

**December 28, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**Ascension Lutheran Church of Navarino**

*"Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ's love"*

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**Prelude, Welcome, Greeting and Announcements**

**Invitation to Worship**      *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*      Hymn #60

Leader: Let us pray together,

**All:** O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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**A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Leader: The students and pastor at the University of Oxford, England, developed this special celebration. The traditional hymns, song and familiar scripture readings help us hear again the story of God's loving purpose from the first days of our sin until the glorious salvation brought to us through the baby Jesus.

***A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** is the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel, University of Cambridge. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service includes carols and readings from the Bible.*

*The opening carol is always 'Once in Royal David's City'. We will begin with that carol today and continue with traditional hymns and some of our own musical selections. Please enjoy.*

**First Lesson:** Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19. God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

**Carol:** *"Once in Royal David's City"*      Red Hymnal #41 vs 1 & 2

**Second Lesson:** Genesis 22:15-18. God's promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

**Carol:** *"Holy Forever" (Christmas Version)*

**Third Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2-7. The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

**Carol:** *"His Name is Wonderful"*

**Fourth Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5a. The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

**Carol:** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*      Hymn #41 vs 1&4

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35, 38. The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

**Carol:** *"Make Room"*

**Sixth Lesson:** Luke 2:1-7. *Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

**Carol:** *"What Child is This?" with "This Is Our God"*

**Seventh Lesson:** Luke 2:8-16. *The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

**Carol:** *"Away in a Manger Medley"* Hymn #67

**Eighth Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-11. *The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.*

**Carol:** *"We Three Kings"* verses 1 & 2

**Ninth Lesson:** John 1:1-14. *John unfolds the great mystery of Emmanuel, God with us, becoming like us, to live among us.*

**Carol:** *"Light of the World"*

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**Sharing of the Peace**

Leader: Now may the peace of the baby Jesus be with all of you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

**Prayers of the People of God**

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

*"Lord Listen" (to be sung before the prayers)*

*(Following each petition, the Pastor may use the following words:)*

P: Lord, in your faithfulness,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Lord's Prayer** - 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.

**Christmas Blessing**

**All:** May Jesus, Mighty God, establish and uphold us in righteousness. May Jesus, Prince of Peace, sustain us in love. May Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, grant us wisdom and grace, now and forever. Amen.

**Closing Song**      *"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"*      Hymn #70

**Sending**

Leader: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**All:** "Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ's love."

**Postlude**

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**

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**\*\*Please place your offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary as you enter or exit.\*\***

## **December 28, 2025 - January 4, 2026 Announcements**

### **TODAY, DECEMBER 28**

8:30 am - Bible Study  
9:30 am - Lessons & Carols  
Worship Service  
Birthday Sunday

### **DECEMBER 29 (Mon.)**

NO Bible Study  
NO Dartball

### **DECEMBER 30 (Tues.)**

NO Bible Study

### **DECEMBER 31 (Wed.)**

NO Confirmation or Church  
School

### **JANUARY 1 (Thurs.)**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



### **JANUARY 4 (Sun.)**

8:30 am - Bible Study  
9:30 am - Worship Service  
Birthday Sunday

**Welcome to all visitors!**  
Thank you for worshipping  
with us today.  
Please sign the guestbook  
in the entryway.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- ❖ **Sunday, January 11, 2026 -**
  - Tree Un-trimming after worship
- ❖ **Sunday, January 18, 2026 -**
  - Annual Meeting and Potluck after worship
- ❖ **Saturday, January 31, 2026 -**
  - Pizza Making & Sale
- ❖ **Friday, March 27, 2026 -**
  - Fish Fry



### **Pizza Making & Sale**

There are sign-up sheets on the back table to volunteer and to place your order. We're looking for help with set-up on Friday, January 30, and pizza assemble and clean-up on Saturday, January 31. The deadline for all orders is January 18, 2026.



### **Attention Committee Chairs**

All committee reports for the Annual Meeting need to be emailed to Denise in the church office by Monday, January 6, 2026. Thank you!



## ***Ascension Lutheran Church*** **2026 Annual Meeting and Potluck**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

***There will be a potluck  
immediately following the 9:30 am  
Worship Service. Please sign up to  
bring a dish to pass. The meeting  
will begin shortly thereafter.***



a prayer for the

## **NEW YEAR**

Lord, please bless the coming year. Help me to use my time wisely and strengthen my resolve to consistently do all of the following:

### **N**ever stop praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Lord, teach me to pray without ceasing. Remind me to make prayer my first response rather than a last resort. Conform me to the image of Christ, that I might with Him pray, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

### **E**ncourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Lord, open my eyes to the needs of those around me. Help me to love my neighbors as I love myself & to put their interests ahead of my own. May every word I speak edify and uplift and point others to You.

### **W**ork without complaining (Philippians 2:14)

Place a guard on my mouth. God, that I might not grumble about the tasks I've been given to do. Help me to serve others with gladness & do my work heartily & cheerfully, as a sacrifice of praise unto You.

### **Y**earn for Christ's return (Mark 13:32-33)

Lord, keep me mindful of the fact that my hope is not rooted in social movements or political reform, but in Christ alone. Speed the day of His return & let me be found faithfully doing His work when He appears.

### **E**vangelize the lost (Mark 16:15)

Give me a heart for those who don't know You, God. May I boldly & urgently proclaim the gospel of grace & forgiveness of sins freely available to all who confess Jesus is Lord & believe You raised Him from the dead.

### **A**cknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Don't let me outlive my love & devotion to You, Lord. Let my life serve as an example of what it means to trust You fully. May all I do & say & hope & think bring glory & honor to Your precious, holy name.

### **R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

"Lord, teach us to number our days, that we might apply our hearts to wisdom." Don't let me squander my time on earth. Show me how to invest it wisely in activities & pursuits that will bear fruit for all of eternity.

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**Birthday Sundays** are changing to the first Sunday of each month starting with January 2026.



### **SCRIP Cards**

As we begin a new year, many of us are thinking about fresh starts, better habits, and wise budgeting. One easy way to make your everyday spending count in the year ahead is by using **scrip gift cards**. When you purchase scrip for groceries, gas, dining, or other regular expenses, you receive the full value of the card—and our church earns a percentage back from the retailer. Using scrip is a simple New Year habit that can make a lasting impact.

**PRAYER**  
*list*

### **Prayer List**

Alice Mueller, Dave Richter, Pat Zuiches, Arnie Kloes, Russell Kloes,  
Beck & Rosie Pues, Carl Schoettler, Dave Rohrer, Linda Ogi,  
Scott Wollenberg, Jen Erb, The Family of Sally Richter



### **Prayers for the Congregation**

The Champions of Prayer are hoping that you will join us in praying for every member of our Ascension Family. Each Sunday we will list the names of those you should hold up in prayer for the week. The power of prayer is amazing and we know we will see and feel the love of others on the day we are prayed for. We invite you to join us in our prayer walk and daily conversations with God.

### **4th Week of December**

**Sunday:** Emily Houdek, Jon Zuiches, Max Sokolski, Scott Dingeldein, Abbie Daniels, Barb Weissshappel  
**Monday:** Betty Ladwig, Joy Daebler, McKenzie Wollenberg, Travis Wollenberg, Emma Scharmann  
**Tuesday:** Bonnie Weyers, Erik Houdek, Judy Porter, Megan Krull, Greg Schoettler, Sofia Kienast, Russ Wilkinson  
**Wednesday:** Brad Schuelke, Everett Olson, Julie Wilber, Merle Olson, Maddie Daniels, Cheryl Wilkinson  
**Thursday:** Michael Homan, Ruthann Meiers, Jody Kuhn-Kauffman, John Mitchler, Miranda Hartlaben, Jacob Schley  
**Friday:** Barbara Hillsberg, Glen Peebles, Mike Olson, John Wudtke, Nataly Dominguez, Helen Kienast  
**Saturday:** Bruce Kauffman, Rosemary Kienast, Mike Shulze, Steve Daebler, Wesley Hartlaben, Jerald Wetzel

### **December 28, 2025**

### **Lessons & Carols**

### **9:30 AM Worship Service**

Communion: *No Communion*  
Reader: Pastor Mark Sabin  
Money Counter: Rita Olson  
Altar Care: Jean Conradt

### **January 4, 2026**

### **9:30 AM Worship Service**

Communion: Carrie Daoust  
Reader: Toni Klemp  
Money Counter: Ruthann Meiers  
Altar Care: Jean Conradt

If you are unable to be here on the date you are assigned, please find a replacement. Thank you.

### **Our Mission Statement:**

*"Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ's Love"*

**Church Office Phone** 715-758-8312

**Church EMail:** [ascensionavarino@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionavarino@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ascensionavarino.com](http://www.ascensionavarino.com)

**Pastor Mark Sabin:** Cell: 715-340-3670 Home Phone: 715-445-2097

**Visitation Pastor Marcia Sabin** Cell: 715-340-5951

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday 1:00-5:00 pm**