



**NEWS AND NOTES**  
**February 10 & 11, 2024**  
*“Loved by Christ, Sharing Christ’s Love”*

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday	Coffee & Donuts Worship with Communion Sunday School / Adult Bible Study Worship with Communion Marriage Milestone	7:45-10:45 am 8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am
Monday	Staff Meeting	8:30 am
Tuesday	Pastor’s Circuit Meeting (NO Bible Study) Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion Quilters Women of the Word Bible Study Meal Bell Choir Worship with Communion	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 5:45 pm 6:30 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 am
Saturday	Worship with Communion	5:00 pm

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Mark 9:6 – “For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.”** Soon enough, the disciples’ terror turned into joy, for when Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity — for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

<b>Stewardship Report</b>	
For the weekend ending February 4 <sup>th</sup>	
In-person attendance:	5:00 – 50
	8:30 – 106
	11:00 – 76
	<b>TOTAL – 232</b>
Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love	
Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,478
Amount Received	\$ 9,254
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (3,224)
2024 Deficit through January: \$13,508	

**2024 BIBLE READING CHALLENGE!**

**2024 BIBLE READING CHALLENGE!** At Ascension we strive to be people of the Word as we engage with Scripture on a regular, even daily, basis. In 2021-2022 we read through the Bible in two years. In 2023 we read through the book of Psalms. In 2024, we invite you to join with brothers and sisters in Christ at Ascension in reading through all four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are at the heart of God’s story of salvation for us as they trace the birth, life, death, resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus our Savior. The reading schedule is available in the church library.

Each Friday, Pastor posts a video on Ascension’s Facebook page and YouTube channel highlighting a theme or insight of that week’s readings.

Our reading for **February 11 – February 17** is **Matthew 9 & 10.**

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE**

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE – YOU’RE INVITED!** Your marriage, love and commitment to one another is something to celebrate! Ascension invites all couples who have been married in 2023 and couples celebrating five-year anniversaries in 2024 (i.e. 5 year, 10 year, 15 year, etc) to any worship service this weekend, **February 10 and 11.** Pastor Clark will invite you to come forward for a special blessing and gift. Ascension looks forward to celebrating with you.

**THANK YOU**

Dear Ascension Family,  
 Your prayers, cards, calls, texts & gifts have overwhelmed us. Your caring words and scriptures have comforted us. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude.  
 Richard & Bev Schaefer

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING**

Children in Preschool through Grade 8 are invited to meet in the sanctuary at **9:45 am** each week for a brief Sunday school opening. Details about Sunday school for all ages are on page 5 of the News & Notes.

## LIKE US



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** Like Ascension to stay current with events, Bible studies, photos, videos and other great resources!

### There are four 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"

### LAST MONTH'S ONLINE VIEWS

1/07: 332

1/14: 400

1/21: 341

1/28: 300

### Note to Worshippers

Ever want to re-watch a worship service or listen to a sermon again?

**Ascension livestreams our worship services.**

Go to: [AscensionStL.com/livestream](https://AscensionStL.com/livestream) to find archived services.

## DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE

Scan the image you see here by using your phone's QR code reader (bar code scanner) to 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. Smartphone users can also download the Vanco Mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store and set up an account. Please use only one email account per contribution envelope number.



## SEMINARY URBAN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

**SEMINARY URBAN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE** Concordia Seminary is partnering with Ascension to provide ministry experience in an urban setting to seminary students who are interested in future ministry in a city environment. This spring semester we welcome seminarians Isaac Hedstrom and Joshua Steele. They will be joining us in worship one weekend per month. But much of their experience will be in our urban Lutheran School, Word of Life. They will be participating in the Wednesday school chapel services and also working with elementary and junior high students. If you see them around Ascension or Word of Life, please welcome Isaac and Joshua!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Save the date of **March 16** for Ascension's Easter Egg Hunt! Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with planning.

## LENT 2024

**LENT 2024: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD** During this year's season of Lent, we'll be focusing on "The Passion of Our Lord." Reading from a compilation of all four Gospels, we will follow Jesus during the final hours before his death as we hear the entire story of Jesus' passion for our salvation. There are two opportunities for worship each Wednesday. Our **8:30 am** worship will follow the order of Matins and include the kindergarten through grade eight students of Word of Life Lutheran School. Our **6:30 pm** worship will follow an order of Evening Prayer which will include chanting as well as Lent and Evening Hymns.

✠ **Ash Wednesday — February 14, 2024**

✠ **Wednesday of Lent 1 – February 21, 2024**  
The Lord's Supper      Pastor Kobs

✠ **Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2024**  
Gethsemane      Pastor Clark

✠ **Wednesday of Lent 3 – March 6, 2024**  
Palace of the High Priest  
Seminarian Joel Her

✠ **Wednesday of Lent 4 – March 13, 2024**  
The Praetorium  
Seminarian Josh Wareham

✠ **Wednesday of Lent 5 – March 20, 2024**  
Calvary  
Seminarian Michael Winckler

## MIDWEEK LENT MEALS

**MIDWEEK LENT MEALS** A meal will be served starting at **5:00 pm** on Wednesday evenings before the Midweek Lent services. Below is a list of the groups serving and the menus. We are still in need of volunteers for four dates. If interested in serving a meal, please contact the church office.

- **2/14** Youth Group serving: Pasta Bar
- **2/21** Men's Club: serving spaghetti, salad & bread
- **2/28** Music Ministry: menu TBD
- **3/6** Ministry Council: menu TBD
- **3/13** open
- **3/20** open

## BLESSING BAGS

**BLESSING BAGS** There are many in need in our South St. Louis City community and other parts of St. Louis. However, sometimes it's difficult to know how to best help. One simple way is by sharing one of Ascension's "Blessing Bags." These pre-made bags contain items that are meant to be of help to those who may be homeless or in need. Simply keep a bag in your vehicle, and distribute it to someone who needs help. Maybe even include a note of encouragement or Bible verse? Help yourself to a blessing bag—they are located in the basket in the lobby.

## ASCENSION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



**ASCENSION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (AYF)** is the volunteer-led youth ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church for the children of Ascension and beyond. We have two distinct groups that gather based upon their ages: The Junior Youth

is open to all youth in grades 5 through 8; and the Senior Youth is open to all youth in grades 9 through 12.



### YOUTH SUNDAYS

- **Junior Youth meet from 3:00-5:30 pm**
- **Senior Youth meet from 4:45-8:00 pm**

A meal including both Junior and Senior Youth will take place at **5:00 pm**.

### YOUTH SUNDAY DATES:

**February 25**

**May 19** (Youth BBQ)

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for these other important dates!

- The Youth will serve the first Lenten meal on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**.
- The Youth will have a servant event on **Friday, March 8, 2024**. (more details to come)
- The Youth will serve Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, March 31, 2024**
- Youth Trivia Night will be **Saturday, April 20, 2024** from **6:00-10:00 pm**. Proceeds will benefit the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions about Ascension Youth Fellowship, please contact Lisa Clark or Pastor at the church office.

**Lisa Clark**

(314) 659-7558

[lisamclark.lc@gmail.com](mailto:lisamclark.lc@gmail.com)

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT!** If you have a student in our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class, then mark your calendars for our bi-annual confirmation retreat! This all-day event will take place **Saturday, March 2**. We'll start with breakfast at 9 am and conclude after worshiping together at the 5 pm worship. Our focus will be on prayer as we take a closer look at the Lord's Prayer, write in prayer journals, and compose the prayers for our Saturday evening worship service. We also have some down-time and fun together too. This event will be hosted by Pastor Clark and Deaconess Anna Johnson. More details to come!

## FEBRUARY LIBRARY LOOK

**Born for Rescue: Finding Purpose by Refusing to do Nothing**, by Pat Bradley



Pat Bradley stared out the back car window at 70 displaced people huddling together under a few trees to escape the blistering African heat. They had fled their village in South Sudan in the middle of the night as it was destroyed amid a bloody civil war that had indiscriminately claimed the lives of young and old family members alike.

He knew they wouldn't survive unless someone did something—and quickly. But he was just a normal guy—a formerly divorced recovering alcoholic who worked at an ad agency. What could he possibly do? From that moment forward, Pat Bradley refused to do nothing.

**Born For Rescue** reveals how anyone can make a difference in the world right now because the heart of God is to keep showing up and keep shining the light of hope into the darkest of places within each of us—and how each of us can become a part of seeing and serving others with this light

Claudia Seifert

[claudia\\_s\\_seifert@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia_s_seifert@yahoo.com)

314-616-2735

## CREATE YOUR OWN PARTY!

### CREATE YOUR OWN PARTY!

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHEN: **Saturday, February 24**, come anytime between **6:30 and 8:30 pm**.

WHO: Whoever you want to invite! Friends, children, grandkids, parents, etc.

WHAT: A party with live background music played by Gabe Maichel. Tables and chairs will be set up, and dessert and drinks will be provided.

WHY: To beat the winter doldrums! Bring games for your group to play, bring snacks and food for you and your friends, or just take a few minutes to sit and enjoy live music. Come when you want between 6:30 and 8:30, and plan on having a good time.

Please RSVP to Lisa Holderle, 314-962-9979 (text or call).

## WORD OF LIFE NEWS



### WOL OPEN POSITION

Join our amazing, caring and ministry focused team of teachers!

Word of Life is now seeking qualified applicants for the Middle School Math position that is open for the 2024-2025 school year. Experience *and* an enthusiasm for teaching math is required.

For more information or to apply, contact Principal, Melissa Bergholt, at 314-832-1244 or [mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net](mailto:mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net).

**WOL BAKE SALE** Ready to satisfy your sweet tooth and support our Word of Life 8th graders at the same time? On the weekend of **March 2nd and 3rd**, the 8th grade families will be supplying delicious treats for sale before and after all church services. Cookies, cupcakes, cakes, and more! All proceeds from the bake sale will propel the Word of Life 8th graders closer to their goal of funding their class trip to Branson. They thank you for your support!

### WOL RESTAURANT NIGHT

JJ Twigs

Hampton Location

**Tuesday, March 5th**

All Day

10% of Sales for Dine-In or Carry-Out



**WOL MUSICAL** Don't miss your opportunity to "Seize the Day" as Word of Life Lutheran School presents the musical production of Newsies Jr. The lights shine bright as our stars hit the stage for three performances in the Word of Life Gymnasium.

- **Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 pm**
- **Friday, March 8 at 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday, March 9 at 3:00 pm**

Tickets (\$10 for premium seating and \$8 for general seating, processing fees apply) will be available online only beginning February 22.

Boosters are on sale now through February 26! Give a shout out to your favorite actor or chorus member or advertise your business in our 400+ brochures.

Visit [wordoflifeschool.net/newsiesjr/](http://wordoflifeschool.net/newsiesjr/) for ticket and booster information. Come and see the Newsies make headlines!

(Pick up a flyer in the Narthex for program booster opportunities.)



## GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!** Word of Life has a new Girl Scout troop this year! Troop 38's Daisies and Brownies will be selling Girl Scout cookies in the lobby between church services on **Sunday, February 18**.

Boxes are \$6 and proceeds go to support the troop's supplies, outings and philanthropy.

Contact [carolyn.koenig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolyn.koenig@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



## VOCATIO: RETREAT

**VOCATIO: RETREAT** Interested in a distinctively Lutheran retreat that provides the space to rest in God's Word, time to spend in prayer and the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest theologians in the church? Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites you to attend *Vocatio: Retreat* — a three-day retreat (**April 14-16, 2024**) geared toward college students and second-career men and women who are considering serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain. Registration is free and includes lodging and meals. To register visit [www.csl.edu/vocatio-retreat](http://www.csl.edu/vocatio-retreat) Hurry! Registration closes March 29.

## CFNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**CFNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** Looking for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus to refugees in St. Louis? CFNA is seeking volunteers to drive refugee clients to medical appointments. Transportation to appointments is the last and most crucial link to accessing needed medical care. Appointments are mostly on weekdays during normal business hours. Interested? Reach out to Paige Bernau, RN at [pbernau@cfna-stl.org](mailto:pbernau@cfna-stl.org). More information can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby.



**Christian Friends of New Americans**

4019 SOUTH GRAND, ST. LOUIS, MO 63118 | 314-351-1740

## CFNA TRIVIA NIGHT

### CFNA TRIVIA NIGHT

**April 6, 2024**

Doors open at **5:15 pm**

Trivia begins at **6:00 pm**

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church  
4355 Butler Hill Road  
St. Louis, MO 63128

\$30 per person

\$200 per team of eight

All information, including how to register, sponsor, and donate, can be found at the CFNA website.

<https://www.cfna-stl.org/trivia>

## JOIN ONE OF OUR BIBLE STUDIES

Bible studies are a wonderful opportunity to be in God's Word and enjoy fellowship as you grow in faith and friendship. For more information on any of the Bible studies listed below, you may contact the leaders directly or our Bible Study and Small Group Coordinator Barbara Shippy at [bjshippy@gmail.com](mailto:bjshippy@gmail.com) or (314) 795-2568.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** All are welcome!  
Join us for Bible class between worship services.  
Sundays from 9:45–10:30 am / ongoing  
Location: Ascension / Fellowship Hall  
Leaders: Pastor Clark & Pastor Kobs

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** (Men & Women)  
Tuesdays from 9:30–11 am / ongoing  
Location: Ascension / Concordia Room  
Leader: Pastor Clark  
Contact: [pastor@ascensionstl.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionstl.com) / (314) 832-5600

**Women of the Word Bible Study**  
Wednesdays from 9:30–11 am / ongoing  
Location: Ascension / lower level classroom  
Leader: Marlene Maxfield  
Contact: [marmaxfield@aol.com](mailto:marmaxfield@aol.com) / (314) 221-0999

**Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study**  
Thursdays from 6:15–7:30 am / ongoing  
Location: Ascension / Hintze Library in Church Lobby  
Leader: Mike Gibbs  
Contact: [jackfan39@yahoo.com](mailto:jackfan39@yahoo.com) / (314) 352-1297

**Thursday Evening Men's Bible Study**  
Thursdays from 7:00–8:00 pm / ongoing  
Location: Personal residence  
Leaders: Rob Bremer and Chris Thies  
Contact Rob: [rwbjhb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwbjhb@sbcglobal.net) / (314) 413-2603  
Contact Chris: [chris.thies@outlook.com](mailto:chris.thies@outlook.com)

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**FAST FORWARD** Beginning this **Sunday, February 11**, we'll begin a new Sunday morning Bible study topic. Each Sunday we'll be "fast forwarding" to the Scripture readings that will be used in worship the *next* weekend. As we look ahead at God's Word together, our discussion might even help inform and shape the sermon for the next weekend. Come join Pastor Clark on Sundays at **10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall to be a part of the conversation and be a week ahead!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Ascension, we strive to engage with EVERY person at EVERY age in learning more about our Savior, Jesus.

On Sunday mornings, we have a class for YOU!

Students in Preschool through Junior High meet in the church sanctuary at 9:45 am for Sunday School opening.

### Toddlers & Parents

If you are ready to get your family in a Sunday morning Bible class habit, join us in the nursery for a special Sunday School option just for you. Singing, activities, and stories focused on God and his love for his littlest learners (and their caregivers). Contact Brittany Schelp at (417) 438-7860 for more details.

### Preschool and Kindergarten

Teachers: Marcia Passanise, Dan Passanise & Cathy Kramer

### Grades 1 through 3

Teachers: Emily Jones, Brittany Schelp, Mary Pastor, and Aubrey Blank

### Grades 4 through 5

Teachers: Rich Schaefer and Carl Anderson

### Junior High

Teachers: Deaconess Anna Johnson, Lisa Clark, and seminary students

### Senior High

Teachers: Rob Bremer, Jeremy Johnson, and seminary students

### Adults

Teachers: Pastor Clark, Pastor Kobs, Gagan Gurung, and John Gurung

### Nepali Fellowship

Teachers: Pastor Clark, Gagan Gurung, John Gurung, and Friends

### Sunday School Coordinator

Deaconess Anna Johnson

### Assistant Coordinator

Brittany Schelp



## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

### WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

#### February 11, Lesson 5

"The Downfall Wall" is the title of this week's lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God's unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**PREACHER:** Seminarian Michael Winckler

### LITURGIST:

Vicar John Gurung: Sundays at 11:00am  
Seminarian Joshua Wareham (2<sup>nd</sup> year): 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month  
Seminarian Joel Her (4<sup>th</sup> year): 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month  
Seminarian Michael Winckler (4<sup>th</sup> year): 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month  
Pastor Matthew Kobs: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month  
Seminarian Kurtis Polodna (1<sup>st</sup> year): 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Gabe Maichel, organist

**ACOLYTES:** 5:00p open  
8:30 Micah Stiles; 11:00 Emma Nickolotsky  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p open  
8:30 Kiera Stiles; 11:00 Fuego Hernandez

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The flowers that grace our chancel have been provided by:

Jack Pendleton: "My Dearest Jan, Happy Anniversary to my Forever Queen! Only 4 to go for the Big 50! Luv, Your LFK"

Roy & Kathy Migneco in loving memory of family and friends who have gone before us to be with Jesus.

**ALTAR GUILD:** 5:00p Bev & Rich Schaefer  
8:30 Nancy & Doug Pfitzinger; 11:00 Julie Krapf  
**ASH WED:** 8:30a Nancy & Doug Pfitzinger;  
6:30p Pam & Melissa Fox  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p Tracy Middleton  
8:30 Nancy & Doug Pfitzinger; Jim & Cheryl Chambers

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 5:00p Rich Schaefer  
8:30 Joel Her & Jack Pendleton;  
11:00 Joel Her  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p Rich Schaefer  
8:30 Michael Winckler;  
11:00 Michael Winckler

**A/V ROOM:** 5:00p Bella Bracken, Anna Clark, Matthew Hofman;  
8:30 Bill Maxfield, Grant Maxfield;  
11:00 Vernon Schmidt, Jason Fletcher, Julie Krapf, Kyan Sawyer

**READERS:** 5:00p Debbie Meyer  
8:30 Janis Nafzger; 11:00 Marla Lopez  
**NEXT WEEK:** 5:00p Tom McCain  
8:30 Caleb Travers; 11:00 Dianne Thies

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** February 18, 2024 –  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
First Reading *Genesis 22:1-18*  
Second Reading *James 1:12-18*  
Holy Gospel *Mark 1:9-15*

**USHERS:** 5:00 Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann, Ed Holderle, Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson;  
8:30 Gene Bockelmann, Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer, Nathan Decker, Jack Pendleton;  
11:00 Paul Brock Sr., Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez, Rain Hernandez

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The Church Staff prays for you during their weekly staff meetings. If you have a specific prayer request, please contact the church office.

### ASCENSION MEMBERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Jones	James Keltner	Daniel Harms
Brian Kitson	Thomas Kitson	Tristan Rabun
	Jamie Federhofer	

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

02/13 Marianne Blank, Jessica Bender  
02/16 Sherry Elliott  
02/17 Alexander Kuhl, Noah Maxfield

Please contact the church office if your birthday has been omitted in error.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

02/14 Jack & Jan Pendleton, David & Linda Slatin

Please contact the church office if your anniversary has been omitted in error.

### ASCENSION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SERVING AS FIRST RESPONDERS

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

### ASCENSION ELDERS and the families they serve

**Rich Schaefer** – Agne to Broughton

**Rudy Blank** – Brumback to Freer

**Mark Maxfield** – Fryar to Hill

**Jeff Stiles** – Hill-Stout to Komrska

**Randy Agne** – Krapf to Moffat

**Carlos Lopez** – Monaghan to Pogue

**Jack Pendleton** – Preston to Simpson

**Steele Shippy** – Sittmann to Zaza

**Paul Brock Sr.** – Elder at Large

**Gene Bockelmann** – Elder at Large

**Joe Benda** – Elder at Large

**Gagan Gurung** – Nepali Members

### LCMS CONGREGATIONS IN OUR SOUTH ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT

Ascension	Hope	St. Luke's
Concordia	Messiah	St. Trinity
Epiphany	Mt. Olive	Timothy
Holy Cross	St. Johns	Trinity
Jefferson Avenue Mission		



### ASCENSION'S WOL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Pfitzinger – President	Rick Anderson
Jim Fox – Treasurer	Vernon Schmidt

### TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

Dr. Daniel & Joan Jastram - Asia  
Erin Mackenzie - Dominican Republic  
Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood – Indonesia