

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 6, 2025

4:00 p.m. Saturday Concert/Service with David Vogel



Let the little children
come to me

LUKE 18:16

**PENTECOST 13 AND EDUCATION
CONCERT/SERVICE WITH DAVID
VOGEL**

FOLLOWING JESUS

AS WE GATHER

Bette Davis once quipped that growing old isn't for sissies. Neither is the Christian life. To be a disciple of Christ requires both courage and strength. Thanks be to God that these are not qualities inherent in the person but the gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The same Spirit who calls and gathers the elect also enlightens and sanctifies them in the one true faith. Through the resources of the Word and Sacraments, God is at work in us so that we may know the cost of discipleship, the scope of the battle before us, and the stakes as salt of the earth. He who calls us is faithful, and He will "bring to completion" all that He has begun in us. Today, we kick-off and celebrate the Educational Ministries at Ascension, which is one of three means God uses to "bring it to completion."

This afternoon we are blessed to have David Vogel from Wichita with us. David is a versatile tenor vocalist, worship leader, writer, and graphic designer. He also serves as the communication pastor at Central Community Church in Wichita, Kansas, where he lives with his wife, Hanna, and their two daughters. For more information on his ministry, go to: <https://davidvogelmusic.com>.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Preservice Concert by David Vogel *(Beginning at 3:47)*
“We’ll Understand it Better By and By” (*Gospel/trad.*)
“Rise Up (Lazarus)” (*by Cain*)
“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” (*trad.*)
“I’ll Fly Away” (*Gospel/trad.*)

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn “Be Thou My Vision” *WOV 776 (Blue Supplement)*

INVOCATION *based on John 3:16; 8:36; Romans 5:1*

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: **who loved us and sent His Son to set us free.**

Pastor: In the name of His ✠ Son, Jesus,

People: **whose sacrifice gives us freedom and peace.**

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

People: **who brings us to faith and sustains our faith through the working of water and the Word. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24, 26–27*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

People: **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Pastor: The LORD is God,

People: **and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, You have blessed us with a free land, having rights and privileges others dream about. We live in a land where liberty is given to us. With freedom also comes temptation to misuse our freedom.

People: **Forgive us, Lord, for misusing freedom in selfish ways. Keep us from squandering the precious opportunities You have given to us by the many freedoms we have.**

Pastor: For these sins and all sins, sins of thought, word, and deed; by what we have done or failed to do,

People: **we stand before You now, asking Your forgiveness, and for the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. He has called me, a called and ordained servant of our King, to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive that forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen! Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me. Help me, by the aid of Your Holy Spirit, to live my life for you.**

Spoken Kyrie

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the freedom given to us by Christ, let us thank the Lord,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For Holy Baptism, which washes us free from sin, let us bless the Lord,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our gracious God, who desires all men be saved, let us thank the Lord,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen!**

Ministry of Music *(by David Vogel)*

"Because He Lives" (*Gaither*)

"How Great Thou Art" (*trad.*)

"That's How Much I Love You" (*Troccoli*)

"Living Hope" (*Wickham*)

"Christ Be Magnified" (*Carnes*)

"I Love to Tell the Story" (*trad.*)

"Find Us Faithful" (*Green*)



✠ **WORD** ✠

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.)

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and

possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philemon 1-21

(Paul's letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have

been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.



**Paul's
Plea for
Onesimus**

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *Galatians 6:14*

Pastor: Alleluia. Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: **by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

(Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day "Take My Life and Let it Be"

LSB 784

Sermonette "Built to Last"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Ephesians 2:19-22

The Apostles' Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm - collected in back)

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Spoken Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

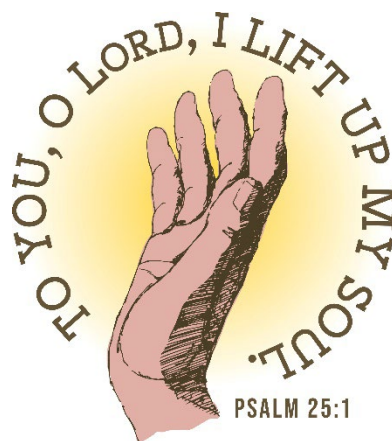
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *(Vocal Music by David Vogel)*

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” (*Townend*)
“Gratitude” (*Lake*)

General Communion Blessing

Benediction

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return
no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help
the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the
Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” *LSB 507*

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Toccata Brevis” Daniel Gawthrop

Please note: David has graciously made this concert available to us without charge. To support his ministry we are taking up a “free will offering.” An additional offering plate is available in the back for this purpose. Any checks may be made payable to David Vogel.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

Michael Zehnder

CONCERT VOCALIST AND SONG LEADER

David Vogel

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DCE)

Stephanie Roettjer

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jim Wert & Michael Lawrenz; 8:00 am Bob Olsen;
10:30 am David Pearman

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Colette Dallet; 10:30 am Maria Olson

LECTORS

4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 8:00 am Lisa Wert; 10:30 am Jackie Warren

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 10:30 am Jackie Warren

ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Rutter, Lynne Nelson, Sharon Seible



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