

# Ascension Lutheran Church

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost ..... August 8, 2021**

**Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!**

*For six weeks this summer we are gathering for worship and asking questions of God, Scripture and each other as we explore who we are called to be as God's church in the world, drawing nearer to God's presence and inviting others to do the same.*

\*Congregation stands

## **PRELUDE**

*Preparing your heart and mind for worship, answer one or more of the questions for yourself:*

What is your baptismal name (what name do you think God calls you, your full name, your nickname, beloved child, something else?) ?

What are your gifts?

Where do you feel most at home with yourself? Where are you most fully you? (what place, people, circumstance makes that happen with little to no effort?)

What is God calling you to do today? next week? next year?

*Answer with the first thing that comes to your head. Specific and silly reasons are great!*

Please stand as you are able.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Just as the body is one and has many members

**All the members of the body, though many, are one with Christ.**

For there is one Spirit

**We are all baptized in to one body.**

There is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave nor free

**We have one faith, one Lord, one baptism.**

Come let us worship our God.

**Come let us worship our God.**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please be seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

**HYMN #838** ..... **“Beautiful Savior”**

1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my  
crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,  
fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming  
spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit  
sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on  
high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

**\*GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, please give me a list of people. Help me to pray for them. Let me feel your love for the people on ours lists to know you. I'm open to the nudges of your Spirit, well help me to be open to nudges of your Spirit!! **Amen.**

Please be seated.

**FIRST READING: Hebrews 4:14-16**

[A] A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup> Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested\* as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

You may remain seated.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13**

A reading from Ephesians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>1</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CREATIVE ACTIVITY TO SEE GOD**

Reflect on your baptism – Which of our baptismal promises is most significant to you?

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace among all people

Please be seated.

## **SERMON**

**The Rev. Christina Auch**

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

## **HYMN #807**

## **"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good  
pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a  
stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and  
seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Please stand.

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith...

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

[A] Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who

mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

**Martha** Beam (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Adam** Bridges & **Brittany** Smith (Libby Stone's cousin and his fiancé), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Kathy** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mike** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges' Aunt), **Phil** Costello (Donna Lilly's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Saher** Degree (Gail Sherman's friend), **Tim** Farmer (Pastor Christina and Jamie's friend), **Ashton** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Avan** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Carol Ann** Forgas (Bill Bridges' friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Carl** Greenwald (DeBell's friends), **Joe** Hutchinson (William Coyne's friend), **Debbie** Irvin (Bill Bridges' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Kay** Johnson (Eleanor Hendrick's cousin), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **Bryan** Legrand (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Sonya and Gerald** Lovelace (Bill Bridges' friend), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Pam** Lucas (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn** Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Ed** Marler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Gay** Helms Melton (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Maribeth** Norris Mies (Carol Berger's cousin), **Mary Bell** Moore (Lacy's neighbor), **Jane** Morrow (Daryl and Rose Cook's friend), **Pat** Mullen (Johanna Gillespie's friend), **Wanda** Mullinax (Edith Kelly's niece), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Linda** Patzer (Carol Berger's sister), **Lynn** Perry (Jenny and Steve White's friend) **Gerard** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's brother), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **John** Reid (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Shannon** Sellers (Libby Stone's cousin), **Jean and Jim** Tesseneer (Bill Bridges friend), **Jerry** Tessener (Daryl and Rose Cook's friend), **Beth** Thomas (Carol Berger's daughter), **David** Waldrop (Sandra Waldrop's husband), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's

friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt).

**Members:** **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Gerald** Washburn, **Ray** Valentine, **Lucinda** Wallen, **Lisa** Upton, **Sandy** Harman, and **Ann** Sipe.

**In Undergraduate College:** **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine** Lilly, **Matthew** Lilly.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who prepare our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Please be seated.

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (We are not "passing" the peace in any physical way. Online you are invited to share a greeting of peace in the comments.)

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

May we share that peace with those who are with us today.

Let us gather into our hearts and minds those who are not with you today, whom you love, and send them peace from your heart.

Let us gather into our hearts and minds those with whom we have disagreement or discord and send them peace as well, as Christ would have you do.

Let us gather into our hearts and minds the peace that Christ sends you now.

## **OFFERING**

Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate.2. Click the registration link and enter your payment information.3. Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

## **OFFERTORY HYMN #184 ..... “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Please stand.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

[A] Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

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 praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

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.

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

Please be seated.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

This is the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you. **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

If you are not communing, please receive this blessing for you:  
"Jesus loves you and keeps you all the days of your life."

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

[A] Let us pray.

Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness  
and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.  
Risen to new life with you,  
send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world,  
in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

## **HYMN #793** ..... **"Be Thou My Vision"**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my  
heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that  
thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day  
and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence  
my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my  
true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me,  
Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou  
my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r  
of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty  
praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and  
always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my  
heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure  
thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory  
won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O  
heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever  
befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **HOMEWORK**

Make a list of those you know who aren't connected with the church, (you don't need to know them well) Don't say anything to them, just make a list. Pray for them. Pray for a chance to be with them. Pray and keep your eyes open.

## **STUDY VERSE**

*Read it, journal it, draw it, memorize it, engage in a way that works for you!*

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Ephesians 4:4

### **Assisting Today**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Christina Auch
Organist:	Cathy Hubbard
Assisting Minister:	Sandra Waldrop
Ushers:	Max and Jake Smolzer

### **Assisting Aug 15, 2021**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Christina Auch
Organist:	Steve White
Assisting Minister:	Rose Cook
Ushers:	Ludy Wilkie and Daryl Cook

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Holy Communion** When you are worshipping at home, you are encouraged to set up a temporary altar called a tabernacle at home. Find a small table or bench, place on it a nice plate and a cup or goblet. Find a slice or loaf of bread and use either wine or grape juice in the cup. When the time comes for communion, lift the bread and wine with the pastor, giving thanks to God for the gift of communion that offers us forgiveness, community, and new life in Christ.

**In person Bible study**, led by Pastor Christina, meets weekly in the classroom across from the office on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are using the Augsburg Fortress quarterly materials.

**Fellowship Hall Use**: The fellowship hall is available for use. No food or drink is allowed. The kitchen remains closed. Contact Debby in the church office for more information.

**Prayer Concerns**: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

**Please continue your tithes and offerings**. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

**CONGREGATION PICNIC, AUGUST 22 after WORSHIP** We will gather after worship to celebrate our congregation on Sunday, August 22 after worship with a congregation picnic. Rain or shine, we'll gather for fellowship and food. There will be tables available inside and outside under tents. **You are invited to please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.** Fried chicken will be provided as well as beverages, paper goods, etc. Sign ups will be available in the narthex and in the e-news. Please sign up and let us know how many people to expect so that we can plan well. You may also call the office (704-487-5679). If you'd like to help with set up or clean up, please contact Judy Bridges or Kelly Smolzer.

## **A LOOK AHEAD**

### **Sunday, August 15 — 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

### **Sunday, August 22 — 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
(also on Facebook & Zoom) followed by a picnic lunch

### **Sunday, August 29 — 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

Beginning at 5 p.m.

*LMM Summer Picnic, Ice Cream Social and Vesper Service*

At Baker's Buffalo Creek Winery

Pastor Christina leading worship at 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, September 5 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

Series designed by The Reverend Katy Stenta, Pastor, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY.

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# **Ascension Lutheran Church**

PO Box 266 Shelby, NC 28151

Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

**The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor ..... 704-472-7783**

**Debby Chaffin, Secretary**

**Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists**

**Rose Cook, Financial Secretary**

**Ludy Wilkie, Council President ..... 704-487-4269**