



ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

*Divine Service*  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Friends of God,*

Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans;  
I will come to you. Alleluia

John 14:18

*Christ has risen from the  
dead. God the Father  
has crowned him with  
glory and honor,  
He has given him  
dominion over the  
works of his hands; he  
has put all things under  
his feet.*

Gradual

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Throughout Easter's fifty days the paschal candle stands, prominent and lofty, in the middle of the eucharistic hall. As the center pole of the new creation, the candle is Christ, the Alpha and the Omega of all times and ages. Five wax nails are inserted into the candle to signify the wounds Jesus received in His hands, feet and side when he was crucified...these wounds do not vanish, they remain with Jesus Who is always showing them to His disciples. "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself!" (Luke 24:39). ...It is the light of Christ revealing the love of the Father, and the power of the Spirit in whom humanity is born from above.

Patrick Regan

"The Candle" An Easter Sourcebook, p. 69

MAY 17, 2026 ✠ 8:30 AM & 11 AM

## 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.

**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 reminders 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.

**Rainbow Activity Bags are available at the Usher Table for children five and under.**

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 worshipping 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.



## ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

Our greatest desire is to share in the blessing of the Lord's Supper with you! Since this meal unites us spiritually by faith in the Word of God, we ask that you come having prepared your heart. Please read the following questions. If your answer to each is "Yes" then joyfully receive the Lord's gift in His Sacrament.

- Do you come to the Lord's Table for assurance of forgiveness, healing from doubt and shame, and to receive God's gift of a holy life and reconciliation through Jesus?
- Have you been baptized and instructed in the sacrament so that you come to confess the holy, catholic and apostolic faith along with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?
- Do you believe Jesus' words, that the bread and the wine are, in fact, His own body and blood, given and shed for you?

We invite all those who are not prepared to commune to join our study of God's Word and to speak to our pastor for direction. In the meantime, we invite you to receive a blessing at God's altar this morning. Please fold your hands over your heart during the distribution of the sacrament and join in our prayers for God restore us through repentance, to unity and holiness in Christ alone.

**The "white" individual cups at the center of each tray are alcohol-free.  
For gluten-free communion, please ask the pastor prior to the service.**

# Gathered Together...

## PRELUDE

HANDBELL CHOIR

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Here I Am to Worship**

McChesney  
Bettcher

## EASTER GREETING

Luke 24:6-7; Romans 6:9

*Stand.*

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Greet one another with the Easter Blessing. Say "Christ is Risen!" and reply, "He is risen indeed!"*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

Psalm 57:9; 100:4-5

*Please stand. Turn and face the cross in procession.*

### 664 Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your  
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your  
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less  
4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and  
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -  
mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing  
not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.  
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

## 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.

*The 11:00am service continues on page 7 with Confession and Absolution.*

# Holy Baptism

+ Cameron Arlene Phillips +

Born: March 17, 2026

Mr. & Mrs. Blake & Drianna Phillips, parents

Megan Fyffe, Kiersten Peterson, Matt Wright, sponsors

**P** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**The pastor addresses each candidate:**

- P** What name have you given your child?  
**R** *Cameron Arlene Phillips.*  
**P** What do you ask for your child?  
**R** *Baptism into Christ.*

**The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:**

**P** Cameron, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Cameron according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her which has been inherited from Adam and which she herself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Megan, Matt, is it your intention to serve Cameron, together with Kiersten, as sponsors in the Christian faith?

**R** *Yes, with the help of God.*

**P** God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C** Amen.

**Stand.**

**P** Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to Jesus that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them. *Mark 10:13-16*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**All place their hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying the Lord's Prayer:**

**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.

**P** The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even  
✠ forevermore.

**C** Amen.

**Sit.**



When mothers pray, hell trembles. The most dangerous person on earth is a praying mother. Her children become flaming torches in God's hands.

**St. Paisios<sup>†</sup>**

*The pastor addresses the following questions to the candidate's family, sponsors and congregation:*

- P** Do you renounce the devil?  
**R** *Yes, I renounce him.*
- P** Do you renounce all his works?  
**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you renounce all his ways?  
**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?  
**C** **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?  
**C** **Yes, I believe 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.**
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?  
**C** **Yes, 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.**

*The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:*

- P** Cameron Arlene Phillips, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:*

- P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.  
**C** **Amen.**

*A baptismal candle is kindled from the paschal candle and given to the newly baptized.*

- P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.
- L** Cameron, in Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and filled you with His Holy Spirit, to receive and share the gifts of His Kingdom so that together we might hear and declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- C** **Amen. We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you in Jesus' name, into His new life as our sister in Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the Kingdom of God.**

*Stand.*

**P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Cameron Arlene the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom.

Look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them.

Hear the prayers of this congregation for Cameron, that You would keep her in her baptismal grace, so that, according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you. Peace be with you.

**C** Amen.

*All return to their seats.*

*The 8:30am service continues with the Introit on the next page.*

## CONFESSION & 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.**

*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.**

**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.

*Stand.*

# INTROIT

Psalm 100:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 101:1



*Pastor sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.*

I will sing of steadfast love and | justice,\*  
to you, O LORD, I will make | music.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, |  
all the earth!\*

Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with |  
singing!

Know that the LORD, | he is God!\*

It is he who made us, and we are  
his;  
we are his people, and the sheep  
of his | pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his | courts with praise!\*

I will sing of steadfast love and | justice,\*  
to you, O LORD, I will make | music.

Give thanks to him; | bless his  
name!

For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures for- |  
ever,\*  
and his faithfulness to all gener- |  
ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the  
Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. |  
Amen.

# KYRIE

Mark 10:47

*Refrain*

*"Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison" means "Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy."*



Lord Jesus, You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom. **Refrain**


You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. **Refrain**

You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. **Refrain**

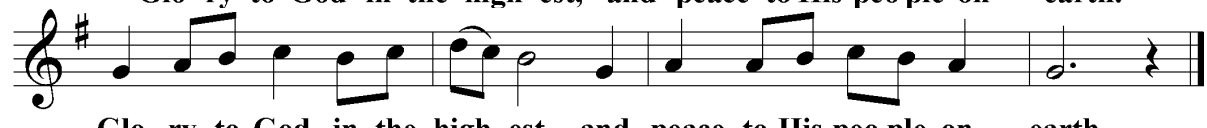
# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LUKE 2:14; JOHN 1:29


*Refrain*




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.




1. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fath-er, we




wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry. *Refrain*




2. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fath-er, Lord God, Lamb of God,




You take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us;



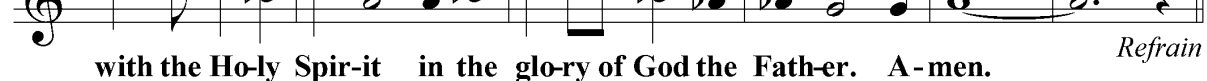
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fath-er: re-ceive our prayer. *Refrain*



3. For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord.



You a-lone are the Most High Je-sus Christ,



with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fath-er. A-men. *Refrain*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# ...Around the Word...

## FIRST READING

ACTS 1:12-26

**A** The First Reading is from Acts, the first chapter.

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And 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. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "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. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (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. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field

was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "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."

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning 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." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And 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

1 PETER 4:12-19; 5:6-11

**A** The Epistle is from First Peter, the fourth and fifth chapters.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name

of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For 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? And

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

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

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all

your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And 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. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand.*

## GOSPEL VERSE

*John 6:68*

*The assembly sings the refrain twice.*

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

*JOHN 17:1-11*

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

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

When 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, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

“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. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For 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. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And 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. The children may be invited forward for a children’s message.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## 539 Christ Is the World's Redeemer



1 Christ is the world's Re - deem - er, The lov - er of the pure,  
2 Christ has our host sur - round - ed With clouds of mar - tyrs bright,  
3 Down through the realm of dark - ness He strode in vic - to - ry,  
△ 4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, The un - be - got - ten One,



The font of heav'n-ly wis - dom, Our trust and hope se - cure,  
Who wave their palms in tri - umph And fire us for the fight.  
And at the hour ap - point - ed He rose tri - um - phant-ly.  
All hon - or be to Je - sus, His sole - be - got - ten Son,



The ar - mor of His sol - diers, The Lord of earth and sky,  
Then Christ the cross as - cend - ed To save a world un - done  
And now, to heav'n as - cend - ed, He sits up - on the throne  
And to the Ho - ly Spir - it— The per - fect Trin - i - ty.



Our health while we are liv - ing, Our life when we shall die.  
And, suf - f'ring for the sin - ful, Our full re - demp - tion won.  
Whence He had ne'er de - part - ed, His Fa - ther's and His own.  
Let all the worlds give an - swer: A - men! So let it be.

## SERMON

11:00am CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Easton Drotleff*

## 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.

*The 8:30am service continues on page 15 with preparation for the Sacrament.*

*Candidates for confirmation are gathered to the font.*

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible. *Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy. 6:4*  
*Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3*  
*Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*  
*Colossians 1:16*

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. *Romans 10:9*  
*John 3:16; Matthew 16:16*  
*John 1:2*  
*John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1*  
*Colossians 2:9*  
*John 1:2*  
*John 10:30*  
*Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3*  
*1 Timothy 2:4p Romans 3:23*  
*John 4:41; Luke 15:20*  
*Luke 1:34-35*  
*John 1:14*  
*Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18*  
*John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53*  
He suffered and was buried. *1 Cor. 15:4*  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Acts 1:9*  
*Acts 7:55*  
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64*  
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12*  
whose kingdom will have no end. *2 Peter 1:11*

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, *John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38*  
*Genesis 1:2; 1 John 3:6*  
*John 15:26*  
who spoke by the prophets. *Lk 2:14*  
*Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21*

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *1 Pt 2:5; Eph. 2:19ff*  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Eph. 4:5; Acts 2:38*  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *1 Cor. 15:35-49; 1 Thess. 4:13-18*  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. *Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*  
Amen. *Psalms 106:48*

**Us men means all people.**  
**Christian: the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole**  
**Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.**

# Rite of Confirmation

+ Easton Stephan Drotleff +

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

**P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord’s bidding. Jesus said, “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.

*The candidates are addressed.*

**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 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** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord’s Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sponsors of each candidate are invited to stand. The candidates are asked to kneel. The pastor places his hands on their heads, declares God's Word, and anoints their forehead with the sign of the cross.*

**P** Easton, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C** Amen.



And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

... *And Blessed*

*All those wishing to commune should examine themselves, as in the following prayer:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, You call to Yourself all those who labor and are heavy burdened, to refresh them and to give rest to their souls. Dear Lord, I pray, let me also experience Your love at the heavenly feast, which You have prepared for Your children on earth. Rescue me here from impenitence and unbelief, so that I do not receive the Sacrament to my damnation. Remove the spotted garment of my flesh and my own righteousness and adorn me with the garment earned by Your blood. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and hereafter make me to sit at Your heavenly table, where You give me to eat of the eternal manna and to drink of the river of Your pleasures. Hear me for Your own sake. Amen.*

## OFFERING & VOLUNTARY

*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.*

## OFFERTORY

*All stand as the congregation's offerings are brought forward to the altar.*

### 774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

Feed Thy chil-dren, God most ho - ly; Com - fort sin - ners  
poor and low - ly. O Thou Bread of Life from heav-en, Bless the  
food Thou here hast giv - en! As these gifts the bod-y nour - ish,  
May our souls in grac - es flour - ish Till with saints in  
heav'n - ly splen - dor At Thy feast due thanks we ren - der.

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For true humility after the likeness of Christ, that we would never be arrogant or prideful and thus provoke God's wrath, but in all lowliness be made partakers of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For pastors, that they may faithfully lead their flocks, proclaim the Law and Gospel for the good of God's people, and be shielded from the assaults of the devil, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For parents, that they may bring up their children to resist temptation and endure all for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the Sunday School teachers and volunteers of Ascension, that they would be blessed and strengthened through Your word, encouraged to continue their work, and equipped to raise up the next generation of Sunday School leaders, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and those in any need, that the dawning light of the new creation in Christ would sustain them in faith; and that, according to God's will, they would be granted renewed health as a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him. We pray especially for...

*our members*

**Hanna** Bennes  
**John** Henry  
**Janice** Edwards  
**Jasmine** Timm  
**James** Dake  
**Peri** Hertzog  
**Tony** Byrum  
**Cissi** Burtner  
**Elaine** Elston

*those at home:*

**Janet** Miller  
**Lauri** MacDonald  
**Lila** Thompson  
**Doris** Falconieri  
**Jackie** Elam  
**Tom** Hagen  
**Karen** Priebe  
**Roy & Sharon** Gugel  
**Mary** Keefauver

**Helen** Gounis  
**Louise** Nordman

*those dear to us:*

**Lydia** Slater  
**Levi** Harris  
**Pat** Kane  
**Al** Nicholas  
**Hermione** Moul  
**Cassandra** Shropshire

and rejoice with...

*our family birthdays:*

**Josie** Baker  
**Stacey** Fernandez  
**Emarie** Delozier  
**Gary** Morton

**Taylor** Beard  
**Tamra** Greeley  
**Mia** Wall  
**Marissa** Onsager  
**Bristol** Carico

*praise & thanksgiving:*

**Sunday School**  
**teachers & volunteers**  
of Ascension

- let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For faith to recognize the body and blood of our Lord Jesus and to receive this blessed food in the Holy Communion; and for guidance to live faithfully here on earth until we live with Him eternally, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who grieve, that Christ would comfort them with the promise that He loves them with an everlasting love and will raise His people to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**L** Lord God, heavenly Father, inasmuch as the adversary continually afflicts us and as a roaring lion walks about, seeking to devour us: We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy may not prevail over us, but that we may evermore abide in Your grace and be preserved unto everlasting life; 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.**

## PREFACE

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

**P** The Lord be with you. **C:** And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of Your glo- ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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 OUR LORD

*Matt 26:26f; Mk 14:22f; Lk 22:19f; 1 Cor 11:23f*

- 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29; Revelation 5:6, 12*

1. 2. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the  
world: have mer - cy on us.

3. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the  
world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received  
Him  
When the forty days were o’er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise:  
“I am with you evermore”?

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary,  
Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your  
throne.  
As within the veil You entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both priest and victim  
In the eucharistic feast.

### 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,  
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
Come into the daylight’s splendor,  
There with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded  
This amazing banquet founded;  
He, though heav’nly, high, and holy,  
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,  
And with loving rev’rence greet Him.  
For with words of life immortal  
He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before Him,  
Saying, as you there adore Him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,  
That I nevermore will leave You.

3 He who craves a precious treasure  
Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
But the priceless gifts of heaven  
God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
None could buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ’s true body, for you riven,  
And His blood, for you once given.

4 Now in faith I humbly ponder  
Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless  
Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ’s own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation,  
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave  
You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most  
tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from  
heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with  
thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep love's  
treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give  
me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

### 653 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
In Him no south or north,  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

2 With God there is no tribe or race;  
In Him we all are one.  
He loves us as His children through  
Our faith in His dear Son.

3 So, brothers, sisters, praise His name  
Who died to set us free  
From sin, division, hate, and shame,  
From spite and enmity!

4 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
Whate'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

5 In Christ now meet both east and west;  
In Him meet south and north.  
All Christian souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

*After communing it is right to quietly give thanks, as in the following prayer:*

*Merciful Redeemer, You have raised me up to partake at Your table with those who witnessed Your death upon the cross and beheld Your glorious resurrection. Let Your body and Your blood, which You have given to me in the bread and the cup, preserve me from all fear, for You have breathed on me Your peace and the forgiveness of all my sins. Let these gifts work in me true faith that overcomes unbelief and doubt, and the fullness of wisdom that conquers temptation and evil desires according to Your Word, for love unfeigned and for the observing of Your commandments.*

*Show me to be where Your Holy Spirit comes to dwell, and where sin is ever cast out so that, together with these beloved brothers and sisters, I may dwell in Your Kingdom and in holiness, always remembering Your grace and living no longer for myself, but for You, my Lord. So may I share the bread of life with my neighbors and be ever glad, even to depart this life, confident in Your promised rest and the delight of beholding Your beauty forever, to Whom is all power and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

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.

## POST-COMMUNION LITANY

*Psalm 107:1*

**L** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** for His mercy endures forever.

**L** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through 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 Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 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.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ASCENSION

*We thank God for all Sunday School teachers and volunteers who have served in our Christian Education ministries this past year:*

Cradle Roll (birth – 3 years): Sandra T.

Nursery Team: Stacey – Coordinator; Kelley, Heather E., Debbie, Megan, Karin, Tracie, Kaylee, Olivia W., & Lisa W.

Sunday School (3 years – grade 5): Jasmine – Superintendent; Teachers: Sarah B., Julie C., Richard, Michael I., & Tessa;

Craft Team: Kim C., Alice, Richard, Natalie H., Carmin, & Olivia W.

Middle & High School Youth Leaders: Natalie B. & Victoria

Confirmation (grades 6-8): Pastor Steve, Vicar Andrew, & Ardith

High School Sunday School: Vicar Andrew, Natalie B., & Victoria

Adult Education Planning Team: Kenda, Crispin, & Bruce

Sunday morning Adult Class facilitators: Kenda, Marlis, & Bruce

Friday morning Lectio Divina: Carmin

Christian Education Director: Sandra Moravec

*We have been blessed by so many willing to share their time to nurture and strengthen the faith of our members and visitors!*

*Thanks be to God for their faithfulness!*

*Special thanks to Pastor Steve and Vicar Andrew for their service, leadership, and guidance in all these areas throughout the year!*

## DEPARTING HYMN

### 564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,  
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,  
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half  
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—  
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:  
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,  
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,  
"A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,  
To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;  
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."  
"A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."  
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.  
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,  
Washed in that precious flood  
And enter the Most Holy Place  
By Jesus' blood.  
From hearts that are sincere,  
Let tongues our hope profess,  
And trust anew God's faithful grace  
That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,  
Our Lord who intercedes,  
Our great High Priest enthroned above  
Who knows our needs;  
And to the Father sing  
Our songs of thankful praise,  
Who with the Spirit reigns in love  
For endless days.

## POSTLUDE

*Altar flowers are given today by Louise Nordman  
in loving memory of Bob Nordman.*

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Pastor:** Rev. Steven Newberg

**Assistant:** Vicar Andrew Borseth

**Guest Organist:** Edy Yon

**Worship Assistants:** Paula Henry/Romain Bell

**Communion Assistants:** John Henry/Kate Mervine

**Crucifers:** Michael Homan/August Newberg

**Acolytes:** Allie Homan, Andrew Homan/Dietrich Newberg, Frederick Newberg

**Altar Guild:** Kim Cates, Kate Duncan, Shawna Knutson, Marlys Sielsky, Barbara Suddreth, Emily Tweel

**Readers:** Robin Domeier/Bristol Carico

**Greeters:** Frank Moravec, Sandra Moravec/Sandra Talbert

**Ushers:** Nate Brinkley, David Ellison, Tim Friemark, Ed Sielsky/Vince Cook, Dan Nelson

**Sound & Video:** Branden Korzeniowski/John Tinkelenberg

**Musicians:** Eric Hauck, Handbell Choir

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book & Mass of Remembrance, Marty Haugen, GIA, 2011  
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Quoted in *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, CPH †Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder ‡ from Weedon, *Celebrating the Saints*  
¹quoted in *Food for the Soul* ²quoted in *LSB Companion to the Services*. ³ dailyoffice.org

### ASCENSION SOUP KITCHEN

**Served lunch to 110 guests this Tuesday.**

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

**Soli Deo Gloria!**

### ASCENSION FOOD PANTRY

**Distributed one week of groceries to 35 families,  
77 family members on 5/8 & 5/11.**

The food pantry distributes a week's worth of healthy groceries to individuals with a Nourish Up 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.

**Soli Deo Gloria!**

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1225 E. Morehead  
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[www.ascensioncharlotte.org](http://www.ascensioncharlotte.org)

# Welcome!

## WORSHIP BROADCAST

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

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

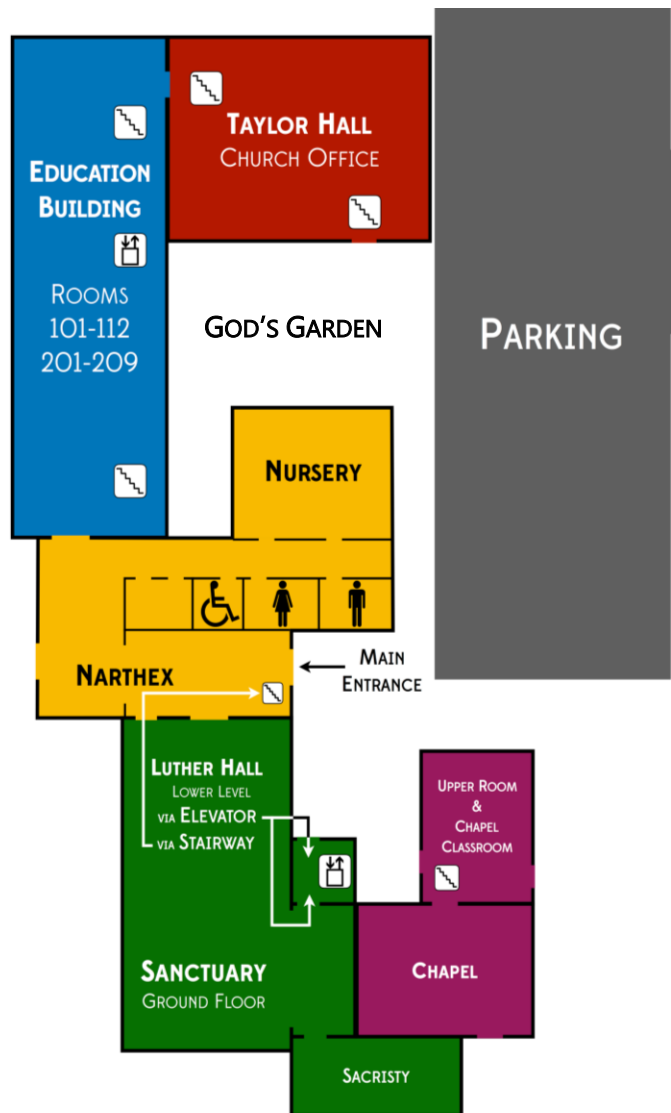
Every Tuesday, 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.  
Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

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



ALCcharlotte



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 Nursery and the Family Restroom (accessible).



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.