came to forgive our sins and teach us to love one another as He loves the church. In that love, we celebrate with our brothers and sisters, including:

our family birthdays:

Karin Koening

David Rogers

Evelyn Drotleff

Pat Zacharczyp

Rick Burtner

Bryce Greeley

Alexandra Homan

Tom Bixby

Teresa Ray

let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- L** O Lord, heavenly Father, at your gracious invitation, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation and rejoice in His victorious resurrection from the dead and ascension to Your right hand, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Even as you gather us to Your table, so gather us all from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us share His peace with one another.

Greet one another in the Lord's name saying, "Peace be with you!"

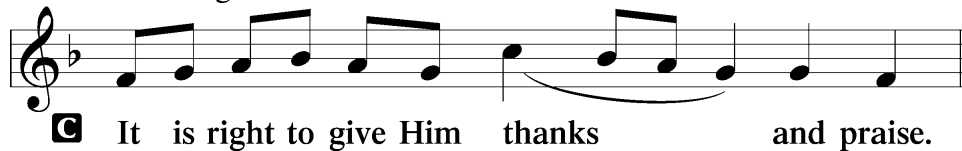
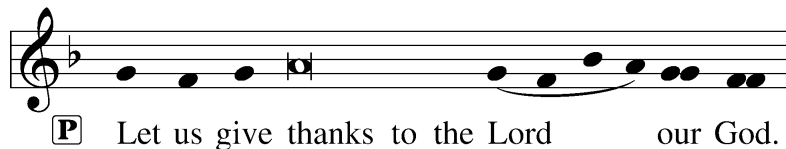
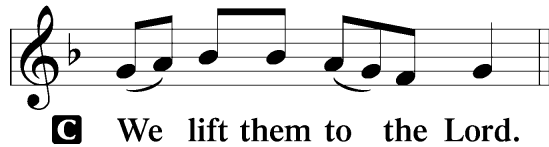
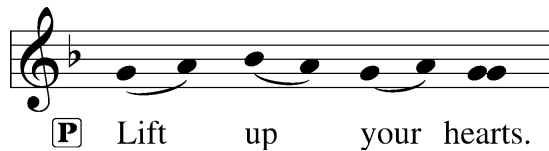
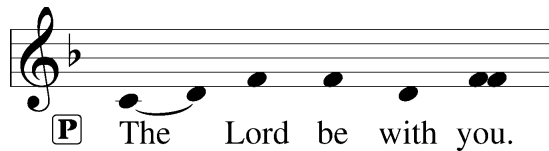
Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,
His people to deliver;
Destroying sin, He took the crown
From death's pale brow forever:
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia!

Martin Luther

Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursèd tree—
So strong His love—to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Alleluia!

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136



P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Ephesians 1:7

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

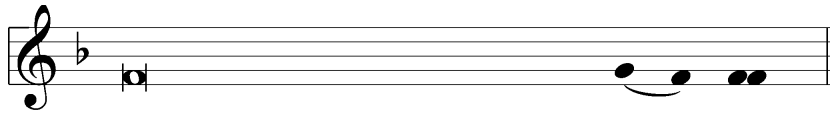
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- 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."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29; Revelation 5:6, 12



A 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.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling
stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand. | 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to
vanquish
As the darkness clears away. |
| 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food. | 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!" |

801 How Great Thou Art

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; *Refrain*

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

- 3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain*

960 Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old

Chancel Choir

Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old,
The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
Above the throne were flaming seraphim;

Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight,
And with the other two aloft they soared;
One to the other called and praised the Lord:

All Stand.



☐ Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!
Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!
Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!
His glory fills the heavens and the earth!"

The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

Sit.

762 There Is a Time for Everything

- 1 There is a time for ev'rything,
A time for all that life may bring:
A time to plant, a time to reap,
A time to laugh, a time to weep,
A time to heal, a time to slay,
A time to build where rubble lay,
A time to die, a time to mourn,
A time for joy and to be born,
- 2 A time to hold, then be alone,
A time to gather scattered stone,
A time to break, a time to mend,
A time to search and then to end,
A time to keep, then throw away,
A time to speak, then nothing say,
A time for war till hatreds cease,
A time for love, a time for peace.
- 3 Eternal Lord, Your wisdom sees
And fathoms all life's tragedies;
You know our grief, You hear our sighs—
In mercy, dry our tear-stained eyes.
From evil times, You bring great good;
Beneath the cross, we've safely stood.
Though dimly now life's path we trace,
One day we shall see face to face.
- △ 4 Before all time had yet begun,
You, Father, planned to give Your Son;
Lord Jesus Christ, with timeless grace,
You have redeemed our time-bound race;
O Holy Spirit, Paraclete,
Your timely work in us complete;
Blest Trinity, Your praise we sing—
There is a time for ev'rything!

Stand.

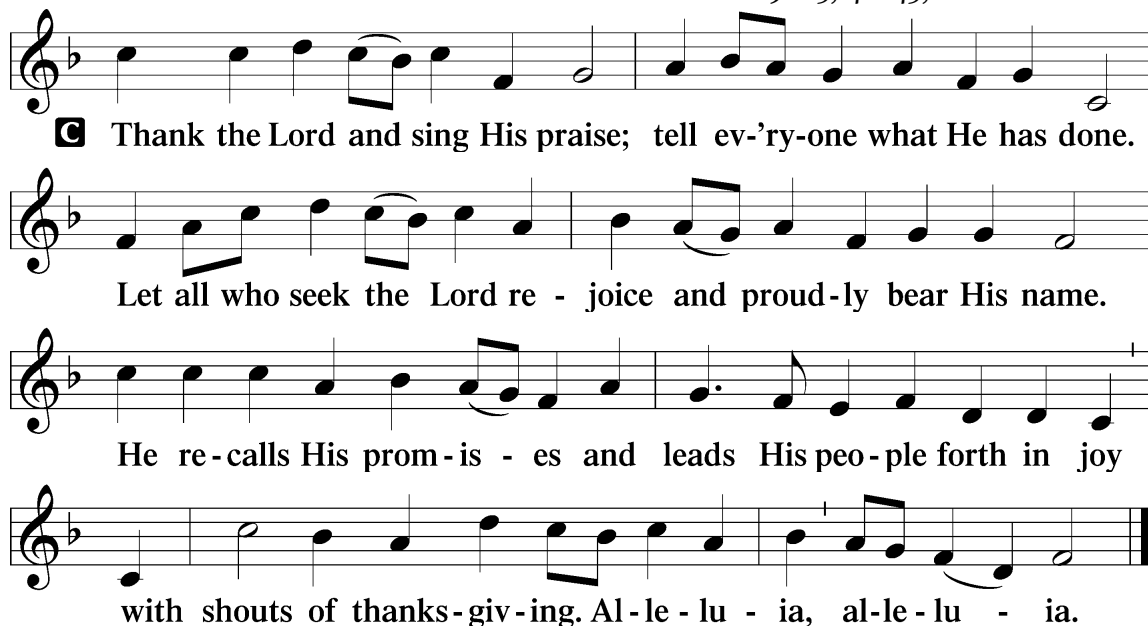
DISMISSAL

Isaiah 41:10; Romans 5:9-10; Hebrews 9:14; 10:19

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Thank the Lord

Psalms 105:1-3, 42-43; 1 Chronicles 16:8-10



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Isaiah 40:31; John 15:7-11; Romans 15:13

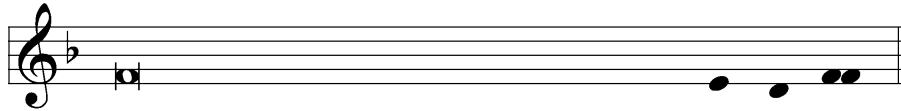
P Let us pray.

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.



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.



"The highest of all God's commands is this, that we ever hold up before our eyes the image of his dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ... Do not let this mirror and throne of grace be torn away from before your eyes."

Martin Luther

DEPARTING HYMN

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

The altar flowers are given today in loving memory of founding pastor, Leslie F. Frerking and wife and co-worker, Katherine Drumm Frerking by John and Eileen Frerking. Coming to the southeast as a missionary-at-large following graduation in 1930 from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (at the height of the depression) he surveyed North and South Carolina and northern Georgia and established many missions. Ascension was one of them, and he served as pastor at Ascension for 42 years, retiring in 1972. Missionary-Pastor-Churchman, and great parents.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Joyful, Joyful: The Concordia Hymn Prelude Series General V. 27, Edited by Herbert Gotsch, copyright 1984 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri

Children/Youth Sunday School

10am-10:45am

Toddlers (2 years old)	Nurse	Stacey Fernandez, Kim Strout
Preschool-Kindergarten	Rm. 111	Carolyn Robinette, Lisa Wyatt
Grades 1-2	Rm. 107	Kathy Hudspeth
Grades 3-5	Rm. 105	Julie Conlin, Tessa Newberg
Confirmation	Rm. 209	Ardith Hertzog, Pastor Newberg
High School	Rm. 201	Youth Team

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies

10am-10:45am

Living the Lessons	Luther Hall - Pr. Tim Fangmeier & Team
Love Stories of the Bible	Ed. Bldg. Rm. 205 Melanie Broome

IN HIS SERVICE

Ascension Soup Kitchen: served lunch to 100 guests this Tuesday.

Ascension Food Pantry: distributed one week of groceries to 38 families – 88 family members on 10/20 & 10/23.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Ascension Soup Kitchen

The soup kitchen furnishes a hot, well-balanced and fresh lunch every Tuesday from 11am-12:00pm. Everyone is welcome! No ID or referral needed. Currently service is to-go for pick-up in the parking lot.

Ascension Food Pantry

The food pantry distributes a week's worth of healthy groceries to individuals with a Loaves and Fishes referral, Mondays and Fridays, 11am-1:30pm. *In need of a referral?* Call the church office at 704-372-7317. Anyone in need will be eligible for up to 12 weeks of groceries per year.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Steven Newberg
Director of Music Ministry: Stephanie Knott
Worship Leaders: Ed Sielsky/Jim Aydelott
Communion Assistants: Tim Dienes, Robin Domeier/Jeff Miller, Paul Spokas
Crucifers: Quinn Schultz/Landen Meier
Acolytes: Allie Homan, Michael Homan/Nicolas Delozier, Jonah Meier
Altar Guild: Kim Cates, Marlys Sielsky, Barbara Suddreth, Janie Swenson, Lindsay Tinkelenberg

Readers: Heather Eckert/Allison Pence
Greeters: John Henry, Paula Henry/Luellen Stine
Ushers: Dewey Bryson, Phil Edwards, Dave Rogers/Austin Lowrey, Steve Sauer
Sound & Video: Darren Seigler
Musicians: Emilie Bova, Christian Broome, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome!

WORSHIP BROADCAST

Sunday Divine Services are broadcast
live on the Internet at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

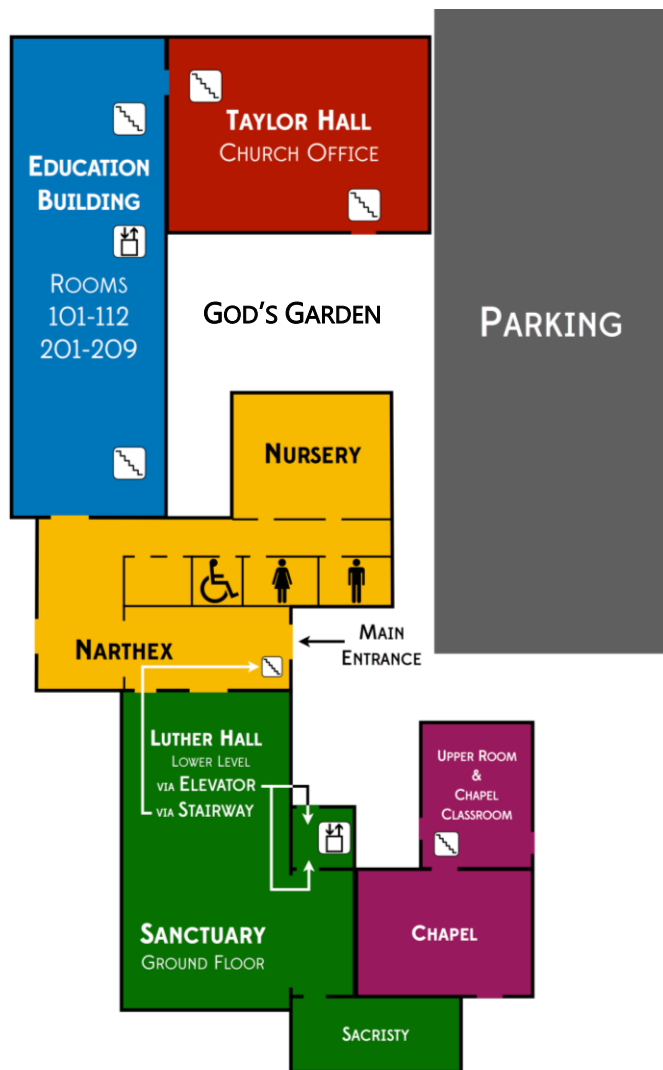
Find out the way we receive the
Christian Faith in the Lutheran
tradition each week.



ALCcharlotte



ascensioncharlotte



RESTROOMS are located down the hallway at the back of the narthex.



A NURSERY for children age 3 and under is located across the hallway from the restrooms. The worship service can be seen and heard from the nursery. A baby-changing table is available in the accessible restroom.



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES are available for check-out from the sound booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

THOSE IN CRITICAL NEED

Members needing financial or physical assistance, please contact pastor for application to the crisis fund or access to folks eager to lend a helping hand.