

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Worship with Communion	8:15 am
	Sunday School Christmas Program	11:00 am
	Bible Class/Sunday School	9:45 am
	Potluck Lunch	12:00 noon
Monday	Christmas Eve Worship	4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
	Christmas Eve Worship with Communion	11:00 pm
Tuesday	Christmas Day Worship with Communion	10:00 am
Wednesday	Church Office Closed	
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 KFUE	9:00 am
	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ASCENSION

CHRISTMAS MORNING Please join us at Ascension Christmas morning as we anticipate a visit from a man with a long white beard. No, it’s not Santa delivering toys...it’s Rev. Lonie Eatherton delivering the Good News of a Savior born for us! We welcome our jolly ‘ol guest preacher Christmas morning at 10 am. Come and celebrate Christmas morning with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

A GREAT TIME TO EXTEND AN INVITATION to our 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 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 Report Through 12/16/18

Number Who Gathered Around God’s Word

Ascension Location Worship	209
Peace Center Location	43
Total	252

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Amount Received	\$13,779
Budgeted Amount	\$11,289
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ 2,490
Sunday School	\$10.30

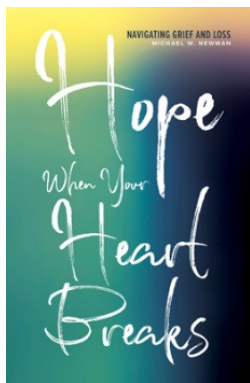
2019 Contribution Envelopes
Envelopes are ready for pick up.
They are located in the church lobby hallway
toward the Concordia Room.

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

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 23rd. 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.

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.



SHARING THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM through technology. You read that correctly! The children's program on December 23 is being 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

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

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 23

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 today at the 11:00 am service!

WORD OF LIFE

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.

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

NEXT WEEK: 5:00; 8:15 Jordan Ingrham;
11:00 Nathanael Mays

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Mark & Diane Bracken;
8:15 Elizabeth Nease; 11:00 Jack & Cindy Winter
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 The Moffat Family;
8:15 Elizabeth Nease; 11:00 Jack & Cindy Winter

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

HOSTS: 5:00 The Keller Family;
8:15 Gary & Pattie Notch; 11:00 Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Jim & Cheryl Chambers;
8:15 Mark & Barb Shaffer; 11:00 John & Charlene Cook

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 Jane Fryar; 8:15 Bill A. Maxfield
11:00 Troy Hansen
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Ted Cox; 8:15 Nathan Decker
11:00 Carolyn Arnold

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Dec. 30, 2018
First Sunday after Christmas
Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40 22

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 Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson
8:15 Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs,
Jack Pendleton
11:00 Gary Freer, Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez

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 O'Toole Family
Kurt & Marietta Oster
The Ott Family
Virginia Palazzolo

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Isabella Bracken
Henry Brink
Anna Muhlke
Carly Munoz

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

12/23 Terry Nickolotsky
12/24 Emma Hansen
12/25 Joanne Bremer, Judith Hanses
12/27 Janet Hinton, Andrew Jensen, Susan Rosenhoffer
12/28 Kayla Loesche
12/29 David Gurung, Karla Mosbacher

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/27 Roland & Karen Lettner, Roger & Rose Seifert
12/28 Matthew & Anna Kobs

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

12/24 Thomas Aadland, Africa
12/26 Ronald Rall, Asia
12/29 Carol Halter, Asia; Noel Schaff, Asia

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