



NEWS AND NOTES
February 24 & 25, 2024
“Loved by Christ, Sharing Christ’s Love”

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Coffee & Donuts Worship with Communion Sunday School / Adult Bible Study Worship with Communion Youth Sunday	7:45-10:45 am 8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 3:00-8:00 pm
Monday	Staff Meeting Elders	8:30 am 6:30 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study Worship Team	9:30 am 7:00 pm
Wednesday	Lent Worship Quilters Women of the Word Bible Study Meal Lent Worship	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 am
Saturday	Confirmation Retreat Worship with Communion WOL Bake Sale	9:00 am 5:00 pm

2024 BIBLE READING CHALLENGE!

2024 BIBLE READING CHALLENGE! At Ascension we strive to be people of the Word as we engage with Scripture on a regular, even daily, basis. In 2021-2022 we read through the Bible in two years. In 2023 we read through the book of Psalms. In 2024, we invite you to join with brothers and sisters in Christ at Ascension in reading through all four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are at the heart of God's story of salvation for us as they trace the birth, life, death, resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus our Savior. The reading schedule is available in the church library. Each Friday, Pastor posts a video on Ascension’s Facebook page and YouTube channel highlighting a theme or insight of that week’s readings.

Our reading for **February 25 – March 2** is **Matthew 13 & 14**.

BLESSING BAGS

BLESSING BAGS There are many in need in our South St. Louis City community and other parts of St. Louis. However, sometimes it’s difficult to know how to best help. One simple way is by sharing one of Ascension’s “Blessing Bags.” These pre-made bags contain items that are meant to be of help to those who may be homeless or in need. Simply keep a bag in your vehicle, and distribute it to someone who needs help. Maybe even include a note of encouragement or Bible verse? Help yourself to a blessing bag—they are located in the basket in the lobby.

EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER EGG HUNT Save the date of **March 16** for Ascension’s Easter Egg Hunt! There is a sign up board in the lobby if you would like to help with this year’s festivities. There is also a bin of empty plastic Easter eggs. We invite you to take a bag of eggs home, fill them with candy, and return them to church by March 10. We ask God’s blessings on this egg hunt that also shares our resurrected Savior with our community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Children in Preschool through Grade 8 are invited to meet in the sanctuary at **9:45 am** each week for a brief Sunday school opening. Details about Sunday school for all ages are on page 5 of the News & Notes.

STEWARDSHIP

Mark 8:32 – “And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.” Anytime we sin, we are acting like Peter, thinking we know better than the Lord. But as Jesus says, such acts stem from Satan. So let us repent. Let us trust our Lord Jesus and follow Him. For certainly He has earned our trust with His gracious sacrifice for us.

Stewardship Report	
For the weekend ending February 18 th	
In-person attendance: 5:00 – 40	
8:30 – 107	
11:00 – 72	
TOTAL – 219	
Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love	
Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,478
Amount Received	\$ 11,300
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (1,178)
2024 Deficit through January: \$13,508	

LIKE US



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK Like Ascension to stay current with events, Bible studies, photos, videos and other great resources!

There are four Ascension-related Facebook pages:

- Church page: "Ascension Lutheran Church LCMS"
- Youth page: "Ascension Youth Fellowship"
- Word of Life page: "Word of Life Lutheran School"
- Young Adults: "Ascension Community Group"

LAST MONTH'S ONLINE VIEWS

- 1/07: 332
- 1/14: 400
- 1/21: 341
- 1/28: 300

Note to Worshippers

Ever want to re-watch a worship service or listen to a sermon again?

Ascension livestreams our worship services.

Go to: AscensionStL.com/livestream to find archived services.

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE

Scan the image you see here by using your phone's QR code reader (bar code scanner) to be taken directly to Ascension's on-line giving page. Simply set up your account, using your credit card, debit card, or checking account and donate electronically. Smartphone users can also download the Vanco Mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store and set up an account. Please use only one email account per contribution envelope number.



MIDWEEK LENT MEALS

MIDWEEK LENT MEALS A meal will be served starting at **5:00 pm** on Wednesday evenings before the Midweek Lent services. Below is a list of the groups serving and the menus. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers!

- **2/28** Music Ministry: serving casseroles
- **3/6** Ministry Council: serving taco bar
- **3/13** 30's & 40's Bible Study Group: serving grilled cheese, soup & salad
- **3/20** Women of the Word: serving Chicken Tetrazzini

LENT 2024

LENT 2024: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD During this year's season of Lent, we'll be focusing on "The Passion of Our Lord." Reading from a compilation of all four Gospels, we will follow Jesus during the final hours before his death as we hear the entire story of Jesus' passion for our salvation. There are two opportunities for worship each Wednesday. Our **8:30 am** worship will follow the order of Matins and include the kindergarten through grade eight students of Word of Life Lutheran School. Our **6:30 pm** worship will follow an order of Evening Prayer which will include chanting as well as Lent and Evening Hymns.

- ✝ **Wednesday of Lent 1 – February 21, 2024**
The Lord's Supper Pastor Kobs
- ✝ **Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2024**
Gethsemane Pastor Clark
- ✝ **Wednesday of Lent 3 – March 6, 2024**
Palace of the High Priest
Seminarian Joel Her
- ✝ **Wednesday of Lent 4 – March 13, 2024**
The Praetorium
Seminarian Josh Wareham
- ✝ **Wednesday of Lent 5 – March 20, 2024**
Calvary
Seminarian Michael Winckler

EASTER LILIES

EASTER LILIES Donations are needed to purchase the lilies that grace our altar on Easter Sunday. With your lily purchase, you have the opportunity to honor a loved one or include a note of thanksgiving that will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

To order, please complete the following form and return it to the church office **by March 24, 2024**. The cost of the lily is \$14.

Make checks payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Name _____

Number ordered _____ Total at \$14 each _____

I will pick up _____ I will not pick up _____

Dedication _____

Lilies may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Please note: lilies will be discarded on April 4th.



ASCENSION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



ASCENSION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (AYF) is the volunteer-led youth ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church for the children of Ascension and beyond. We have two distinct groups that gather based upon their ages: The Junior Youth

is open to all youth in grades 5 through 8; and the Senior Youth is open to all youth in grades 9 through 12.



YOUTH SUNDAYS

- **Junior Youth meet from 3:00-5:30 pm**
- **Senior Youth meet from 4:45-8:00 pm**

A meal including both Junior and Senior Youth will take place at **5:00 pm**.

YOUTH SUNDAY DATES:

February 25

May 19 (Youth BBQ)

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for these other important dates!

- The Youth will have a servant event on **Friday, March 8, 2024**. (more details to come)
- The Youth will serve Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, March 31, 2024**
- Youth Trivia Night will be **Saturday, April 20, 2024** from **6:00-10:00 pm**. Proceeds will benefit the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions about Ascension Youth Fellowship, please contact Lisa Clark or Pastor at the church office.

Lisa Clark

(314) 659-7558

lisaclark.lc@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

CONFIRMATION RETREAT! If you have a student in our 7th and 8th grade confirmation class, then mark your calendars for our bi-annual confirmation retreat! This all-day event will take place **Saturday, March 2**. We'll start with breakfast at 9 am and conclude after worshipping together at the 5 pm worship. Our focus will be on prayer as we take a closer look at the Lord's Prayer, write in prayer journals, and compose the prayers for our Saturday evening worship service. We also have some down-time and fun together too. This event will be hosted by Pastor Clark and Deaconess Anna Johnson. More details to come!

FEBRUARY LIBRARY LOOK

Born for Rescue: Finding Purpose by Refusing to do Nothing, by Pat Bradley



Pat Bradley stared out the back car window at 70 displaced people huddling together under a few trees to escape the blistering African heat. They had fled their village in South Sudan in the middle of the night as it was destroyed amid a bloody civil war that had indiscriminately claimed the lives of young and old family members alike.

He knew they wouldn't survive unless someone did something—and quickly. But he was just a normal guy—a formerly divorced recovering alcoholic who worked at an ad agency. What could he possibly do? From that moment forward, Pat Bradley refused to do nothing.

Born For Rescue reveals how anyone can make a difference in the world right now because the heart of God is to keep showing up and keep shining the light of hope into the darkest of places within each of us—and how each of us can become a part of seeing and serving others with this light

Claudia Seifert

claudia_s_seifert@yahoo.com

314-616-2735

WELCOME, REV. JESSE KUEKER

WELCOME, REV. JESSE KUEKER OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY! This Sunday we welcome Rev. Jesse Kueker, Admissions Officer at Concordia Seminary, to Ascension. Rev. Kueker will be leading our Sunday morning Bible study at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to come a learn more about the work of Concordia Seminary, different ways men and women can serve the Lord through church professions, and hear an update on the need for pastors and deaconesses in the LCMS. Please come as we give Rev. Kueker a warm Ascension welcome!

OTHER EASTER EGG HUNTS

TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

at Lindenwood Park

Egg Hunt, Easter Bunny, Games, Crafts, Bubbles, Facepaint

www.timothystl.org/egghunt

ST. LUCAS LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30

12:30 – 2:00 pm

7100 Morgan Ford Rd

St. Louis, MO 63116

Egg Hunt, Crafts, Games, Easter Bunny, & other activities

WORD OF LIFE NEWS



WOL OPEN POSITION

Join our amazing, caring and ministry focused team of teachers!

Word of Life is now seeking qualified applicants for the Middle School Math position that is open for the 2024-2025 school year. Experience *and* an enthusiasm for teaching math is required.

For more information or to apply, contact Principal, Melissa Bergholt, at 314-832-1244 or mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net.

WOL BAKE SALE Ready to satisfy your sweet tooth and support our Word of Life 8th graders at the same time? On the weekend of **March 2nd and 3rd**, the 8th grade families will be supplying delicious treats for sale before and after all church services. Cookies, cupcakes, cakes, and more! All proceeds from the bake sale will propel the Word of Life 8th graders closer to their goal of funding their class trip to Branson. They thank you for your support!

WOL RESTAURANT NIGHT

JJ Twigs

Hampton Location

Tuesday, March 5th

All Day

10% of Sales for Dine-In or Carry-Out



WOL MUSICAL Don't miss your opportunity to "Seize the Day" as Word of Life Lutheran School presents the musical production of Newsies Jr. The lights shine bright as our stars hit the stage for three performances in the Word of Life Gymnasium.

- **Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 pm**
- **Friday, March 8 at 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday, March 9 at 3:00 pm**

Tickets (\$10 for premium seating and \$8 for general seating, processing fees apply) will be available online only beginning February 22.

Boosters are on sale now through February 26! Give a shout out to your favorite actor or chorus member or advertise your business in our 400+ brochures.

Visit wordoflifeschool.net/newsiesjr/ for ticket and booster information. Come and see the Newsies make headlines!

(Pick up a flyer in the Narthex for program booster opportunities.)



LUTHERAN SOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

LUTHERAN SOUTH SUMMER CAMPS Does your child enjoy shooting hoops? Love creating and drawing? Want to try a new sport like football or field hockey? LuSo Summer Camp offers a variety of athletic and enrichment activities with morning and afternoon sessions available. From playing tennis to the trombone, we have coaches and instructors who offer positive reinforcement. Your campers will have fun while learning a new skill. Register today at LSlancers.org/summer

VOCATIO: RETREAT

VOCATIO: RETREAT Interested in a distinctively Lutheran retreat that provides the space to rest in God's Word, time to spend in prayer and the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest theologians in the church? Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites you to attend *Vocatio: Retreat* — a three-day retreat (**April 14-16, 2024**) geared toward college students and second-career men and women who are considering serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain. Registration is free and includes lodging and meals. To register visit www.csl.edu/vocatio-retreat Hurry! Registration closes March 29.

CFNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

CFNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Looking for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus to refugees in St. Louis? CFNA is seeking volunteers to drive refugee clients to medical appointments. Transportation to appointments is the last and most crucial link to accessing needed medical care. Appointments are mostly on weekdays during normal business hours. Interested? Reach out to Paige Bernau, RN at pbernau@cfna-stl.org. More information can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby.



Christian Friends of New Americans

4019 SOUTH GRAND, ST. LOUIS, MO 63118 | 314-351-1740

CFNA TRIVIA NIGHT

CFNA TRIVIA NIGHT

April 6, 2024

Doors open at **5:15 pm**

Trivia begins at **6:00 pm**

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

4355 Butler Hill Road

St. Louis, MO 63128

\$30 per person

\$200 per team of eight

All information, including how to register, sponsor, and donate, can be found at the CFNA website.

<https://www.cfna-stl.org/trivia>

JOIN ONE OF OUR BIBLE STUDIES

Bible studies are a wonderful opportunity to be in God's Word and enjoy fellowship as you grow in faith and friendship. For more information on any of the Bible studies listed below, you may contact the leaders directly or our Bible Study and Small Group Coordinator Barbara Shippy at bjshippy@gmail.com or (314) 795-2568.

Sunday Morning Bible Study All are welcome!
Join us for Bible class between worship services.
Sundays from 9:45–10:30 am / ongoing
Location: Ascension / Fellowship Hall
Leaders: Pastor Clark & Pastor Kobs

Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Men & Women)
Tuesdays from 9:30–11 am / ongoing
Location: Ascension / Concordia Room
Leader: Pastor Clark
Contact: pastor@ascensionstl.com / (314) 832-5600

Women of the Word Bible Study
Wednesdays from 9:30–11 am / ongoing
Location: Ascension / lower level classroom
Leader: Marlene Maxfield
Contact: marmaxfield@aol.com / (314) 221-0999

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study
Thursdays from 6:15–7:30 am / ongoing
Location: Ascension / Hintze Library in Church Lobby
Leader: Mike Gibbs
Contact: jackfan39@yahoo.com / (314) 352-1297

Thursday Evening Men's Bible Study
Thursdays from 7:00–8:00 pm / ongoing
Location: Personal residence
Leaders: Rob Bremer and Chris Thies
Contact Rob: rwbjhb@sbcglobal.net / (314) 413-2603
Contact Chris: chris.thies@outlook.com

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

FAST FORWARD We have begun a new Sunday morning Bible study topic. Each Sunday we'll be "fast forwarding" to the Scripture readings that will be used in worship the *next* weekend. As we look ahead at God's Word together, our discussion might even help inform and shape the sermon for the next weekend. Come join Pastor Clark on Sundays at **10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall to be a part of the conversation and be a week ahead!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Ascension, we strive to engage with EVERY person at EVERY age in learning more about our Savior, Jesus.

On Sunday mornings, we have a class for YOU!

Students in Preschool through Junior High meet in the church sanctuary at 9:45 am for Sunday School opening.

Toddlers & Parents

If you are ready to get your family in a Sunday morning Bible class habit, join us in the nursery for a special Sunday School option just for you. Singing, activities, and stories focused on God and his love for his littlest learners (and their caregivers). Contact Brittany Schelp at (417) 438-7860 for more details.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Teachers: Marcia Passanise, Dan Passanise & Cathy Kramer

Grades 1 through 3

Teachers: Emily Jones, Brittany Schelp, Mary Pastor, and Aubrey Blank

Grades 4 through 5

Teachers: Rich Schaefer and Carl Anderson

Junior High

Teachers: Deaconess Anna Johnson, Lisa Clark, and seminary students

Senior High

Teachers: Rob Bremer, Jeremy Johnson, and seminary students

Adults

Teachers: Pastor Clark, Pastor Kobs, Gagan Gurung, and John Gurung

Nepali Fellowship

Teachers: Pastor Clark, Gagan Gurung, John Gurung, and Friends

Sunday School Coordinator

Deaconess Anna Johnson

Assistant Coordinator

Brittany Schelp



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

February 25, Lesson 7

Today, we will study "The Weakened Judge." God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God's people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time she tries to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his power. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house's supporting pillars, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone.

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER: Pastor Matthew Clark

LITURGIST:

Vicar John Gurung: Sundays at 11:00am
Seminarian Joshua Wareham (2nd year): 1st Sunday of month
Seminarian Joel Her (4th year): 2nd Sunday of month
Seminarian Michael Winckler (4th year): 3rd Sunday of month
Pastor Matthew Kobs: 4th Sunday of month
Seminarian Kurtis Polodna (1st year): 5th Sunday of month

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Gabe Maichel, organist

ACOLYTES: 5:00p open

8:30 Liam Travers; 11:00 Kyan Sawyer

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Tyler Kern

8:30 Noah Maxfield; 11:00 Zane Norris/Samuel Gurung

ALTAR FLOWERS The flowers that grace our chancel have been provided by:

Honorable & Mrs. Ed Peek in celebration of our 57th Wedding Anniversary on February 25.

Peggy Triska in memory of Steven Spellmeyer, the Wedding Anniversary of my parents Ronald & Shirley Triska, and Rich LoRusso.

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00p Tracy Middleton

8:30 Nancy & Doug Pfitzinger; Jim & Cheryl Chambers

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Tracy Middleton

8:30 Melissa Maxfield; Jim & Cheryl Chambers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 5:00p Rich Schaefer

8:30 Pastor Kobs;

11:00 Pastor Kobs

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p

8:30 Joshua Wareham;

11:00 Joshua Wareham

A/V ROOM: 5:00p Bella Bracken, Anna Clark, Matthew Hofman;

8:30 Bill Maxfield, Grant Maxfield;

11:00 Vernon Schmidt, Jason Fletcher, Julie Krapf, Kyan Sawyer

READERS: 5:00p Lisa Holderle

8:30 Pastor Kobs; 11:00 Rain Hernandez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Melissa Bergholt

8:30 Brad Muhlke; 11:00 Jo Bruns

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: March 3, 2024 –

Third Sunday in Lent

First Reading *Exodus 20:1-17*

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

Holy Gospel *John 2:13-22*

USHERS: 5:00 Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann, Ed Holderle, Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson;

8:30 Gene Bockelmann, Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer,

Nathan Decker, Jack Pendleton;

11:00 Paul Brock Sr., Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez, Rain Hernandez

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Church Staff prays for you during their weekly staff meetings. If you have a specific prayer request, please contact the church office.

ASCENSION MEMBERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Jones	James Keltner	Daniel Harms
Brian Kitson	Thomas Kitson	Tristan Rabun

Jamie Federhofer

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

02/25 Lilly Bick, Bellamy Landers, Ruth Larkin, Jim Preston, Jon Todd, Nadia Zaza

02/27 Kellie Pogue, Rich Schaefer, Titus Shippy, Al Smith

02/28 Debbie Gibbs, Carrie Guenzler-Heaney

02/29 Pastor Matt Clark

03/02 Lenora Foppe

Please contact the church office if your birthday has been omitted in error.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

02/25 Edward & Lois Peek

03/01 Ed & Lisa Holderle

Please contact the church office if your anniversary has been omitted in error.

ASCENSION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SERVING AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Kevin Keller	Phil Green	Gary Steffens
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Ross Hetz & Firehouse

Denise Strittmatter

ASCENSION ELDERS and the families they serve

Rich Schaefer – Agne to Broughton

Rudy Blank – Brumback to Freer

Mark Maxfield – Fryar to Hill

Jeff Stiles – Hill-Stout to Komrka

Randy Agne – Krapf to Moffat

Carlos Lopez – Monaghan to Pogue

Jack Pendleton – Preston to Simpson

Steele Shippy – Sittmann to Zaza

Paul Brock Sr. – Elder at Large

Gene Bockelmann – Elder at Large

Joe Benda – Elder at Large

Gagan Gurung – Nepali Members

LCMS CONGREGATIONS IN OUR

SOUTH ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT

Ascension	Hope	St. Luke's
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Concordia	Messiah	St. Trinity
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Epiphany	Mt. Olive	Timothy
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Holy Cross	St. Johns	Trinity
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Jefferson Avenue Mission



ASCENSION'S WOL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Pfitzinger – President

Rick Anderson

Jim Fox – Treasurer

Vernon Schmidt

TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

Dr. Daniel & Joan Jastram - Asia

Erin Mackenzie - Dominican Republic

Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood – Indonesia