



1105 N Washington Blvd  
Ogden, UT 84404  
801-782-2810

# Parish Notes

## Welcome to Worship

### January 5, 2025

Pastor Debra Jimenez  
770-841-7610  
pastordebra.ascension@gmail.com

*Gathered and gifted to celebrate and share the love of Jesus*

<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:30 am	-	Adult Bible Study
	9:30 am	-	Worship (Children's Sunday School during worship)
	10:30 am	-	Fellowship
<b>MONDAY</b>	9:00 am	-	Friendly Ties Quilters (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	11:00am	-	Bible Study
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	1:00 pm	-	Book Club
<b>THURSDAY</b>	1:00 pm	-	Shepherding Bible Study Group – (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
		-	Game Day – (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)
	1:00 pm	-	Movie Day – (4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)
	6:30 pm	-	Church Council meeting – (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 pm	-	AA and Al Anon
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10:00am	-	WELCA Ladies (4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday)



## January Birthdays

Sylvia Moffet	3
CJ Jordan	5
Pam Gould	15
Debra Larsen	17
Anne Engelby	20
Pat Refsdal	22
Chase Rhees	24
Bobby Cornell	30
Edith Cryts	31

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 6** – Quilting @ 9  
**Jan 9** – Council Meeting  
**Jan 11** – Women’s Retreat  
**Jan 19** – Annual Congregational Meeting  
**Feb 10** – Interfaith Day at the Capitol



Thanks to Kim and CJ for proving treats for coffee hour this morning

**Women’s Retreat** -Today is the final day to sign up for the retreat next Saturday. We will depart from Ascension at 8:45 and carpool to Mt. Tabor. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Debra know today

### **2025 Synod Assembly Voting Members**

We will vote for two members of the church to attend the synod assembly on May 22-24 in Albuquerque, NM. Please prayerfully consider submitting your name to attend. The assembly is a wonderful opportunity to see what the church is doing both around our synod and globally.

**Save the Date and plan to attend** the annual congregational meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our worship service. We have several items of business: approval of the 2025 Budget, election of council members, Synod Assembly attendees, nominating committee and more.

**Speaking of Council Members...** we have three members whose terms are up this year. All have agreed to put their names on the ballot again. Per our constitution, we must have 9 but may have 11 members serve on council. If you feel called to the ministry of church council, please contact Pastor Debra or any current member of the council.

### **Utah Conference Interfaith Day at the State Capitol February 10, 2025 9-11 AM**

Join your voice with siblings of diverse faith traditions to demand justice and love during the Utah Legislative Session, on Feb. 10, 2025, 9-11 AM in the Seagull Room of the Senate Building at the Utah State Capitol: 350 N State St. SLC, 84112. We will have a brief advocacy training, discuss important legislation, and have an opportunity to meet with legislators. This is for everyone, of every comfort/experience level of advocacy, lay folks and clergy. Contact Pastor Brigette Weier at [weierbrigetter@gmail.com](mailto:weierbrigetter@gmail.com) for more information or to **RSVP by Feb. 5.**

**Flowers this morning** were given by Patti Hall in memory of their Puppy Angels in Heaven.

## **"Faithfulness in our time": a Christmas message from the ELCA bishops and synod vice presidents of Region 2**

Dear friends in Christ,

In this Christmas season, we pray that you and your loved ones have found moments of true joy and peace in your celebrations. As the world prepares to greet a new year, we also turn to the days ahead in deep prayer and honest pondering. What will this time bring to our neighbors and communities, to our families and our own lives? What will it mean to be the church and engage in the "work of Christmas" now, in the places where we are?

As bishops and elected leaders, we represent more than 500 Lutheran congregations and ministries in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. The people of our synods live in cities and small towns, near mountain ranges and ocean tides, in deserts and on prairies. We speak many different languages and carry many different stories; and we are all part of the same body of Christ.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we also share a common theological identity, as people who place our faith and trust in the grace offered freely to all people in Jesus Christ by the God who so loved the world that God become incarnate: sharing our humanity, standing in solidarity with the suffering and oppressed on the cross, and defeating all the powers of sin and death in his resurrection. The identity we share influences our approach to the secular world. In the words of the ELCA's social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, "Social structures and processes combine life-giving and life-destroying dynamics in complex mixtures and in varying degrees. This church, therefore, must unite realism and vision, wisdom and courage, in its social responsibility. It needs constantly to discern when to support and when to confront society's cultural patterns, values, and powers."

As Lutheran followers of Jesus, we are concerned for many of our members and neighbors in our communities, nation, and around the world, who are experiencing a high degree of anxiety in these times, particularly those whose identities put them at risk or make them vulnerable as political targets. Knowing that our church includes people of every political affiliation, still as Christians we are called not simply to "agree to disagree"—but to seek, in faithful discernment, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in loving and serving God and our neighbor according to the example of Jesus. We do this as we gather to hear the Word proclaimed and share in the Sacraments; and we do this as we are sent out in service to use the gifts God has given us for the vocations to which God has called us: in our work, relationships, and communities. In all that we do—in worship and discipleship, in our striving to share and to be good news for our neighbors—we remember that we do not do this to earn or deserve God's love: it is already abundantly given to us and to all people. In our worst moments, we ask for forgiveness; and in humility we learn that God's grace remains. In our best moments, we rejoice; and we realize that it was not us alone, but God acting with and through us—grace upon grace.

As "the work of Christmas begins," We invite you to join us in participating in the liberating love of God for the world. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, a first-time wonderer, or somewhere in between, you are welcome: to find life in the grace of God that we receive in the sharing of the Word, the communion table, and the baptismal font; to find belonging in God's love for you, no matter who or where you are; and to find spaces of spiritual practice and life-giving purpose that can ground you and draw out your gifts for the sake of others.

Our prayers for all the people of our synods, and for all our neighbors, are that we may come to more fully know, share, and embody the “good news of great joy for all people” that Jesus brings to our world. May this promised good news of justice, peace, and love truly come to all people in our time!

In Christ,

Bishop Deborah Hutterer  
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Ruth Hoffman, Vice President  
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Barbara Carl, Vice President  
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Bishop Jeff Johnson  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Bishop Dave Nagler  
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Simon Wong, Vice President  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Jeff Cours, Vice President  
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Bishop Brenda Bos  
Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni  
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Lisa Curtis, Vice President  
Southwest California Synod, ELCA

## Make a New Years Resolution to use Less Plastic

We all use too much plastic. We know it, but we can't seem to do without it! Plastic is such a problem that the UN held a special conference to draw up an international law or treaty governing plastic production and use. More than 100 nations gathered in So. Korea a month ago and only could agree to delay a decision until next year. In 2022, 175 nations agreed to make the first legally binding treaty on plastics pollution, including in the oceans, by the end of 2024. The postponement came just days after the closing of COP 29 where climate talks again yielded little but settling on a finance bill to assist developing nations. Some negotiators feel that the UN consensus process makes any significant progress extremely difficult. All parties must agree before any vote is taken.



Plastic production is on track to triple by 2050. Microplastics are found literally everywhere. More than 3200 chemicals of concern are found in plastics. The representative from Panama said, “Postponing negotiations does not postpone the crisis. When we reconvene, the stakes will be higher.”

Can each of us try harder to minimize plastic use in our home? Could we make a New Year's resolution to reduce plastic use? Make a list and see what you come up with. Involve all family members. Then reach a consensus to follow through (Start small —agree on only a couple of items to start.). Each of us CAN make a difference.

Mary Kwamme

[rmscreationcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:rmscreationcareteam@gmail.com)

Please Lift Up in Prayer:

- Tracie Truitt, friend of Alyson's
- Cory, Nancy Gale's son
- Pam Burbank
- Jessica Stewart, Dick Graves's daughter
- Jefferson Barrett
- Maylan Chugg, Don & Dee's granddaughter
- Chris, friend of Alyson W.
- Henry, Nancy G's grandson
- Cheryl, friend of Alyson
- Mark Hughes and family
- Heidi, Diane Shultz' sister-in-law
- Dick Graves
- Jack, Pastor Debra's nephew
- Suzy and her family
- Bill, Linda's brother
- Alice, Anastasia, and all the people affected by the war in Ukraine
- Brian Washburn, Kamberlynn's dad
- Terry, Dee Brown's brother
- Charlie Tufts
- Kim, Kelly's sister
- Judy, friend of Shellie
- Mary, Sharen's daughter-in-law
- Ruth Dupee, friend of Maria
- Lynn & Carol Benson
- Don Hughes
- Betsy Daley, friend of Nicole
- Lara and her husband, Nicole's sister and brother-in-law
- Don and Dee Brown
- Sue, Sharen's sister
- Dean and Val, Mike's brother and sister-in-law








- Steve Morlan
- Diana Warkentin
- David Stuart
- Sharen's Mahjong Group
- Ann Shane
- Jed M, a cadet at Kelly's school
- Chelsea, Nancy's niece
- Calvin Schalk Jr, his wife Janel and Calvin Sr, and Diana
- Glenn and Tonya, Shelie's brother and his wife
- Paula
- Babs
- Anne E.
- Sara, friend of Sharen
- Baylee Rose and family, Danette's granddaughter

†Praying for Loved Ones in the Military or deployed:

- Steve Johnson
- Kaleb Tarr, Ethan Lee, Michael Connelly (deployed 13 July 17, 2021)
- Dariyan Edsinger
- Mason Bushey and his wife Ida, and family
- Brody Wilcock
- Renee Kiel
- Justin Kiel
- Kris Kiel
- Matt Malde
- Jason Chugg
- Alex Treadway

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, or would like to be added to our Prayer Warrior email group, please send Kelly an email [jeffnkelly2@msn.com](mailto:jeffnkelly2@msn.com)

**Jan Ministries**  
**Ascension Ministries**

 <b>SUN</b>	 <b>WORSHIP ASST</b>	 <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	 <b>USHERS</b>	 <b>GREETERS</b>	 <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	 <b>COUNTERS</b>
Jan 5	Kim Engelby	Kim Engelby	Todd & Renee Hart	John & Diana Warkentin	Cindy Day	Renee Hart
Jan 12	Mark Denniston	Kim Engelby	Patti Hall & Stefani Rhees	Joanna Wolf	Cindy Day	Mark Denniston
Jan 19	Arliis Zimmerman	Kim Engelby	Sharen Kamp	Stefani Rhees	Cindy Day	Paula Del Carlo
Jan 26	Edith Cryts	Kim Engelby	James Jimenez	CJ Jordan	Cindy Day	CJ Jordan

If you have articles or information for the parish notes, please send them to Kelly by Friday afternoon.