

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Today | Worship with Communion 8:15 am & 11:00 am | |
| | Bible Class/Sunday School | 9:45 am |
| | New Member Class | 10:00 am |
| Monday | Live Nativity Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |
| Tuesday | NO Bible Class | 9:30 am |
| | Evening Guild (away) | 6:30 pm |
| | Worship Team | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday | Quilters | 9:00 am |
| | Advent 2 Meal | 5:30 pm |
| | Handbells | 6:00 pm |
| | Midweek Advent 2 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 KFYO | 9:00 am |
| | NO Worship with Communion | 5:00 pm |
| | Live Nativity | 5:00 pm-9:00 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 12 The Child Who is a Virgin’s Great Son
Preaching: Seminarian John Kyle
- December 19 The Child Who is John’s Joy
Preaching: Pastoral Asst. Trevor Freudenburg

ADVENT BONUS! Missionary Rev. Gary Schulte will be at Ascension on Wednesday, December 12 to share with us the Lord’s work in West Africa. He’ll present during our pre-service meal from 6 to 6:30 pm. He’ll also share a few words with us as the beginning of our service at 7:00 pm.

STEWARDSHIP

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS Dec. 9 (Advent II)

Luke 3:4 – **“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”** God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do. That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives. He knows what’s coming, and we don’t.

Stewardship Report Through 12/9/18

Number Who Gathered Around God’s Word

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Ascension Location Worship | 281 |
| Peace Center Location | 00 |
| Total | 281 |

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Amount Received | \$12,827 |
| Budgeted Amount | \$11,289 |
| Surplus/(Shortfall) | \$ 1,548 |

Sunday School \$6.50

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.

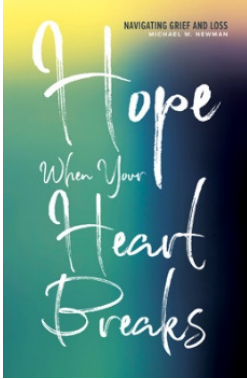


Hintze Library Book of the Month

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.

THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP (20s & 30s) This session we are looking at the book *Being Lutheran* by A. Trevor Sutton. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm in the Concordia Room, which began on September 9th. Join us for food and fellowship as we dive into what it means to be Lutheran (it's really all about Jesus)!

SAVE THE DATE Live Nativity at Ascension on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm. a number of parts are still available. See sign up board in the church lobby. Thank you.

POINSETTIAS NEEDED. We still need 17 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.

THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP is assembling care packages for college students this December, and we need your help! We are looking for donations of items to include in our care packages – candy, granola bars, pens, pencils, tea, granola bars, or anything else! Please drop off donations by December 2, 2018 in the box provided in the church lobby. Thank you!

LIVE NATIVITY REHEARSAL Thank you to all those who signed up to serve as a costumed figure in this year's live nativity! All those who signed up are asked to attend a live nativity rehearsal on Monday, December 10 at 7 pm in the lower-level Fellowship Hall. We will try on costumes, reserve costumes, practice in the stable, and have some fun.

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

ASCENSION EVENING GUILD Our Annual Christmas Party will be at Pietro's Restaurant on December 11th at 6:30. Join us won't you? Call Darleen Wiederhold at (314) 353-2874 for reservations. We are not doing gifts so your generosity can be shown elsewhere. 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.

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.

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?

12/9 Lesson 13

“Esau Forgives Jacob” is the Bible story taught today in Sunday School. This exciting account teaches us how Jacob struggled against man and God for his birthright. The children will learn that Jesus struggled against sin and death to win our heavenly birthright. Talk to your children about sin and how it breaks families and relationships. Discuss, *“How has sin severed our relationship with God? How did Jesus restore our relationship with God eternally? How does Jesus help us as God’s children to restore our broken human relationships?”*

**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).

DECEMBER RESTAURANT Night-Panera Bread on Chippewa St. Monday December 10, 2018 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Must show flyer print or digital. Pick up a flyer from the bulletin board in the church lobby. (I previously gave the date of Dec 12 and Facebook event needs updating)

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 an event 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: 5:00 & 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 Kayla Loesche; 8:15 Will Maxfield;

11:00 Henry Brink

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Kate Muhlke;

11:00 Jaylee Schulz

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Claudia Seifert;

8:15 Janey Rathgeber; 11:00 Lopez Family

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Live Nativity;

8:15 Janey Rathgeber; 11:00 Jack & Cindy Winter

ELDERS: 5:00; 8:15 Jack Pendleton;

11:00 Randy Agne

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Randy Agne;

11:00 Randy Agne, Joe Benda

HOSTS: 5:00 Randy & Sharon Agne;

8:15 Mike & Debbie Gibbs; 11:00 Bob & Lawanda Kieffer

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Live Nativity;

8:15 The Bremer Family; 11:00 The Hanses Family

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 Rich Seifert; 8:15 Melissa Maxfield

11:00 Marla Lopez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Live Nativity; 8:15 Mary Pastor

11:00 Tom Hinton

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 14

Philippians 4:4-7 4

Luke 7:18-28

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

MIDWEEK ADVENT 2: Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann,

Ed Holderle

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.

Christian sympathy is extended to Carolyn Arnold and family

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Elizabeth Nease

The Aaron Nickolotsky Family

Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky

Robyn Niemann

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Jaylee Schulz

Anya Stiles

Nathanael Mays

Katherine Moffat

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

12/9 Adelyn Smith

12/11 Jonathan Roussin, Haley Sonderman

12/12 Erik Paul Rai

12/13 Wendy Gardner, Kathy Migneco

12/14 David Jones, Tracey Wing

12/15 Anna Clark, Ruth Pritchard

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/10 Sue & Barry Logan

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

12/9 Anita Clausing, Africa

12/10 Eva Rickman, Latin America and the Caribbean

12/11 Martha Mahlburg, Asia

12/14 Ted Krey, Latin America and the Caribbean

12/15 Jerry Lawson, Eurasia

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: _____

