

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

11:00 a.m.



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Ascension Lutheran Church

827 Wildwood Ave

Columbia, SC 29203

(803) 786-6429

Ascension.office827@gmail.com

The Reverend Jackie Utley, Pastor

WELCOME VISITORS

We are glad you are here!

- *The Lutheran Liturgical Service is meant to be interactive. You will be able to follow & participate in today's Order of Service using this Bulletin. There are helpful instructions italicized throughout but please ask a neighbor or the Usher if you have any questions.
- *We invite you to partake in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion.) Juice and gluten free wafers are available.
- *Please fill out the attendance slip and place in the Offering Plate.
- *We welcome and encourage children in the Sanctuary. However, there is a Nursery located at the very end of the main hallway.
- *The Women's Restroom is located through the left door, continuing through The Choir Room, then to the left. A Unisex/Handicap Restroom is located through the right door and is immediately to the left.
- *All activities (choirs, lunch groups, bible study, etc.) are open to all. You do not have to be a member to participate.
- *If you have interest or questions about membership, contact Pastor Jackie Utley at 803-786-6429 or jackie.utley@gmail.com

SAFETY PROCEDURES

- *Masks are optional but **strongly** encouraged if you are unvaccinated.
- *We have a large space and will continue to promote social distancing as we do have members who are immunocompromised.
- *Please sanitize hands upon entering Sanctuary.
- *"Passing the Peace" will be shared verbally, staying in your pew.
- * Continue to social distance when coming up to receive communion.

SERVING ASCENSION TODAY

Parish Pastor: *The Reverend Jackie Utley*

Lector: *Brian Smith*

Asst. Minister: *Brian Smith*

Parish Musician: *Gregory Stone*

Crucifer: *Billy Browder*

Usher: *Billy Browder*

NOTICES

TODAY

Sunday, September 11th – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service.
 - *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (ELW)*
- Today is the National ELCA “God’s work. Our hands.” day of service. Although we were unable to prepare for our event due to Covid, we would like to encourage each of you to do an act of service for someone or donate to your favorite charity.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Members of Ascension.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 14th

- 5:00 PM Handbell Choir Practice
- 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, September 15th

- 6:00 PM Annual M.O.R.E. Justice House Meeting. All are invited to attend for a discussion about community needs and to learn more about the organization.

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, September 18th – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who is eager to forgive
 and who loves us beyond our days.

All Amen.

Pastor Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
 our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor God of mercy and forgiveness,
**All we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
 We have harmed your good creation.
 We have failed to do justice,
 love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
 Turn us in a new direction.
 Show us the path that leads to life.
 Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
 through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
 Amen.**

Pastor Beloved of God:
 your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.
 God points the way to new life in Christ,
 who meets us on the road.
 Journey now in God's abiding love
 through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 807 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

All And also with you.

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
 O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion,
 you lead back to yourself all those who go astray.

**All Preserve your people in your loving care,
 that we may reject whatever is contrary to you
 and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” ¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

Crystal Freie, cantor

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. *Refrain*

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

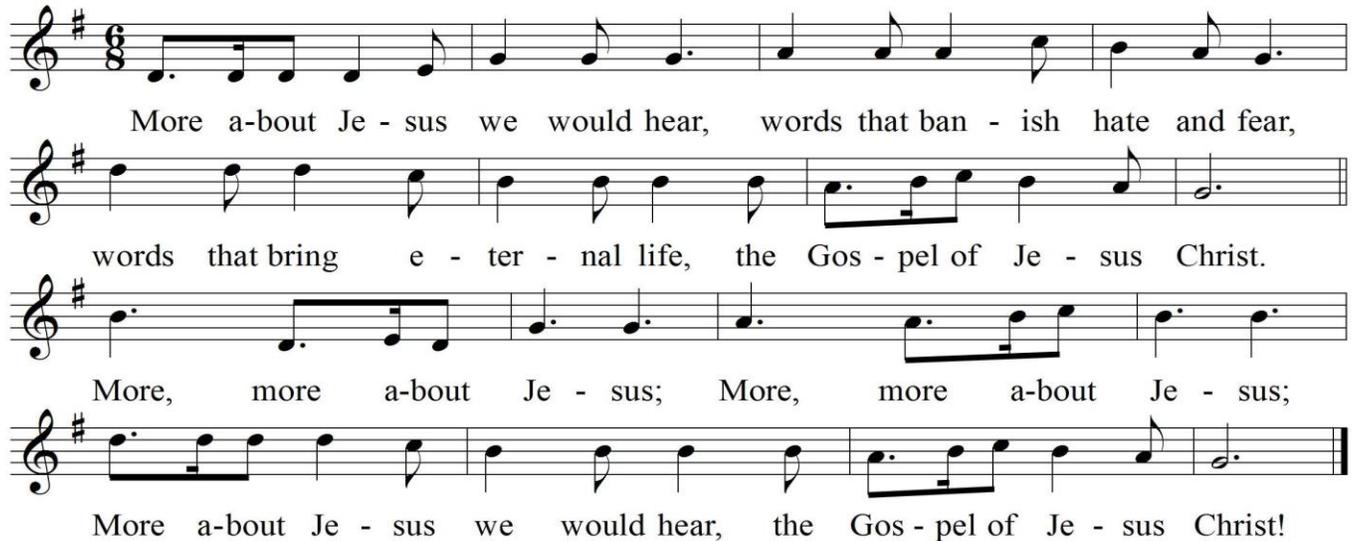
¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



More a-bout Je - sus we would hear, words that ban - ish hate and fear,
words that bring e - ter - nal life, the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.
More, more a-bout Je - sus; More, more a-bout Je - sus;
More a-bout Je - sus we would hear, the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ!

Text adapted from Eliza E. Hewitt, 1851-1920.
Music: John R. Sweney, 1837-1899.
Gospel Verse: RDH copyright © 2014. Used by permission.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15th chapter

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ**

We sit.
SERMON

A brief moment of silence for reflection.

Stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 779 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min. As the called people of God,
we profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

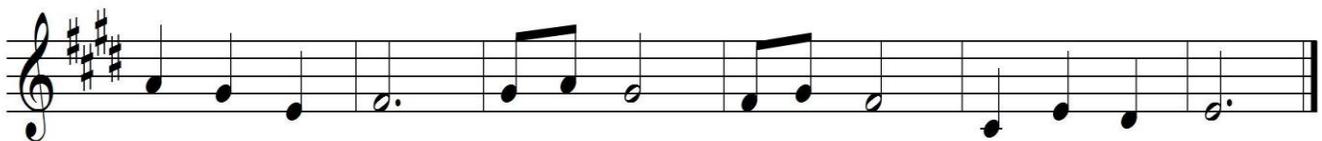
All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will
come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

SONG OF PETITION

The following will be sung before the Prayers of Intercession.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole; peace to all people,



hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

ELW 178, text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956.
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Prayers of Intercession are “The Prayers of the People.” Therefore, we invite Lay members, visitors, and children to read the prayers marked “Lay Person.” After each petition: Pastor/Lay Person: “God of grace,” All: “hear our prayer.”

Pastor As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

Lay Person Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Lay Person Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Lay Person Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

Lay Person Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. God of grace,

All **hear our prayer.**

(Prayers continue next page)

Pastor Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need. We especially pray for these members of our Church Family who are in the hospital, at home, or in care centers. Comfort their hearts and ours with your powerful presence:

All	Tommy Boozer	Margarie Lever	Gene & Johann Roof
	Donna Clark	Pat Martin	Debbie Shumpert
	Ava Hudson	Lisa Mosely	Charlene Van Patten
	David Lever	Delores Richardson	Dorothy Van Patten

Pastor And for those others we name aloud now on our lips or silently in our hearts... God of grace,

All hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pastor Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All Amen.

PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

The people may greet one another verbally with "Peace be with you" or similar words from their pews while social distancing.

We Sit.

OFFERTORY *Meditation on a Welsh Tune*

Gordon Young

Stand as you are able

OFFERING SONG “Clapping” Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.

All **Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION +



This meal is the Lord’s Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in Christ’s true presence in, with, and under the elements. When giving the bread, the Pastor says, “The body of Christ, given for you.” When giving the cup, the Assistant says, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” Each person may respond with “Amen.”

**If you require a gluten-free wafer or prefer grape juice, please let the Pastor know. *Children who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two phrases: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff has two phrases: 'Lift up your hearts!' and 'We lift them to the Lord!'. The third staff has one phrase: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!'. The fourth staff has one phrase: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise!'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with many slurs and ties.

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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: ***HOLY HOLY HOLY***

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two phrases: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,' and 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The second staff has one phrase: 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The third staff has one phrase: 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with many slurs and ties.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.*

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again

Pastor Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

All Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

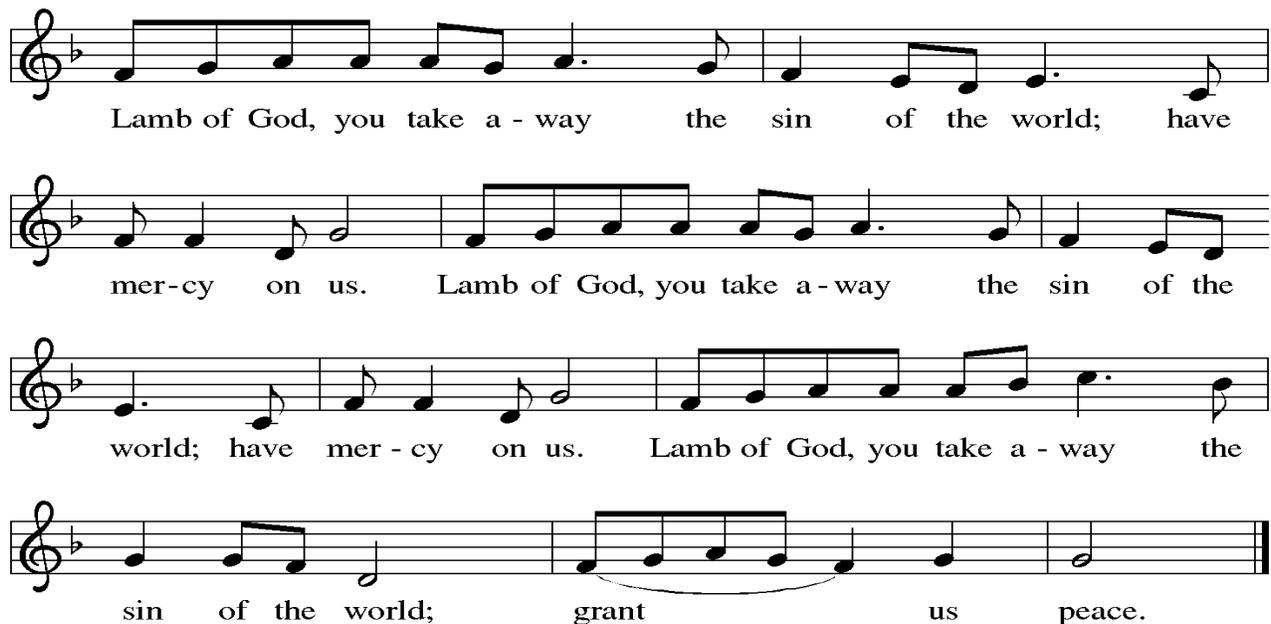
**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

The Usher will invite each person to come up the center aisle to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen." After taking communion, depart down the side aisles. Please maintain appropriate social distance throughout.

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 676 *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

Stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All Amen

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Asst. Min. Let us pray.

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.

All **Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

All **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **ELW 545** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace, with Christ beside you, and do justice.

All **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Cathedral Fanfare*

Gordon Young

PRAYER LIST – Our members, family, and friends with current needs:

Wendall Patton, friend of Billy Browder

Donna Clark

Debra Butler

Minister LaVonne Griffin

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**Stewardship/Receipts for Sunday September 4, 2022:**

**Attendance: 12**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Program         | \$ 900.00         |
| Music Ministry  | \$ 1.00           |
| School Supplies | \$ 564.00         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$1,174.00</b> |

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M.O.R.E. Justice

Midlands Organized Response to Equity & Justice

Ascension's M.O.R.E. Justice Team will be hosting a

“House Meeting”

Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

This event is open to all members and friends of the Ascension Community. We will come together to share our stories and discuss ways we can live out our biblical mandate to “Do Justice” in the Midlands Area.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)