



## NEWS AND NOTES

April 20 & 21, 2024

*“Loved by Christ, Sharing Christ’s Love”*

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Worship with Communion	8:30 am
	Adult Bible Study / Sunday School	9:45 am
	Worship with Communion	11:00 am
Monday	Staff Meeting	8:30 am
	Elders	6:30 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters	9:00 am
	Women of the Word Bible Study	9:30 am
	Confirmation Class	6:30 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 am
Friday	WOL Chapel	8:15 am
Saturday	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm
	Grote Baptism	5:00 pm
	Testimony Weekend	

### STEWARDSHIP

**John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”** What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

#### **Stewardship Report**

For the weekend ending April 14<sup>th</sup>

In-person attendance: 5:00 – 53  
8:30 – 105  
11:00 – 78

**TOTAL – 236**

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Budgeted Amount	\$	12,478
Amount Received	\$	12,890
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$	412

2024 Surplus through March: \$18,512

### 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 **April 21 – April 27** is **Mark 1 & 2**.

### CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** All members of Ascension are invited and encouraged to attend a congregational voters’ meeting on **Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm** in the church Fellowship Hall. Items that will be discussed at the meeting include:

1. Sharing Ascension’s updated 5-Fold Focus with an opportunity for Q and A
2. Significant staff changes that will be implemented over the summer
3. An update on the next steps of the 4:19 facilities maintenance and improvement program
4. An update on the church budget
5. An update on Word of Life Lutheran School and its new endowment fund

### ASCENSION PHOTO DIRECTORY

**ASCENSION PHOTO DIRECTORY** In the fall, Ascension will begin taking and collecting pictures of members for our photo directory. More details to come soon!

### 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.

## 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

3/03: 350

3/10: 223

3/17: 282

3/24: 319

3/31: 473

### 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](https://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.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**PEOPLE WE ARE PRAYING FOR IN THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** We are praying for the following individuals as we ask the Lord for healing and restoration.

- Jan, Aunt of Jeff Stiles, God's provision and guidance for her in body, mind, and spirit
- George, student at Word of Life who is being treated for cancer
- Matthew Driskill, undergoing continued testing and treatment for cancer
- Christine, Mother of Jeff Branch, as she is being treated for leukemia
- Jim Lotz, strength in the midst of a serious heart condition
- Brenda Radash, healing following eye surgery
- Carl Fadler, recovering from COVID

## 5-PART MINISTRY FOCUS

### 5-PART MINISTRY FOCUS

Ascension's Ministry Council has been working hard, meeting in addition to its monthly meetings to update the ministry focus of our congregation. Being focused helps us be faithful stewards of our resources and set priorities as we seek to "share Christ's love." Our 5-part focus for 2024-2026 includes the following key areas:

1. Christ-Centered Worship, Spiritual Growth, and Fellowship
2. Community Outreach
3. Multi-Cultural Outreach
4. Partnership with Word of Life School
5. Intergenerational Fellowship

The Ministry Council is now working on goals for the congregation within each of these areas. We'll be unpacking these goals more with the congregation during our pre-worship announcements over the coming weeks. We look forward to working together as a church family!

## KFUO SPONSORSHIP

**KFUO RADIO WORSHIP BROADCASTS** Our LCMS radio station, KFUO AM 850, has invited Ascension to broadcast its Sunday morning early service from May through July. These broadcasts are listened to by many both locally on the radio and world-wide via the internet. Ascension is seeking individuals and families to sponsor a broadcast. Broadcast sponsorships can be dedicated in memory of someone, celebration of a special event, or in thanksgiving. A sponsorship is \$150. Please contact the church office to sponsor a broadcast. See below for the list of current sponsors and dates still available.

**May 5:** Don Sprinz

**May 12:**

**May 19:**

**May 26:** Doris Burns, Becky & Geoff Welton

**June 2:**

**June 9:** Richard Seifert

**June 16:**

**June 23:** Randy & Sharon Agne

**June 30:**

**July 7:** Karl & Debbie Hofmann

**July 14:** Peggy Triska

**July 21:**

**July 28:** Jack Pendleton



## GRADUATION MILESTONE

**2024 GRADUATES** If you are graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, trade school, military service, or college; Ascension would like to celebrate your accomplishment. Pastor Clark will invite you to the front of church and give you a special blessing and gift. We look forward to celebrating with you and hope to see you at any church service the weekend of **May 18 and 19**.

## 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:

**May 19** (Youth BBQ)

**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](mailto:lisaclark.lc@gmail.com)

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** Ascension's Free Outdoor Concert Series will again take place Saturdays in June at 7:00 pm. The following is a schedule of concerts. A big thanks to our Music Director, Gabe Maichel, for organizing this series.

June 1  
Side X Side  
(Percussion Ensemble)

June 8  
The Bottlesnakes Trio  
(Folk & Blues)

June 15  
Fanfare  
(Cover Band)

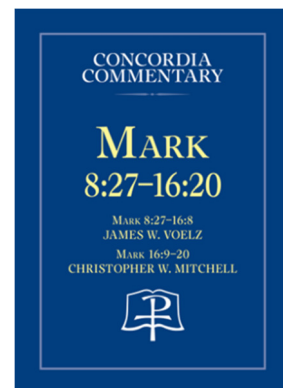
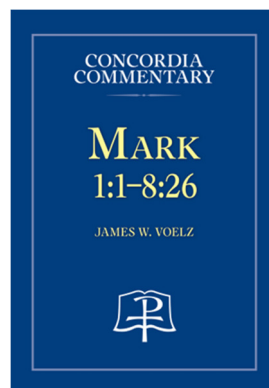
June 22  
The Knights of Swing  
(Jazz Big Band)

June 29  
Two Times True  
(Jazz)



## APRIL LIBRARY LOOK

**CONCORDIA COMMENTARY—MARK 1:1-8:26 and MARK 8:27-16:20** by James W. Voelz and Christopher W. Mitchell



As our congregation reads through the Gospels this year, we have two volumes of the **Concordia Commentaries** for insight into the **Gospel of Mark**.

Jesus promised a triumphant revelation of himself after the cross, but within **Mark**, the disciples do not yet see the glorious, risen Christ. They only have his Word. So also, we Christians do not see him and the kingdom fully implemented and manifested now. How difficult it is to be faithful on the basis of the Word alone-- the disciples are testimony to that fact!

If you had been there, it would not have been any easier for you than it is today. The evidence you have is what the disciples and the women had on that Easter morning: the promise of His Word, a Word that is ever sure.

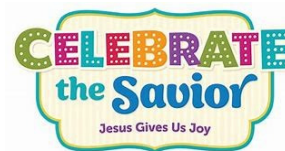
The second and final commentary on the **Gospel of Mark**, covering verses 8:27-16:20, details the revelation of who the Christ is, the fate of the revealed Christ played out, His appearances to His disciples, the sending of the apostles, and Christ's ascension. The editors conclude with textual notes and commentary on the final twelve verses.

Claudia Seifert  
[claudia\\_s\\_seifert@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia_s_seifert@yahoo.com)  
314-616-2735

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us this summer,  
**June 10-14, 2024** from **9:00 am-12:00 pm**, for "Celebrate the Savior" Vacation Bible School.



Calling all helpers! Please see the poster in the church lobby to sign up to help with VBS! Leaders and helpers are needed.

Online student registration will be open in early **May**.

## WORD OF LIFE NEWS



## LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK

**LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK** Join us for Lutheran Day at the Ballpark on **Sunday, May 5** at **1:15 pm** for an interleague matchup between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago White Sox. Sit with other families from your school and enjoy the view from the right field loge. Tickets are \$25 and include a free hot dog and soda. Tickets can be picked up at your school beginning May 1. The first 25,000 fans, ages 16 and older, will take home an exclusive Cardinals purse. Then, stick around to watch the Lutheran South Lancers battle the Sullivan Eagles following the Cardinals game. Kids, 15 & under get to run the bases between the games.

Alumni are invited to join us at 11:30 am in the Cunningham Corner for a pre-game party including food and drink. Entrance to the alumni party is free.

Get your Cardinals tickets today at <https://bit.ly/ballpark24>

## LUTHERAN SOUTH NEWS



**MIDDLE SCHOOL KICKBALL CLASSIC** Lutheran South is hosting the Middle School Kickball Classic on **Friday, April 26**, from **7:00-8:30 pm**. This free event is for students in grades 6-8. Register by April 20 to receive a free t-shirt. Sign up at [LSlancers.org/events](https://LSlancers.org/events)

**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](https://LSlancers.org/summer)

## CONCORDIA SEMINARY CALL DAY

**CALL DAY 2024** Concordia Seminary's Call Day service is **Tuesday, April 23**. At **3:00 pm**, second year students will receive their vicarage assignments and at **7:00 pm**, concluding students will receive their pastoral calls. Services can be viewed at [csl.edu/callday](https://csl.edu/callday). Ascension's fourth year Seminary students, Joel Her & Michael Winckler, will receive their pastoral calls. Also, fourth year seminarian Peter Frank, the husband of former Ascension member Laura Gibbs Frank, will be receiving his pastoral call.

## VOCATIO: HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

**VOCATIO: HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT** Thinking About Serving as a Pastor or Deaconess? If you are in high school and thinking about a vocation as a pastor or deaconess, then consider attending this summer's "Vocatio" retreat at Concordia Seminary. Vocatio is a retreat that encourages high school students to find God's calling for their lives through experiencing many aspects of the Seminary including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation. Vocatio takes place from **June 22 to June 29, 2024**. The cost is only \$100 per person.

Register at [www.csl.edu/register/VocatioHighSchool](https://www.csl.edu/register/VocatioHighSchool)

## 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](mailto:pbernau@cfna-stl.org). More information can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby.



## CFNA DONATIONS NEEDED

**DONATIONS NEEDED** Thank you for your past support of refugees and immigrants who have made the U.S. their home. Many arrive with little or nothing at all and are in need of basic household and personal care products as well as other necessities. The pace of new arrivals settling in our country continues to grow steadily. The demand for household furnishings outweighs the supply. There is a great need for laundry detergent (40+oz size), paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue boxes, dish soap, bar soap (4oz), shampoo with conditioner, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant wipes, garbage bags (13 gallon), stick deodorant, tooth brushes, toothpaste (6oz) floss, mouthwash. Next time you shop please consider purchasing an extra item(s) of any of the above items. Donations should be placed in the box in coat closet.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rwbjhb@sbcglobal.net) / (314) 413-2603  
Contact Chris: [chris.thies@outlook.com](mailto: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?

#### April 21, Lesson 14

"The Unwise Wise King" is the title of today's lesson. Solomon gathers the supplies and artisans to begin the most important construction project of his reign—building a house for God. Using the very finest materials and most skilled craftsmen, Solomon builds a temple so glorious that none to come after it would ever compare. Later in his life, Solomon's many wives and concubines lead him away from the true God. In His anger, God vows to take the kingdom away from Solomon's descendants.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**PREACHER:** Pastor Matthew Clark

### LITURGIST:

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

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Gabe Maichel, organist

**ACOLYTES:** 5:00p open  
8:30 Marianne Blank; 11:00 Blake Patzius  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p open  
8:30 Micah Stiles; 11:00 Emma Nickolotsky

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

The Congregation in honor of the Confirmation Class of 2024.

**ALTAR GUILD:** 5:00p Sharon Agne  
8:30 Becky Harmon; 11:00 Michele Rosner  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p Jane Fryar  
8:30 Becky Harmon; 11:00 Julie Brock/Lisa Schrum

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

5:00p  
8:30 Michael Winckler &  
11:00 Michael Winckler &  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p  
8:30 Pastor Kobs &  
11:00 Pastor Kobs &

**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 Diane Weber  
8:30 Melissa Maxfield; 11:00 Rain Hernandez  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p Debbie Meyer  
8:30 Mary Pastor; 11:00 Marla Lopez

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** April 28, 2024 –  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
First Reading *Acts 8:26-40*  
Second Reading *1 John 4:1-11*  
Holy Gospel *John 15:1-8*

**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

04/23 Matthew Hartnett Jr  
04/24 John Danback, Max Kuhl  
04/25 Bev Schaefer  
04/26 Michele Rosner, Leslie Sonderman  
04/27 Sue Pfaff, Evelyn Smith

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

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

04/22 Walter Scoggins & Pam Todd  
04/24 Eric & Natalie Bower

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
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 Komrska  
**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
Concordia	Messiah	St. Trinity
Epiphany	Mt. Olive	Timothy
Holy Cross	St. Johns	Trinity
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

