

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Today	Worship with Communion	8:15 am & 11:00 am
	Bible Class/Sunday School	9:45 am
Monday	Multi Media Mtg.	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Bible Class	9:30 am
	Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters	9:00 am
	Women’s Bible Class	9:30 am
	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	6:30 pm
Thursday	Mens Bible Study (away)	6:30 am
	Cub Pack #34 Mtg	6:30 pm
	Boy Scout # 34 Mtg.	7:00 pm
	Mens Bible Study (away)	7:00 pm
Friday	Nepali Home Bible Study	7:00 pm
	Sr. Youth Laser Tag	7:00 pm-11:00 pm
Saturday	Men’s Club	8:00 am
	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm
	WOL PTL Trivia Night (gym)	6:30 pm

**WELCOME!**

**REGARDING COMMUNION** The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at Ascension in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. All those who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

<b>Stewardship Report</b>	
Through 1/22/17	
Number Who Gathered Around God’s Word	
Ascension Location Worship	317
Peace Center Location	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>
Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love	
Amount Given	\$ 15,368
Budgeted Amount	\$10,385
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ 4,983
Sunday School \$19.75	
Worship Enhancement Fund Donations	
Amount Donated:	\$ 125
Previous Balance:	\$102,347
Total to Date:	\$102,472
Worship Enhancement amount remaining: \$25,789	

**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ASCENSION**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS** January 29<sup>th</sup>  
(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

**1 Corinthians 1:18:** “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” God’s ways are certainly not the world’s ways – including the way God tells us to manage the resources He’s given to us. The world says “hold on, hold back, and gather up.” Jesus says to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal. Whose way do you think is best? What is wiser: the wisdom of the financial gurus or the foolishness of God?

**REFORMATION BIBLE STUDIES** As we prepare for the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in October 2017, our Sunday morning Bible studies will utilize some of the great Reformation-related resources that have been recently released. These include a DVD series called “A Man Named Martin,” a series entitled “Faces of the Reformation,” which focuses on key people in the Reformation, and a film called “Walther,” which covers the founding of our own church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Come to the lower-level Fellowship Hall Sundays at 9:45 am and hear how after 500 years, “It’s Still All About Jesus!”

**OUR NURSERY** is located down the lobby hall in the Emmaus Room. It is equipped with an audio feed that enables you to participate in the service. If you need assistance, please ask an usher for help.

**SIMPLY GIVING** is an easy, generous choice. The *Simply Giving Program* endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to our congregation through automated giving. To learn more or to enroll, pick up a brochure (form) outside the church office.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTION** to renew or subscribe to the Lutheran Witness, please use the envelope provided in your 2017 contribution box. The cost is \$15.96 for 12 issues. Please have your renewal/subscription in by 1/31/17.

**DID YOU KNOW? . . .**

*Ascension’s Multimedia Team is looking for new people to help with the audio and visual elements of worship. Interested? Join us for orientation Monday, 1/30 at 7 pm*

**HELP FOR FAMILY NEW TO AMERICA** The past few weeks, Eric, Flora, and their three children have worshiped with us during the 11 am service at Ascension. They are from the Congo and have been in the US a little over one month. The family could use some basic necessities including clothing for children boy age 10, girl age 8 and boy age 6. Sox, gloves, and winter coats. Sheets for a queen bed and double bed. A microwave. A computer with internet access would be helpful too. This family speaks French and Swahili and we've ordered Bibles and other material in these languages. If you know anyone who speaks French, please let us know. They could be helpful in communicating with this new family as they begin to learn English.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** Like Ascension on Facebook to stay current with events, Bible studies, photos, videos and other great resources! There are 4 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"

**THE 2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available on the table in the church lobby. Please pick up at your convenience.

**THE 2017 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** are ready for you to pick up. They are located on the tables in the lobby hall toward the Concordia Room.

**DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE!** Scan the image you see here by using your phone's QR code reader (bar code scanner). You will be taken directly to Ascension's new on-line giving page. Simply set up your account, using your credit or debit card, and donate electronically. iPhone users can also download the GIVE+Mobile app from the Apple Store.



**ASCENSION EVENING GUILD** is asking Ascension members to cut off all postage stamps on your received mail and save for LWML (Lutheran Womens Missionary League). These used stamps are then turned in and the monies raised are used for LWML mission work. Remember to cut or tear stamps off mail leaving at least a 1/4 inch border around them. (Good job for the children to do!) Bring to church and place in the LWML STAMPS container in the church lobby. This has been a longtime practice of LWML which we hope to revive here at Ascension.

**BLANKETS NEEDED** During the past few weeks Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) has received requests for blankets. If you have new or gently used blankets you would like to donate, you may drop them off in the box in the church lobby over the weekend or during office hours (8 am to 3:30 pm) on weekdays. If you would like a thank you and a donation tax credit letter, please affix your name and address on your donation. Thank you for your support

**MIGHTY MITES** Let's make 2017 the year of collecting a record amount of mites for the missions of LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission). If you have been collecting mites—your spare change—please empty your mite box into a baggy and bring to an Evening Guild meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Or deposit your mites in the large LWML Mite Box on the lobby shelf by the mail slots. Or give your mites to Marlene Maxfield who will forward them to LWML. If you'd like to write a check, make the check payable to LWML with Mite Donation on the memo line. Then begin filling your Mite Box again! If you would like a mite box, contact Marlene. Check the February *Messenger* for the history of LWML Mite boxes and the missions they fund.

#### **SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

We're thankful for you, Ascension members, for reaching out in many ways this past year. In December alone:

- 24 boxes of gifts to children abroad through Operation Christmas Child
- Dozens of blankets given to local Syrian refugees through Christian Friends of New Americans
- Over 50 stuffed animals to the St. Louis Police Department to care for children through scouts
- 76 gifts to foster children through Lutheran Family and Children's Services

Thank you, members of Ascension, for #SharingChristsLove to all who are #LovedbyChrist.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** The tentative start date is Tuesday, April 8, from 7-8 pm in the Concordia Room, and will meet for approximately 6 weeks. If you know any one who may want to know what we as Lutheran believe or may be interested in becoming a member of Ascension, please let them know about this class. All are welcome!

**MULTIMEDIA TEAM WANTS YOU!** Ascension is in need of individuals who would like to serve in our "multimedia" room during worship. This entails overseeing both audio and visual components used in our services. If you are interested in serving in this way, please come and find out more at a Multimedia Team meeting on Monday, January 30 at 7 pm. If you like technology, and you like worship, then this might be a great way for you to serve!

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP FOR THOSE IN THEIR 20s and 30s** Ascension's Young Adult Group will resume for a new study, "The Sign of Jonah: Finding Christ in the Bible's Biggest Fish Story." The group will meet at church in the Concordia Room on Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8 pm beginning February 2. We'll enjoy a meal together from 6:30-7 pm and then dig into Scripture from 7-8 pm. Childcare will be available. All young adults are welcome!

**VBS SILENT AUCTION** Items and/or baskets are need for our VBS silent auction. If a group or individuals would like to donate a basket or item, please bring it to the church office or contact Nancy Pfitzinger at (314) 644-0068. Thank you for your support.

**VBS TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION** on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Doors open at 6 pm with trivia starting at 6:30pm. (Should end around 9 pm). Table of 8 @ \$5 per person. Pretzels and M&M's will be provided. You can bring your own snacks. Soda and water bottles for sale. No alcohol; please. All proceeds benefit VBS 2017.

**GAME DAY SUB SANDWICH SALE** 6" subs with ham, turkey, salami, roast beef and American cheese. Lettuce, tomato and pickles provided on the side. \$10.00 each. Order yours today at the display in the church lobby. Subs may be picked up on 2/5/17 from 9am-12:30 pm in the church lobby. Proceeds to support the Jr. youth attending the Missouri District Jr. High Retreat Fall 2017.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A** Mighty Fortress June 12-16, 2017, 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Closing Program on Friday, June 16 at 6 pm

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE  
FEBRUARY 11 AND 12, 2017**

During each worship service the weekend of February 11 & 12, we will be recognizing the institution of marriage, praying for those in our midst who are married, and celebrating with those who in 2017 are reaching their milestone anniversary of 5, 10, 15, up to 70 years. During each service there will be a time for these couples to come forward to recommit themselves to each other.

The 2+ group is the sponsor of this milestone and they are preparing a small gift for each attending couple. Please contact the church office during the day at 832-5600 or Debbie Gibbs, 352-1297, no later than February 5 to let us know if you will be celebrating with us so that we can plan accordingly.

You do not need to be a member of this church to celebrate your milestone with us.

**MOVIE NIGHT!** Mark your calendars and get your pajamas ready for a movie night in Ascensions' Fellowship Hall. The event will be on Saturday, February 18 with doors opening at 6:30 pm and the movie beginning at 7 pm. All from Ascension, Word of Life, and the community are welcome to this free event. We are thankful for the new audio and visual improvements to our Fellowship Hall, which makes this event possible!

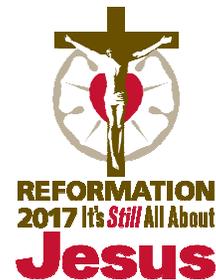


**EVERYONE IS INVITED** to celebrate Ascension's former Pastor Spomer's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!! Although his actual birthday is in February, we will be celebrating on Saturday afternoon, March 4, 2017 from 2:00-4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall of Ascension. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship; no RSVP is necessary. Spread the word, if you know anyone who would like to join us in congratulating him on 70 years of blessings! (Please no gifts)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Spring Plant Sale Sat, April 29, 2017 Because Ascension's special youth events are a big dill, we are digging into some new ways to grow some funds. We're not blooming crazy we know it's still chili outside, but before spring has sprung there is work to be done. This year we are planning to work with a nursery to offer annuals, perennial and vegetable plant preorders. Don't be impatient. More info will be coming soon. This is a grass roots effort so your help would be berry appreciated. Don't have a green thumb? Romaine calm, there are many ways to join in the good thymes. Please contact Karen Hilkerbaumer, (314) 752-9473 gbomber@swbell.net or Julie Headrick, (314) 849-2245 hea102@sbcglobal.net

**REFORMATION 2017  
It's Still All About  
Jesus**

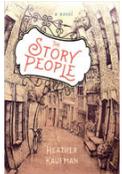
Year Long Celebration began November 6, 2016 for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lutheran Reformation



**Hintze Library Book of the Month**

February's book of the month is

**The Story People** by Heather Kaufman



When Ben Palermo inherits his uncle's bookstore, he has a secure career and a built-in home, but he doesn't have contentment. As Ben looks ahead to the next chapter of his life, some well-meaning customers scheme to keep him in town by finding him a proper wife—on their terms. The moment author and illustrator Rosemary Berg walks into his store, Ben is captivated. And she is overwhelmed by his disarming charm and eerie familiarity—but can she trust him? Or should she turn instead to an old friend who is finally ready to claim her heart? *The Story People* is a celebration of stories and the bond they form when shared and loved. It's about having the courage to live your own story well as you give your life over to God, the author and perfecter of our faith.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**ASCENSION HAS A DEDICATED GROUP OF PERSONS** who serve as Sunday School teachers. Occasionally, a teacher is not able to be with their class. In order to ensure that our Sunday School classes serve children well, we would like to have substitute teachers on those occasions. To help make that work, we would like to maintain a list of substitute teachers we can call on when needed. Persons on the list would have the option whether to serve when called. Our classes are staffed by two persons, so substitutes would not have to serve alone. On most occasions there would not be any preparation that would be required. Please consider this opportunity to serve. If you would like to serve, or have questions, please contact John Brink – (314) 265-4844; [john.brink@tblawfirm.com](mailto:john.brink@tblawfirm.com).

### BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Teacher(s)</u>
Toddlin' to Jesus	Bethany C	Suzy Brakhage
Pk3-Kdg	WOL Kindergarten	Ellen Hetz
Gr. 1-3	Bethany A & B	Nicole Baade
Gr. 4-5	Dorcas	Carl Anderson/ Rich Schaefer
Gr. 6-8	Youth Room	Jeff Jenkins
Gr. 9-12	Connections Café	Chris Thies/ Lisa Clark
Adult Bible Class	Fellowship Hall	Pastor Clark
Nepalese Bible Class	Fellowship Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month	Pastor Clark/ Gagan Gurung
Sunday School Superintendent		John Brink

## WORD OF LIFE



**WORD OF LIFE 2016-2017 THEME** Word of Life recently announced the theme for next school year. It's "Anchored in Christ" and comes from Hebrews 6:19 which says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Just as an anchor holds in a storm, Christ holds our students secure in all circumstances of life. Children are prepared for life when they are anchored in Christ!

**ENROLLMENT FOR 2017/2018 SCHOOL YEAR** is now open! If you are interested in learning more about Word of Life, we welcome you to schedule a tour. Call (314) 832-1244 ext 12.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** WOL PTL is sponsoring a Trivia Night on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 6:30 pm-10:30 pm in the Word of Life gym.

**PLEASE COME SUPPORT THE WORD OF LIFE PTL** at Fuzzy's Taco restaurant night at 8073 Watson Rd. on February 9th from 4-9pm.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Friday May 12, 2017 at Orlando's for the Word of Life Auction! All funds raised will directly benefit the school.

### WORD OF LIFE TEACHERS OF THE MONTH January 2017



**MELISSA BERGHOLT**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Favorite Bible Verse:** ""For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

**KATIE EYSTER**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Favorite Bible Verse:** "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2

## WORSHIP NOTES

**LITURGIST:** Pastor Matthew Clark

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** 5:00 Carol Benninghoff, organist;  
8:15 Sean Carpenter, organist;  
11:00 Wanda Kuntz, worship team director; Worship Team,  
Emily Thies & Anna Johnson, keyboard;  
Mark Maxfield, guitar; Russ Baade, drums & bass; Gary  
Notch, drums

**ACOLYTES:** 5:00 Mackenzie Moore;;  
8:15; 11:00 Nathanael Mays  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00 Emma Hartung;  
8:15 Noah Clark; 11:00 Ugyen Gurung

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers that grace our altar this  
week are given by:  
Evelyn Gibbs in loving memory of John & Ruth Good  
Dianne, Chris, Kathy, Katlyne & Emily Thies in loving  
memory of husband, father and grandfather, Gerald Thies

**ALTAR GUILD:** 5:00 Jim & Cheryl Chambers;  
8:15 Laura Lane; 11:00 Pam & Melissa Fox  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00 Jim & Cheryl Chambers;  
8:15 Fadia Jenkins;  
11:00 Helga, Tatum & Emma Oestreicher

**ELDERS:** 5:00 Randy Agne, Clarence Goetsch;  
8:15 Jack Pendleton; 11:00 Randy Agne, Joe Benda,  
Gary Notch  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00 Gary Notch, Rich Schaefer;  
8:15 Jack Pendleton; 11:00 Randy Agne, Mark Maxfield

**HOSTS:** 8:15; 8:15 Roger & Rose Seifert;  
11:00 Bill & Marlene Maxfield  
**NEXT WEEK:** 8:15 The Loesche Family;  
8:15 Gerry & Karen Hilkerbaumer; 11:00 The Muhlke Family

**MULTIMEDIA ROOM:** 5:00; 8:15;  
11:00 Vernon Schmidt/Chris Thies  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00; 8:15;  
11:00 Vernon Schmidt/Chris Thies

**READERS:** 5:00 Randy Agne; 8:15 Doug Pfitzinger;  
11:00 Carlos Lopez  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00 Joshua Brakhage; 8:15 Mary Pastor;  
11:00 Troy Hansen

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**  
Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany February 5, 2017  
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 58:3–9  
Epistle 1 Corinthians 2:1–12  
Holy Gospel Matthew 5:13–20

**USHERS:** 5:00 Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann,  
Ed Holderle  
8:15 Gene Bockelmann, Nathan Decker,  
Mark Shaffer;  
11:00 Paul Brock Sr., Paul Brock Jr., Roger Jensen  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00 Keith Marsh, Al Pfeuffer  
8:15 Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs,  
Jack Pendleton;  
11:00 Gary Freer, David Jones, Carlos Lopez, J. Schulz

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Our In-Home Ministry members are designated with an \*

The Church Staff prays for you during their bi-weekly staff  
meetings. If you have a specific prayer request, please  
contact the church office or fill out a note from the Rite of  
Fellowship folder and place it on the bulletin board in the  
Narthex. In the hospital this past week: Patrice Russo at  
MO Baptist.

Birth congratulations to Laura & Ben Kloos who were  
blessed with the gift of a daughter, Genevieve Grace Kloos  
born on January 15, 2017. God's richest blessings!

### HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Katherine McMeans  
Ralph McMeans  
The Ralph F. McMeans Family  
The Meckfessel-Pott Family

### YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Jaylee Schulz  
Parker Stus  
Tristan Rabun  
Buddha Rai

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

1/29 Rowan Hartung, Ezra Maxfield, Robert Praechter,  
Lucille Ware  
1/30 William Arand Jr., Barbara Hartung, Roger Jensen  
1/31 Katrina Brundage, Daniel Schibbelhut  
2/1 Kenneth Kinkade, Karen Watz  
2/2 Mackenzie Gardner, Sarah Headrick  
2/4 Ashley Dickerhoff, Robert Favier, Saurab Gurung,  
Kelsey Hoehn

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*If your anniversary should appear here,  
please contact the church office.*

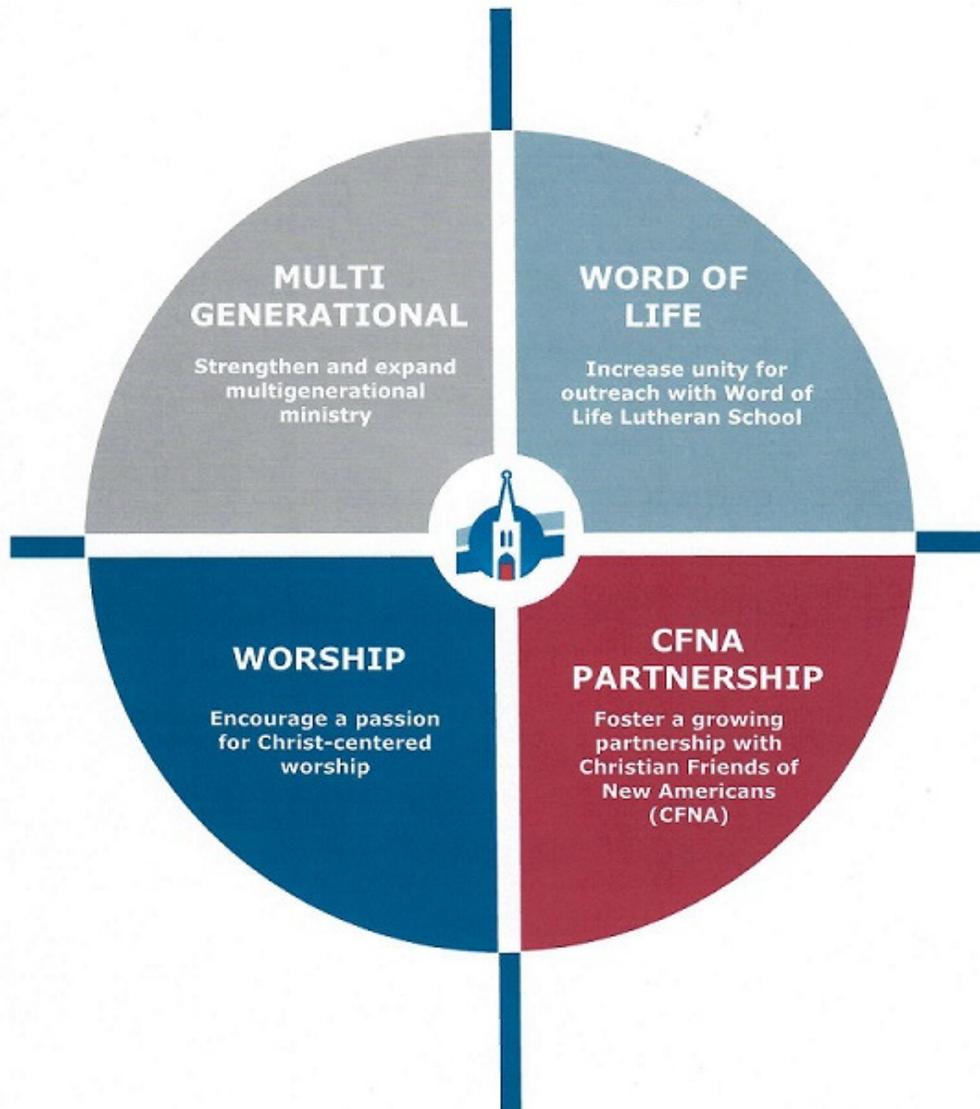
### MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

1/29 Krista Trump, Africa  
1/30 Peter Burfeind, Toledo, Ohio  
2/4 Shara Cunningham, Kenya; Melissa Hosch, Peru;  
Peggy Krikava, Eurasia; David Preus, Dominican Republic

### ASCENSION MEMBERS & FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Andrew Jensen                      Brian Kitson  
Thomas Kitson                      Sean Siering  
Tony Urschler

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH STRATEGIC FOCUS



**"LOVED BY CHRIST, SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE."**