

"God Sent Me Before You To Preserve Life"

Ascension Lutheran Church

Landover Hills, Md Phone: 301-577-0500

www.alutheranchurch.com



Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

February 23, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

"Nearer, My God, to Thee" Lowell Mason, arr. W. Paul Pulsipher

(Stand) Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Sit/kneel)

P: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I announce the forgiveness of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(Stand) **Greeting**

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.
- P: In the beginning was the Word,
- C: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- P: In the Word was life,
- C: And the life was the light of all people.
- P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,
- C: And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Gathering Hymn

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

ELW768 "Text and Tune: Doris Akers; © 1953 Doris Akers Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A-722315. All rights reserved."

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;

For if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

- I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
 To help me over my weakest hour.
 Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.
- 2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.
- 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see.
 Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) The First Lesson

Genesis 45:3-15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

R: The Word of the Lord.C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . . ³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

R: The Word of the Lord.C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand) Alleluia Verse

"Alleluia"





The Gospel Lesson

Luke 6.27-38

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

R: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit) Sermon

(Stand) **Hymn**ELW 603

"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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- 1. God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.
- 2. Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.
- 3. You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.
- 4. Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.
 Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.
- 5. Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning:
 God, encourage and renew!

The Nicene Creed:

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,

Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Kneel/Sit) Prayers

ELW 691

"Accept O Lord, The Gifts We Bring"

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957; © 1990 Augsburg Fortress Music: English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A-722315. All rights reserved





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

(After each portion of the prayers:)

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

C: Amen.

(Stand) Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

All may greet one another with a sign of peace.

"Peace be with you"... "God bless you"... "God loves you"

(Sit) The Gathering of Gifts

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

(Stand) **Presenting Our Gifts** "Give Thanks" TFF292 Text and Tune: Henry Smith; © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A-722315. All rights reserved



Offering PrayerA: Let us pray. God, our Creator,C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

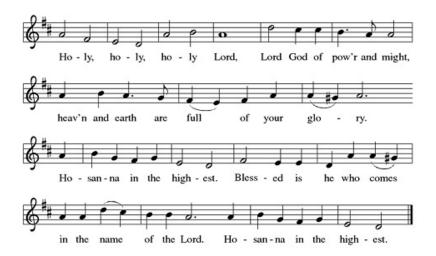
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in His death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: All praise and glory are yours: Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

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

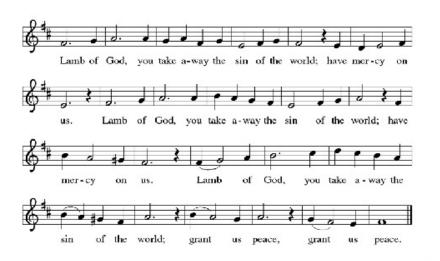
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory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

(Sit) Communion Distribution

now and forever. Amen.

Lutherans believe that in Holy Communion we are offered the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptized adults who share this belief with us are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Children who are members of other congregations who have been baptized and take communion at their church are welcome to commune with us. Others, including children, may come forward to receive a blessing.

Those communing may receive the wafer in their hand and you may receive the wine by individual cup. The ushers will direct you to communion.



"Oh, Freedom"

TFF 208 Text: African American Spiritual Music: Negro Spiritual, arr. by Valeria A. Foster: © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A-722315. All rights reserved

1. Oh, freedom, oh, freedom, oh, freedom over me,

Refrain: and before I'd be a slave,
I'll be buried in my grave,
and go home to my Lord, and be free.

- 2. No more moaning, no more moaning, no more moaning over me, Refrain
- 3. There'll be singing, there'll be singing, there'll be singing over me, *Refrain*

- 4. There'll be shouting, there'll be shouting, there'll be shouting over me, *Refrain*
- 5. There'll be praying, there'll be praying, there'll be praying over me, *Refrain*

ELW 773 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; © 1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation (select catalogs)

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; © 1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation (select catalogs)

Music: George Allen, Thomas Dorsey: © 1938, 1966

Hal Leonard Corporation (select catalogs)

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- Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- 2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- 3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

(Stand) Post Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Song "Praise To You, O God Of Mercy" ELW 208 Text and Tune: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A-722315. All rights reserved

1. Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!

2. From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!

Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Bridge: Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love, rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

3. Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Post Communion Prayer

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW439

"Text and Tune: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945; © 1976

Bud John Songs, Inc,/Crough Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

CCLI License No. 1903112"

- 1. Soon and very soon, we are goin to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah. Hallelujah we're goin' to see the King!
- 2. No more crying' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more crying' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more crying' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah. Hallelujah we're goin' to see the King!
- 3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah. Hallelujah we're goin' to see the King!
- 4. Soon and very soon, we are goin to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah. Hallelujah we're goin' to see the King!

Sending

A: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Organ Postlude

"A Blissful Voluntary on "It Is Well With My Soul" arr. Thomas R. Vozzella

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

PastorJon DiefenthalerAssistantMorris Hymes, Jr.

Musician Ben Harris

MessageAnnette SingletaryReaderMike WalkerGreetersVivian Licorish

Altar Guild Gloria Malachi, Kathy Garrett,

Roberta White, Barbara Thom

Ushers John Corkill, Calvin Lee, Ekanem Ekanem

Counters Dianne Yohe, Harry Sessums

LWML Christian Life Retreat

Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg, VA

September 19-21, 2025

Presenter: Lindsay Hausch Author, Speaker, Pastor's Wife & Mother of 3

More details & registration information will be in the *Chesapeake Breeze*



Acknowledgments

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Prayer List

In order to keep the prayer list current the Board of Elders will edit the list once a month. If you have the name of a loved one that you would like to keep on the prayer list permanently, please contact Marj Nilsson @ 301-442-6253

marjorienilsson@hotmail.com.

Sunday @6

To the Homebound and Sick, we invite you to participate in Sunday @ 6, a weekly worship call. We have prayer, Scripture, a devotion and music. We invite, welcome and encourage you to join us in Christian fellowship every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The call is toll-free:(267) 807-9601

Sunday @ 6

Enter this code:773-431-475 #

For further information, call Alice Gaither at (301) 459-4194!

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study began again on September 1st. All participants are meeting in the music room following service.

We are studying the book of Esther. If you are awaiting a miracle that has not come, feel inadequate, threatened, or pushed into overpowering situations, this is the study for you. We will explore the history of the Persian empire, the diaspora, and the plight of Israel during this period. We will look at other scriptures in both the old and new testaments that support and expand our understanding of Esther's story. We will learn how Esther's story has contemporary applications for our lives today. To include the most people possible, we will be meeting on Sundays when choir is not in rehearsal.

Adult Bible Study Schedule -Esther March 2, 16 April 13; May 4,18; June 1,15



We request your prayers and presence with us for

The Order of Installation.

By the Grace of God,

The Reverend Paul Christian Agne

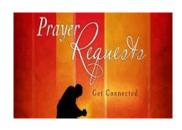
will be installed as the Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church.

The Eighth Sunday after Epiphany, March 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

Ascension Lutheran Church 7415 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784

Reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.

Clergy are invited to vest and process. Red is the color of the day.



Ascension Lutheran Church Prayer Request

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

Thersa Snuggs and family upon the recent passing of Lisa Snuggs, wife of Donald Snuggs

The Ojurongbe /Osho Family, upon the recent passing of Abidemi "Demi" Ojurongbe

Ernestine Hayes, Prayers for healing.

Jannie Goldston, prayers for healing.

Bonnie Garrett, Sister-In-Law, of Rob Garrett, prayers for healing Jenny DeMaio, Prayers for healing.

Marj Nilsson, Prayers for healing.

Calvin Lee, Prayers for healing.

Herman McNeil, Prayers for comfort and healing.

Lois Fulford, Prayers for continued healing.

Zachary Plue, Prayers for continued healing.

Susie Nilsson, Prayers for continued healing.

Joyce Bailey, Prayers for continued healing.

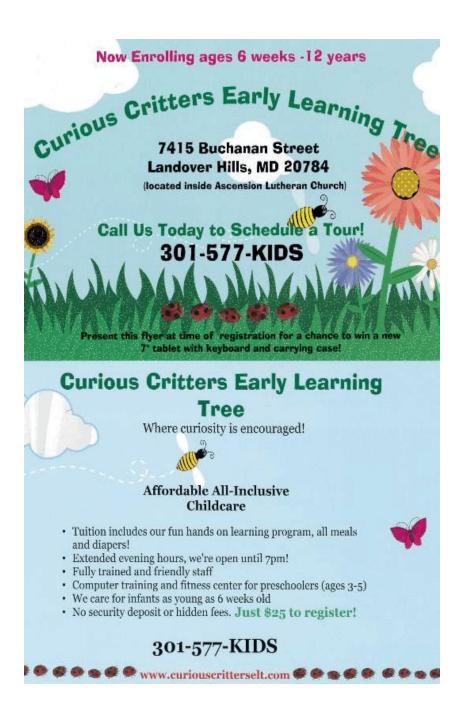
Helen Bell, Prayers for healing

Alice Gaither, Prayers for healing.

Kent & Walt Nilsson, Prayers for improved vision.

Ascension Homebound:

John DellaGatta; Lois Flemming; Olivia Powell; Arthur & Mildred Smith, Helen Riley.



Ascension Weekly

Ascension Lutheran Church 7415 Buchanan Street Landover Hills, MD 20784

Phone: 301-577-0500

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Email: AscenLuth@aol.com www.alutheranchurch.com

Fax: 301-577-9558

Information & Notices

Feb. 23, 2025

Services

Divine Worship

Sunday at 9:00 am

Holy Communion is celebrated in most services.

Holy Baptism

Arrangements for Baptism can be made with the Church Office.

Weddings

Weddings for active Ascension members are arranged with the Church Office

Please Note

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

Staff:

Gwen Neal Office Mgr. Ben Harris Parish Musician

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

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

Sunday, February 16

Epiphany VII

9:00 am	Worship	
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6	

Sunday, March 2

Transfiguration

9:00 am	Worship
7.00 um	Worship

Bible Study

6:00 pm Sunday @ 6

Altar Flowers Presented By

Please Note that flowers will only be provided when they are sponsored by members. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Church Office Wing.



Altar Flowers \$50.00 Sanctuary Lights \$5.00

Ascension Lutheran Church: Becoming Caring Servants who Extend Life in Christ to Diverse people



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week



Ekanem Ekanem, Jr., Naomi Mathis Christopher Dockery, Tanisha Wells



SERVING US IN WORSHIP, Next Sunday, Mar. 2

PastorRev. Chris AgneAssistantAdam KampiaMusicianBen HarrisReaderDoakes Family

Greeters Melanie Demones, Lois Fulford Altar Guild Wells Family, Ernestine Bivins,

Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill

Ushers Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit,

Darrell Dockery

Counters Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.