

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Worship with Communion 8:15 am & 11:00 am	
	Bible Class/Sunday School	9:45 am
	2+ Christmas Party	6:00 pm
	Sr. Youth Group	7:00 pm
Tuesday	NO Bible Class	9:30 am
	Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters	9:00 am
	Advent 3 Meal	5:30 pm
	Handbells	6:00 pm
	Midweek Advent 3 Worship	7:00 pm
	NO 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation	6:30 pm
	Choir	8:00 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study (away)	6:15 am
	Men’s Bible Study	7:00 pm
Friday	Nepali Home Bible Study	7:00 pm
Saturday	Pastor on KFJO	9:00 am
	Sunday School Dress Rehearsal	10:00 am
	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ASCENSION

ADVENT WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Prepare for the celebration of Christmas in the best way—join us for fellowship and worship Wednesday evenings in Advent. This Advent, the focus of our midweek evening services will be the same as our Sunday school Christmas program as we answer the question: What child is this? Come for supper in the lower-level Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 pm. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm.

December 19 The Child Who is John’s Joy
Preaching: Pastoral Asst. Trevor Freudenburg

A GREAT TIME TO EXTEND AN INVITATION As a number of special events approach at Ascension including Advent by Candlelight, Live Nativity, and Christmas Eve/Day worship, it’s a wonderful time to extend an invitation to someone who may not have a church home. We encourage you to invite people to hear about a Savior born for them. Even better, bring them with you and make an effort to sit with them. Coming to an event at a church for the first time can be intimidating, but God can work through us as we can invite and welcome first time guests at Ascension this Advent and Christmas season!

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.



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”

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 on-line giving page. Simply set up your account, using your credit card, debit card, or checking account and donate electronically. Smart Phone users can also download the GIVE+Mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store.



STEWARDSHIP

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS Dec. 16 (Advent 3)

Phil. 4:5b-6 – **“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”** Wouldn’t you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn’t it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

Stewardship Report
Through 12/9/18

Number Who Gathered Around God’s Word

Ascension Location Worship	239
Peace Center Location	44
Total	<u>283</u>

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Amount Received	\$15,551
Budgeted Amount	\$11,289
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ 4,262

Sunday School \$9.10

2019 Contribution Envelopes
Envelopes are ready for pick up.
They are located in the church lobby hallway
toward the Concordia Room.

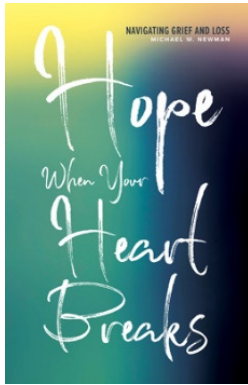
Hintze Library Book of the Month

Each Book of the Month is a new addition to our library and is available for check out.

December's books of the month is:

Hope When Your Heart Breaks: Navigating Grief and Loss

by Michael W. Newman



Whether you have lost a job, a dream, a friendship, or a loved one, you mourn. You might mourn for a few weeks, or your grief may extend for years. Sadness seems to build a permanent residence in your bones, weighing down your soul. You wonder if you'll ever feel whole again.

Then—hope. God plunges into your heartbreak and works abiding and holy transformation in your life. It may take months or years for you to heal, but you can ground your hope for healing in Jesus. **He will always be your hope when your heart breaks.**

Let this book be a place of refuge and a point of reference as you navigate the path of grief. Browse the table of contents and find what speaks to you. As you read, may you discover what you need the most in the midst of grief—hope.

THEY DON'T GO IN YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLE BIN!

Return Plastic Bags to the Store
Find a location at PlasticFilmRecycling.org



Properly Dispose of Your Household Hazardous Waste
Paints, varnish, lawn products, and pool chemicals are all household hazardous waste. Schedule a drop-off at

www.hhwstl.com

Two locations - Including South County



FOUR-PART FOCUS Who are we as a congregation? What are Ascension's priorities? Where do we focus our stewardship of time, talents, and treasure? How do we live out our mission "Loved by Christ, Sharing Christ's Love?" To help

answer these questions, Ascension has adopted a Four-Fold Focus: 1. Outreach through Word of Life 2. Christian Friends of New Americans Partnership 3. Worship and Spiritual Life 4. Multigenerational/Intergenerational Ministry.

ASCENSION EVENING GUILD Thank you for your continued donation of cancelled stamps for LWML Mission Projects. Remember to clip or tear your stamps leaving at least a 1/4 inch border around them and deposit in the box in front of church office. A large box of your donated stamps was delivered to our LWML Zone President in September which she took to the District Convention. They are then sold and proceeds go towards LWML Mission projects. Also a year-end thank you to all who purchase our bake sale goodies enabling Evening Guild to put all funds raised right back into our church, school, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Advent by Candlelight etc.

POINSETTIAS NEEDED. We still need 8 poinsettias to decorate the church. Please see the back page for the order slip. Donations are also accepted for the greens and decorations. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS WISHES Lutheran Family & Children's Services is asking for your help again this Christmas Season. The Christmas Tree will be put up in the lobby Tuesday, November 20, with name tags attached for 55 of the 162 children who are being cared for in the foster care and nurturing program at LFCS. Each tag will show the child's name, age and special gift wish. Please take a tag and return your gift in a gift bag, or wrapped, with the tag attached. Also, please write the child's name on the bag or package in case the tag comes off in transporting. These gifts to the children are so appreciated! If you wish you can also attach a little note from you for the case manager to read to the child. PLEASE bring your gift to church by Sunday, December 16, as this will allow time for gifts to be delivered to the case managers before Christmas. For questions, contact Cathy Salini at (314) 786-5476.

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will begin a new study on January 9 at 9:30 in the Concordia Room. The study guide *The God of All Comfort* by Donna Pyle based on 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 will lend insight and encouragement that God is not blind to our troubles. Through God's Word and stories of eight faith-filled Christians who relied on faith despite their heartache, we will experience the unmistakable handprint of a loving, merciful Savior who relentlessly pursues us with His ultimate comfort. Please join us for prayer, study, and fellowship. Contact Marlene Maxfield – 846-3880 – to reserve your study guide.

EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF DINNER AND A SHOW; but we would like you to join us for a Christmas program and lunch! Please consider enjoying lunch after the children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 23th. While the main dish will be supplied by a grant from Thrivent, as you are able, we ask that you bring a side dish to share at the potluck. We are looking forward to good fellowship and food. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Hofman at (314) 832-1476.

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION of our Savior's birth during a birthday party for Jesus. The celebration will take place in the fellowship hall during the Sunday school/Bible-study hour on December 30. Please come, spend time with friends, and enjoy the festive feel of a birthday party - the best birthday ever!

ASCENSION'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 34 Troop 34 is looking for members of their Oversight Committee—specifically a committee chair pro tem, secretary, and treasurer. Training is available through online videos. The committee meets up to six times per year in order to review program plans and finances. If you are interested in serving and leading our scouts, please contact the church office or Suzanne Alexander at suzanne.alexander@slu.edu.

SHARING THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM through technology. You read that correctly! The children's program on December 23 will be live-streamed. If you have friends and relatives who cannot personally attend the program, please encourage them to watch it. The link to view the service is ascensionstl.com/stream. They might also enjoy viewing other services posted as well.

A huge thank you to all who are willing to serve on our 2019 Ministry Council.

Nathan Decker-President
 Rob Bremer-Vice President
 Brad Muhlke-Treasurer
 Marcia Passanise-Secretary

Carl Anderson-Member at Large
 Mike Gibbs-Member at Large
 Chhatra Gurung-Member at Large
 Laura Lane-Member at Large
 Marla Lopez-Member at Large
 Mark Pfaff-Member at Large
 Dianne Thies-Member at Large

A sincere thank you to all outgoing members for your service and leadership.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Bible class is led by Pastor Clark as we explore the same Bible accounts as our children and youth Sunday school students. Come join us as we dig a little deeper into God's Word and grow in faith as congregation members of all ages. Parents—this is a great way to learn the same material your children are leaning in Sunday and continue the conversation in your home!

<u>Class/Day</u>	<u>Time/Location</u>	<u>Teacher/Leader</u>
Tuesday	9:30 am/Concordia Rm	Pastor Clark
Wednesday Women's Bible Study	9:30 am/Concordia Rm	Marlene Maxfield
Thursday Men's Bible Study	6:15 am/Bread Co.	Mike Gibbs
Thursday Men's Bible Study	7:00 pm/Bremer Home	Chris Thies
Sunday YAGs (Young Adult Group-20s & 30s)	6:00 pm/Concordia Rm	Trevor Freudenburg
4 th Sunday Youngish Adults (30s & 40s)	5:00 pm/Maxfield Home	Pastor Clark

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Teacher(s)</u>
Parents & Little Ones	Dorcas Room	Jasmine Duerr and friends
Pk3-Kdg	WOL Kindergarten	Ellen Hetz & Friends
Gr. 1-3	Bethany Room C	Cheryl Chambers, Kim Schave And Friends
Gr. 4-5	Music Room	Carl Anderson/ Rich Schaefer And Friends
Gr. 6-8	Youth Room	Sem. Matt Lorenz Sem. Matt Kolden Dcs. Anna Johnson
Gr. 9-12	Church Lobby	Lisa Clark Trevor Freudenburg Rob Bremer
Adult Bible Class	Fellowship Hall	Matt Kobs Pastor Matt Clark
Nepalese Bible Class	Fellowship Hall 1 st Sunday of Month	Matt Kobs/ Gagan Gurung
Sunday School Coordinator		Lisa Clark

WHERE DO I GO TO STUDY THE BIBLE? Sunday School and Bible Class are in full swing again! Here are a few changes to keep in mind:

- Preschoolers through 8th graders all meet in the same place at 9:45—the sanctuary—for an opening.
- Adults with little ones (babies, toddlers, or too young for preschool) will meet at 9:45 in the Bethany C room (directly below the church nursery).
- Pastor Clark will lead his Bible class for all adults in the Fellowship Hall starting at 10:00 am. He will be teaching the same lessons as the children will be learning, digging deep as well as equipping adults to reach out to children in the Ascension family with God’s Word.

WHAT DID WE LEARN IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

December 16

This week, our students are learning about Jesus and asking, “What Child Is This?” as they prepare for their Christmas program December 23. Join us then at the 11:00 am service!

**CHURCH
IS NOT SOMETHING
YOU GO TO,
IT’S A FAMILY
YOU
BELONG TO.**

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR THEME: This year’s school theme is based on 2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

ENROLLMENT FOR THE 18/19 SCHOOL YEAR

PreK - 44

Kdg-8 - 143

If you are looking for preschool serving ages 3 - 5 or Kindergarten - 8th grade and would like to tour, please contact Megan Arnold at (314) 832-1244 ext. 112 or marnold@wordoflifefschool.net. We invite you for a tour to learn more about any of our three campuses.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION We are looking for graduates of Ascension Lutheran School/Word of Life Lutheran School who are interested in helping further develop an Ascension/Word of Life Alumni Association. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to connect with former classmates, please contact Pastor Clark or Megan Arnold (Word of Life’s Director of Admissions and Marketing).

JANUARY RESTAURANT NIGHT- McDonald’s 7259 Watson Rd Shrewsbury. Tuesday Jan 8, 2019 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. 20% of all sales will benefit WOL!

WE WILL NOT host a restaurant night in February in support of the 8th grade class fundraising activities.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The PTL Trivia Night on January 26, 2019, 6:30 pm-10:00 pm. More info to follow at a later date.

WOL AUCTION NEWS: Would you like to get a jump on your Christmas shopping while supporting Word of Life families at the same time? The Word of Life auction committee has the perfect opportunity for you as they will be hosting a vendor event at Word of Life on the day of the school Christmas programs. On December 9th, 12:15-3:30, come shop from vendors such as Perfectly Posh, Pampered Chef, and Tupperware to name a few. Purchase Christmas gifts or even donate an item to the upcoming Word of Life auction. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you there!

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

Our Word of Life teachers of the month for December are:

- Laura Thompson 3rd Grade Teacher
- Katlyne Thies, Before/After Care-Timothy, Teachers Aide
- Mindy Hanke, 4th Grade Teacher

WORSHIP NOTES

LITURGIST: 1st Weekend -

Pastoral Assistant Trevor Freudenburg-
2nd Weekend - Seminarian Matt Lorenz
3rd Weekend – Seminarian Matt Kolden
4th Weekend – 8:15 Seminarian John Kyle

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: 8:15 Gabe Maichel, organist;
11:00 Worship Team Gabe Maichel, piano;
Mark Maxfield guitar; Matt Bergholt, guitar/bass;
Nadia Zaza, guitar; Gary Notch, drums

ACOLYTES: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Anna Muhlke;
11:00 Jaylee Schulz

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Kate Moffat; 8:15 Olivia Muhlke;
11:00 Aiden Zaza

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Live Nativity;
8:15 Janey Rathgeber; 11:00 Jack & Cindy Winter
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Mark & Diane Bracken;
8:15 Elizabeth Nease; 11:00 Jack & Cindy Winter

ELDERS: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Randy Agne;
11:00 Randy Agne, Joe Benda
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Gary Notch;
8:15 Gene Bockelmann, Jack Pendleton;
11:00 Randy Agne, Joe Benda

HOSTS: 5:00 Live Nativity;
8:15 The Bremer Family; 11:00 The Hansen Family
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 The Keller Family;
8:15 Gary & Pattie Notch; 11:00 Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky

MULTIMEDIA ROOM: 5:00 Bella Bracken/Noah Clark;
8:15 Matt Bergholt/Bill A. Maxfield;
11:00 Vernon Schmidt/Chris Thies
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Bella Bracken/Noah Clark;
8:15 Matt Bergholt/Bill A. Maxfield;
11:00 Vernon Schmidt/Chris Thies

READERS: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Laura Brink
11:00 Carlos Lopez
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Jane Fryar; 8:15 Bill A. Maxfield
11:00 Troy Hansen

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Dec. 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-56

USHERS: 5:00 Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson
8:15 Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs,
Jack Pendleton
11:00 Gary Freer, Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez
MIDWEEK ADVENT 3: Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer,
Jonathan Gibbs,
Jack Pendleton
NEXT WEEK: 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

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 Record of Fellowship folder and place it on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

The Nocito Family
Grace Noll
The Adam Notch Family
Gary & Pattie Notch

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Mikayla Welker
Aiden Zaza
McKenzie Moore
Brenden Moran

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

12/16 Sharon Keller
12/17 Becky Ball
12/19 Rhonda Nocito
12/20 Josephine Dibble, Lawanda Kieffer
12/21 Ralph McMeans
12/22 Patricia Pfitzinger, Anna Powers

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

12/18 P.A. Richard-Wokoma, Africa
12/20 Brian Gauthier, Latin America and the Caribbean

ASCENSION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SERVING AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Kevin Duffy Phil Green
Ross Hetz & Firehouse Kevin Keller
Adam Notch Gary Steffens
Denise Strittmatter

ASCENSION MEMBERS & FRIENDS

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Andrew Jensen Alex Jones
James Keltner Brian Kitson
Thomas Kitson Tony Urschler

Poinsettias and Decoration Donations Needed for the Church Christmas Decorations

If you would like to order a poinsettia and/or contribute to the decorations for our church during the holiday season, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with your donation. Each poinsettia ordered is \$8.25. Please indicate if you will pick up your poinsettia. All plants will be discarded on 1/7/2019.

Name _____

Poinsettia # _____ Amount \$ _____

Decoration Amount \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I will _____ I will not _____ pick up my poinsettia after 1/1/2018

Dedication: _____

