

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Worship with Communion	8:15 am & 11:00am
	Birthday Party for Jesus	9:45 am
Monday	New Year’s Eve Worship	5:00 pm
Tuesday	Church Office Closed	
Wednesday	Quilters	9:00 am
	No Women’s Bible Class	9:30 am
	No 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation	6:30 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 KFUE	9:00 am
	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ASCENSION

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”

STEWARDSHIP

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS Dec. 30 (Christmas I)

Luke 2:38 – “**And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.**” Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say, and do?

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.



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.

Stewardship Report	
Through 12/25/18	
Number Who Gathered Around God’s Word	
Ascension Location Worship	238
Peace Center Location	43
Total	281
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day: 398	
Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love	
Amount Received	\$
Budgeted Amount	\$11,289
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$

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

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!

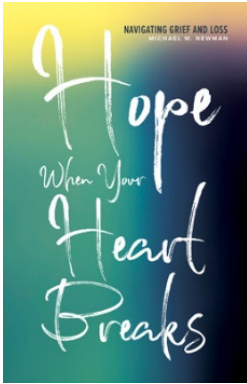
2019 Contribution Envelopes
Envelopes are ready for pick up.
They are located in the church lobby hallway
toward the Concordia Room.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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; 8:15 Jordan Ingrham;

11:00 Nathanael Mays

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Kayla Loesche; 8:15 Anna Clark;

11:00 Alyssa Hansen

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 ; 8:15 ; 11:00

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Bev & Rich Schaefer;

8:15 Beth Nease; 11:00 Marcia Passanise

ELDERS: 5:00 Gary Notch; 8:15 Gene Bockelmann;

11:00 Joe Benda

NEXT WEEK: 5:00; 8:15;

11:00 Mark Maxifeld

HOSTS: 5:00 Jim & Cheryl Chambers;

8:15 Mark & Barb Shaffer; 11:00 John & Charlene Cook

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Randy & Sharon Agne;

8:15 Clarence & Carol Goetsch; 11:00 The Fox 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 Ted Cox; 8:15 Nathan Decker

11:00 Carolyn Arnold

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Randy Agne; 8:15 John Brink

11:00 Dianne Thies

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Jan. 6, 2019

Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

USHERS: 5:00 Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson

8:15 Rob Bremer, Jake Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs,

Jack Pendleton

11:00 Gary Freer, Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Karl Hofmann. Robert Hofmann,

Ed Holderle

8:15 Gene Bockelmann, Nathan Decker, Mark Schaffer

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 Passanise Family

Mary Pastor

Teresa & Ashley Pavlige

Daniel Peek

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Josephine Dibble

Mackenzie Gardner

Liam Rabun

Tristan Rabun

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

12/30 Roland Lettner, Timothy Moore III

12/31 Kelly Spiros

1/1 Aaiti Gurung, Bal Gurung, Bema Gurung, Bi Gurung, Devi Gurung, Harka Gurung, Khadga Gurung, Mani Gurung, Nanda Gurung, Phul Maya Gurung, Purna Gurung, Ran Gurung, Shiva Gurung, Tika Gurung, Gerry Hilkerbaumer, Shari Hill-Stout, Grace Maleas, Ganga Monger, Dro Rai, Phul Rai, Sanja Tamang

1/2 Carisa Depew, Grant Maxfield,

1/3 Mackenzie Moore

1/4 Doran Jaenke, Alexandra O'Toole

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1/2 Roy & Kathy Migneco

1/4 Cindy & John Winter

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

12/31 Megan Mantey, Africa;

Charles St-Onge, 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