



NEWS AND NOTES

April 27 & 28, 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
	Confirmation Faith Essays	
Monday	Staff Meeting	8:30 am
Tuesday	Bible Study	9:30 am
Wednesday	WOL Chapel	8:15 am
	Quilters	9:00 am
	Women of the Word Bible Study	9:30 am
	Bells	5:45 pm
	Choir	6:45 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 am
Saturday	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm

STEWARDSHIP

John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That’s growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.

Stewardship Report

For the weekend ending April 21st

In-person attendance: 5:00 – 72
 8:30 – 107
 11:00 – 51
TOTAL – 230

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Budgeted Amount	\$	12,478
Amount Received	\$	11,455
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$	(1,023)

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 28 – May 4** is **Mark 3 & 4**.

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

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION This weekend, **April 27 & 28**, at Sunday worship services, the 2024 Confirmands will share their faith essays based on their confirmation verse. Confirmation will be next **Sunday, May 5**, at the **11:00 am** worship service.

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 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 Radosh, healing following eye surgery

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!

ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP

ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP! You're invited to join us for the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord! This festival is the namesake of our congregation. We will be gathering for worship for Ascension Day 2024 on **Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm**. Rev. Dr. Sam Nafzger, will be the preacher. There will also be a Ted Drewes frozen custard reception outdoors following worship!

KFUO SPONSORSHIP

KFUO RADIO WORSHIP BROADCASTS Our LCMS radio station, KFUE 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: Board of Elders

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



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

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)

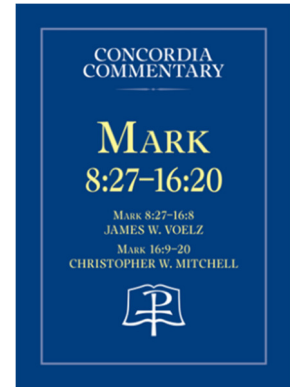
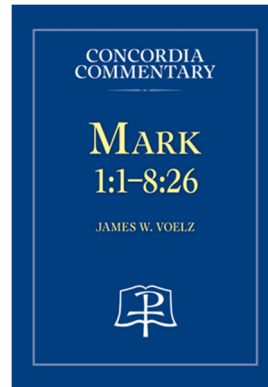
June 22
The Knights of Swing
(Jazz Big Band)

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.

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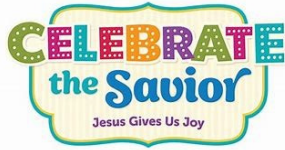
GRADUATION MILESTONE

2024 GRADUATES If you are graduating from 8th 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**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

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**.

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



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

CONCORDIA SEMINARY CALL DAY

CONGRATULATIONS to Ascension's concluding seminarians, Joel Her and Michael Winckler! They both received their pastoral calls this past week. Also, second year seminarian Joshua Wareham received his vicarage assignment.

Joel and his family will be going to Cornerstone Light of Life Lutheran Church in Maplewood, MN.

Michael and his family will be going to Trinity Lutheran Church in Friedheim, MO.

Joshua Wareham will be preparing to go to Sri Lanka.

We will be recognizing each of them during worship the weekend of **May 18 & 19**.

May 18: 5:00 pm – Joshua Wareham

May 19: 8:30 am – Michael Winckler

May 19: 11:00 am – Joel Her

Blessings to them and their families as they begin this next chapter in their ministry!

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 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 or (314) 795-2568.

Sunday Morning Bible Study All are welcome!
Join us for Bible class between worship services.
Sundays from 10:00-10:45 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
Leader: Rob Bremer
Contact Rob: rwbjhb@sbcglobal.net / (314) 413-2603

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY UPDATES

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 Kobs on Sundays at **10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall to be a part of the conversation and be a week ahead!

SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASS Ascension holds a class for those who desire to learn more about what Lutheran Christians believe. This is a great opportunity to become a member of Ascension and a closer part of our church family. New member classes meet for approximately 7 weeks, from **10:00 am to 10:45 am** on Sunday mornings in the Concordia Conference Room, and are taught by Pastor Clark. All are welcome!

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 28, Lesson 11

Today, we will study "The Faith-Full Friends." The Bible tells us David and Jonathan were such close friends that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" (1 Samuel 18:1). Saul's insane jealousy of David tests their friendship to the limit. David and Jonathan establish a plan to alert David if Saul continues to seek his life. Sadly, Saul's anger remains unchecked. Jonathan, faithful to God's will, warns David to flee from the king.

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 Micah Stiles; 11:00 Emma Nickolotsky

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Tyler Kern

8:30 Kiera Stiles; 11:00 Kyan Sawyer / Samuel Gurung

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

The families of the 2024 Confirmands:

Marianne Blank	Olivia Cosentino
Noah Maxfield	Emma Nickolotsky

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00p Jane Fryar

8:30 Becky Harmon; 11:00 Julie Brock/Lisa Schrum

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Jane Fryar

8:30 Melissa Maxfield; 11:00 Julie Brock/Lisa Schrum

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

5:00p Rich Schaefer

8:30 Pastor Kobs & Rudy Blank

11:00 Pastor Kobs &

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Rich Schaefer

8:30 Joshua Wareham & Steele Shippy

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 Debbie Meyer

8:30 Mary Pastor; 11:00 Marla Lopez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00p Randy Agne

8:30 Janis Nafzger; 11:00 Troy Hansen

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: May 5, 2024 –

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading *Acts 10:34-48*

Second Reading *1 John 5:1-8*

Holy Gospel *John 15:9-17*

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

04/28 Tom Hinton, Emma Nickolotsky

04/29 Anna Corvera, Eleanor Pisoni, Steve Schave, Elberta Simpson

04/30 Cindy Sittmann

05/01 Gianna Lewis

05/02 Jim Wiederhold

05/03 Paul Brock Jr, Parker Haywood

05/04 Ella Haywood, Jennifer Hilkerbaumer-Yocum

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

04/28 Walt & Barbara Simpson

05/04 Beth & Rick Reeves

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

Jim Fox – Treasurer

Rick Anderson

Vernon Schmidt

TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

Dr. Daniel & Joan Jastram - Asia

Erin Mackenzie - Dominican Republic

Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood – Indonesia

