



NEWS AND NOTES

May 22 & 23, 2021

“Loved by Christ, Sharing Christ’s Love”

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Worship with Communion Sunday School/Adult Bible Study Worship with Communion	8:15 am 9:45 am 11:00 am
Monday	Staff Meeting Board of Elders	8:00 am 6:30 pm
Tuesday	Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters WOL Kindergarten Graduation	9:00 am 6:30 pm
Thursday	Men’s Online Bible Study	6:15 am
Friday	WOL Last Day of School	
Saturday	Pastor on KFUE Nepali Fellowship – Fellowship Hall Worship with Communion Scout God & Church Presentation	9:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IMPROVEMENTS The chancel has now been painted, the ceiling has been cleaned and resealed, the altar, the baptismal font, and the wood furnishings in the chancel have been refurbished, and the stonework around the windows has been cleaned. The balcony has been painted and the large stained glass windows above the altar and in the balcony are being cleaned inside and out, and new protective glass will be put on the outside. Coming soon, the sanctuary walls will be painted, a hard surface floor will be laid between the front wall and the communion kneelers, and new lights will be installed in the chancel and the narthex. (Some of these lights will be focused on the stained glass windows in the narthex and because the fixtures will use low energy LED lights, they will remain on 24/7 for constant visibility to passersby.). The cross above the altar will have new background colors made by George Lluka to exactly match the colors of our paraments. Still to come: baseboard installation, new flooring in the sanctuary and refurbishing of the pews.

STEWARDSHIP

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS 1 John 5:12 – “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” Jesus is the foundation, the bedrock, the beginning, and the end. To have Him is to have it all. In Him we have life. We are called to live in Him, to live this new life He has given us, and to grow up into His image. This is a struggle in this sinful world! But His grace is sufficient as He refreshes us through Word and Sacrament.

WOL will be a hotbed of activity this summer. The new HVAC system, which couldn't be installed last summer due to COVID, will be installed this summer. New energy-efficient windows will be installed in the original school building. All the windows, including the windows on the interior classroom doors, will have black-out shades installed. A new security system, which also affects the church, will begin to be installed. Also, there will be a complete remodel of the three classrooms in the early childhood wing (grades K - 2). This remodel is funded entirely by contributions over and above the monies pledged and allocated to the school through the "Sharing Christ's Love" capital campaign.

God has truly blessed Ascension. Praise be to Him!

Donations can be made using a designated yellow-bordered envelope that is in your envelope box. Envelopes are also available outside the church office. The envelope can be placed in the locked wooden box on the table in the narthex. Donations can also be made online. If you would like to make a pledge, please contact Elaine Hilgeman (at 314-918-1434 or emh200@swbell.net) and she will supply you with a form. (All pledges are kept confidential.)

Stewardship Report

For the weekend ending May 16th

In-person attendance: 159
Online attendance: 111 (reached)

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Amount Received \$7,331
Budgeted Amount \$12,019
Surplus/(Shortfall) (\$ 4,688)

Capital Campaign Donations Since
October 2019: \$780,113

Note to Worshippers

Ascension broadcasts its worship services via livestream on the internet.

To find archived services.
Go to: Ascensionstl.com/stream.

READ ALONG WITH PASTOR

Feel like you need some hope, peace, and joy? God's Word is our source of life and strength during pandemics and at all times. Pastor Clark will be reading God's Word daily using a plan that will go through the entire Bible in two years. Pastor would love for you to read along with him! Printed reading schedules are available from the usher's pre-worship, or in the church office. Every Friday Pastor also posts a video on Ascension's Facebook Page and YouTube Channel that will highlight a theme or insight for that week's readings. The readings for next week are **Job 2-14**.

ASCENSION T-SHIRTS



Summer is coming and we've got you covered! Ascension T-shirts in two designs and several sizes are still available in the church lobby for the suggested donation of \$10.

Donations can be placed in the locked drop box mounted on the wall outside the church office.

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. Smartphone users can also download the GIVE+Mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store and set up an account. Please use only one email account per contribution envelope number.



KFUO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP



KFUO RADIO BROADCAST SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Lutheran owned and operated, **KFUO Radio AM 850**, has asked Ascension to broadcast its 8:15 am worship on the air over the months of May, June, and July. Thank you to all who sponsored a broadcast. **All dates have been filled.**

Many people rely on hearing the Gospel through KFUO's broadcasts. Connecting to our brothers and sisters in Christ though word and worship has never been more important. Thank you for your support.

THIS WEEK'S KFUO BROADCAST SPONSOR & DEDICATION



5/23/21 The Hetz and Hofman families

In celebration of Ellen Hetz's birthday, a woman of faith who has touched so many lives with the love of Jesus and continues to do so every day.

CARE BAGS FOR THOSE IN NEED

CARE BAGS Don't know what to do when you see someone on the street asking for help? Consider keeping one or two of our Care bags handy in your car to share with someone in need, when it's safe to do so. The bags contain snacks, a disposable mask, disinfecting wipes and a religious tract. The care bags will be located in the Narthex, so pick up one or two as you leave church this weekend.

LIKE US



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK Like Ascension 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"

CONFIRMATION ESSAYS



Ascension's Hintze Library has a binder that contains the confirmation verses essays/testimonials of our recent confirmands. Unfortunately, we're missing quite a few! If you were confirmed at Ascension and have the confirmation verse essay that you shared in worship, please email a copy to Pastor Clark, or drop off a paper copy at the church office.

We would love for your words of witness to be included!

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!

Parents and Littles

Teachers: Jasmine Duerr and Friends

Preschool and Kindergarten

Teachers: Marcia Passanise and Friends

Grades 1 through 3

Teachers: Emily Jones, Brittany Schelp, and Lisa Clark

Grades 4 through 5

Teachers: Rich Schaefer and Carl Anderson

Junior High

Teachers: Anna Johnson, Joel Her, and Friends

Senior High

Teachers: Rob Bremer and Friends

Adults

Teachers: Pastor Clark, Pastor Kobs, and Friends

Nepali Fellowship

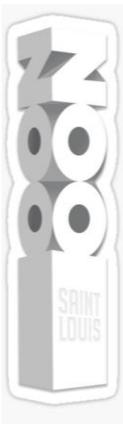
Teachers: Pastor Clark, Gagan Gurung, John Poju Gurung, and Friends

Sunday School Co-Coordinators

Lisa Clark and Anna Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Nancy and Terry Nickolotsky!

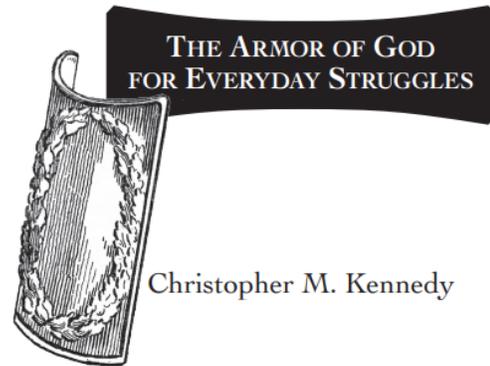


On May 24, Nancy and Terry will be receiving the Julie and Bill Gerlach award from the St. Louis Zoo. This is a lifetime achievement award given to outstanding volunteers - and Nancy and Terry are certainly that! Nancy and Terry are docents at the zoo every Wednesday from 12:00 - 3:00 pm, and they take continuing education classes to be sure that the information they share with visitors is current. In addition to on-site tours, they also give presentations about the zoo at off-site locations. They have both served as officers of various committees, they volunteer for special events held at the zoo, and Nancy schedules and co-ordinates the volunteers at the First Aid Station.

Between the two of them, they donate 800 - 1000 hours of their time every year to the Zoo. Way to go, Nancy and Terry!!

SUMMER 2021 SERMON SERIES

EQUIPPED



Christopher M. Kennedy

SUMMER 2021 SERMON SERIES! "EQUIPPED: THE ARMOR OF GOD FOR EVERYDAY STRUGGLES" Pastor Clark and Pastor Kobs are planning a sermon series this summer on the Armor of God from Ephesians 6:10-20. We will feature a new book from CPH entitled: Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles, by Christopher M. Kennedy. Those who fill out and return at least 7 sermon outlines will receive a free copy of the book.

June 5/6	Unmasking the Enemy
June 12/13	Belt of Truth
June 19/20	Breastplate of Righteousness
June 26/27	Shoes of Peace
July 3/4	Shield of Faith
July 10/11	Helmet of Salvation
July 17/18	Sword of the Spirit
July 24/25	Prayer Warfare

CFNA'S LEARN & EARN SEWING PROJECT



CFNA'S LEARN & EARN SEWING PROJECT gives refugees the opportunity to acquire job skills, earn money, learn English, socialize, and most importantly learn more about Jesus' love for them.

Please visit the display in the church lobby featuring handmade items available for purchase. Thank you for your support. Carol Buckman (314) 517-8513

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER: Pastor Matthew Clark

LITURGIST: Seminarian Joel Her, 1st Sunday of Month
Seminarian Michael Winckler, 3rd Sunday of Month
Pastor Matthew Kobs, 4th Sunday of Month

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Gabe Maichel, organist

ACOLYTES: 5:00 Anna Clark; 8:15 open; 11:00 Alyssa Hansen

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 open; 8:15 Anya Stiles; 11:00 Mackenzie Gardner

ALTAR FLOWERS: Anonymous donor

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Lisa Holderle; 8:15 Lane;
11:00 Chambers

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Agne; 8:15 Schelp; 11:00 Lopez

MULTIMEDIA ROOM: 5:00 Bella Bracken, Anna Clark;
8:15 Bill Maxfield, Grant Maxfield, Matt Bergholt;
11:00 Vernon Schmidt

READERS: 5:00 Lisa Holderle
8:15 Matt Kobs; 11:00 Dianne Thies

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Tom McCain
8:15 Brad Muhlke; 11:00 Tom Hinton

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: May 30, 2021 –
The Holy Trinity

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Epistle Reading *Acts 2:14a,22-36*

Holy Gospel *John 3:1-17*

USHERS: 5:00 Walter Scoggins, Walt Simpson,
Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann, Ed Holderle
8:15 Jake Bremer, Rob Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs,
Jack Pendleton, Gene Bockelmann, Nathan Decker,
Mark Shaffer
11:00 Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez, Paul Brock Sr.,
Roger Jensen

TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

Dr. Daniel and Joan Jastram-Asia
Erin Mackenzie-Dominican Republic
Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood-Indonesia
DCE Krista & Joel Young-Africa

LCMS CONGREGATIONS IN OUR SOUTH ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT

Ascension	Emmaus	Epiphany
Holy Cross	Hope	Messiah
Mt. Olive	St. Johns	St. Lucas
St. Luke's	St. Trinity	Timothy
Trinity		

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 or fill out a note from the Record of Fellowship folder and place it on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

5/23 Sharon Agne, Joe Benda, Allison Bradshaw, Matt Kamp

5/25 Aleece Keller, Lucas Smith

5/26 Jill Hintze, Liam Rabun

5/27 Shirley Thompson

5/28 Sean Cooney, Jordan Ingrham

Please contact the church office if your birthday has been omitted by mistake.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

5/25 Jason & Mila Fletcher

5/26 Matt & Kira Kamp, Mark & Sue Pfaff

5/28 Jim & Cheryl Chambers, Rachel & Brian Grote, Larry & Patricia Loveless, Joe & Shanna Manning

Please contact the church office if your anniversary has been omitted by mistake.

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Grace Rosenhoffer

Anya Stiles

Anna Muhlke

Carly Munoz

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 AND FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Jones

James Keltner

Brian Kitson

Thomas Kitson

Tristan Rabun

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT WORD OF LIFE



PART-TIME FACILITATOR POSITION AT WORD OF LIFE

Word of Life is blessed to have a diverse student population that includes representation of 10 different countries. Many of these families are immigrants to the St. Louis area and WOL wants to support the families of these English language learners in understanding and supporting all aspects of their child's Christian education. To do this, we are seeking a ministry-minded person to serve as a facilitator to these families. The position is part time, an average of 10 hours per week during the school year. However, hours vary each week based on what the school needs. Strong communication and relationship skills are needed as well as an appreciation for WOL's mission and its diversity. In addition, applicants should have a bachelor's degree in Counseling, Social Work, Education, Communications or a related field.

For more information or to submit a resume, please contact Principal Melissa Bergholt at mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net or 314-832-1244 x 111. We are hoping to fill this position to begin for the 2021-2022 school year.

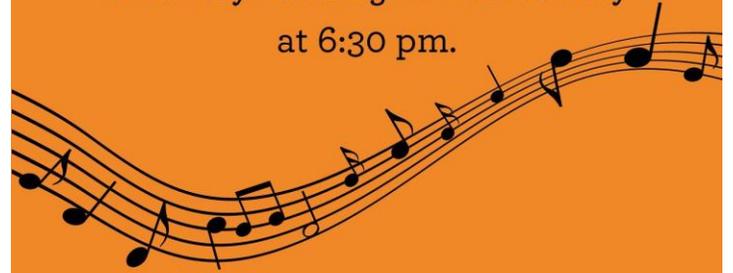
HELP WOL PREPARE FOR CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

WORD OF LIFE You may have heard that some of the school classrooms are being renovated this summer. You may have heard certain classrooms will need to be completely cleared out. You may have heard that teachers and students are very excited about this. You may have heard heartfelt appreciation for your support of this and other capital campaign projects. What you have NOT heard about is the desire to have sturdy boxes in which to pack books and files for the move. Yes, now you have heard; we would like your sturdy boxes to use for packing heavy items. If you have any sturdy boxes, please bring them to church when you come to worship and place them in the library area of the church lobby. Every weekend the donated boxes will be moved to school for packing. Also, if you know where to obtain any boxes good for moving files and books, but can't pick them up, or if you have questions, please send an email to ascension.volunteer@outlook.com.

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Free SUMMER CONCERTS

Join us outdoors on the church lawn!
Saturdays during June and July
at 6:30 pm.



Watch our Facebook page for
more information!

www.ascensionstl.com

@AscensionLutheranChurchLCMS



MUSIC ON THE LAWN Ascension's Free Outdoor Concert Series Saturdays in June and July at 6:30 pm. The following is a **tentative** schedule of concerts. A big thanks to our Music Director, Gabe Maichel, for organizing this series!

- June 5 The Original Knights of Swing (18 Piece Big Band)
- June 12 Two Times True (Jazz Quartet)
- June 19 Caroline Cinema (Ensemble showcasing soundtrack music)
- June 26 SideXSide Percussion Ensemble
- July 3 Dave Black (Jazz Trio)
- July 10 Ascension Worship Team and Bell Choir
- July 17 Hart Strings Quartet (String Quartet)
- July 24 Grafted (Ascension members Christian folk quartet)
- July 31 Gerard Ekert (Folk/Bluegrass Trio)
- August 7 Rain Date*

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 three distinct groups that gather together based upon their ages: The Youth Disciples is open to all youth in grades 1 through 4; 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.

IDENTITY SUMMER 2021 STL Identity Youth is back in action for 2021! Epiphany, our neighboring congregation at the corner of Holy Hills & Leona, hosts this annual event. Registration is open and is for youth entering 7th - 12th Grade in the fall of 2021.

This year's event consists of a group of service projects during the month of June designed to help you see your Identity in Christ! Choose the event you want to be involved in and sign up! Invite a friend to be a part of these ministries. Want to do two events? Because space is limited at each event, we ask that you wait until May 25 to sign up for a second event so that others have a chance to participate. A link to register can be found on the Identity page of Epiphany Lutheran Church's website: www.elcstl.org.

YOUTH ROOM FRIDGE Now that things are starting back up on youth activities, we have regrettably found that our beverage refrigerator in the youth room is extremely bare. The next time you visit your local grocer, can you grab some beverages and drop them off to us in the church office? We could use bottled water, juice packs, and soda. And please, for the sake of your volunteer youth workers, no energy drinks or Dew!

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

THINK SPRING Plant Sale was able to grant \$500 to Word of Life and \$2,200 for Ascension's Youth to attend the National Youth Convention in 2022. Thanks to all who purchased and participated to make the sale such a big success. Watch for THINK FALL details later this summer.
Karen and Julie

SUNDAY SCHOOL COVID COMMUNICATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL COVID COMMUNICATION At this point, only a very few teens 16+ are fully vaccinated, so these new CDC guidelines concerning wearing masks have a very small impact for Sunday School children at this time. All facets of Ascension's children's ministry (VBS, youth, Sunday School) will be carefully considered in the days to come. In the meantime, Sunday School teachers and volunteers will be wearing masks as encouragement for the children. More updates will come as Ascension leadership works toward a more comprehensive plan moving forward

2022 LCMS NYG

2022 LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING The planning at the national level for the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston on July 9-13, 2022 is proceeding full steam ahead with full anticipation of no or only minor restrictions related to COVID-19 by the time of the Gathering. The planning at Ascension to get a group of youth to this event is also still underway.



As a reminder, you are eligible to be a participant if you are currently in the 7th through 11th/12th grades. For those of you that will be 19 or older at the time of the Gathering, you can also participate as a Young Adult Volunteer as a helper in the day-to-day activities of the Gathering.

More information will be forthcoming about this wonderful event and various fundraisers will be held to help offset the trip costs.

YOUTH MINISTRY COMMUNICATION The primary communication method used by the youth ministry is email. We will also use the weekly News & Notes to communicate but the most up-to-date information is handled via email. If you do not receive emails from our Ascension Youth Fellowship email account at ayflcms@outlook.com, please email us at that address and request to be added to the mailing list. You can also like our Ascension Youth Fellowship Facebook page as we update that regularly.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions about Ascension Youth Fellowship, please contact Kathy or Chris Thies, or Pastor at the church office.

Kathy Thies
(314) 580-2074
Kathy.Thies@Hotmail.com

Chris Thies
(314) 910-3148
Chris.Thies@Outlook.com



GOD'S WONDER LAB: JESUS DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

A science lab is full of fascinating things that help explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that cannot be explained. He turned water into wine, walked on water, and His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. Discover that Jesus does the impossible for us at this year's in-person Vacation Bible School at Ascension.

VBS DATE CHANGE Ascension has moved the VBS dates by one week due to a conflict with neighboring VBS schedules. Please make note of the new dates listed below.

Dates: June 14-18

Time: 9am-12pm

Grades: Pre-K through 6

REGISTRATION In order to have an in-person VBS this year, we will be limited to Ascension and WOL families only. Children must be Pre-K (potty trained) through 6th grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Registration will be done online only with no new registrants allowed as walk-ins.

Online registration is now open. Please go to ascensionstl.com/vbs-registration-2021 and get registered.

VOLUNTEERS A successful VBS runs on volunteers and volunteer registration is now open. See the display in the church lobby for the open positions and put your name on the list.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS We will be following the current protocols used by Word of Life for the day school and will adjust those to match the local COVID-19 protocols in place at the time of VBS. More information will be available closer to the start of VBS.

DONATIONS One of the primary funding sources for our annual VBS is a Trivia Night we hold each spring. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to hold this fundraiser. If you would like to donate to help cover the cost of this year's VBS, please drop off your donation to the church office. Mark your envelope "VBS 2021" and include that wording on your check comment line.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions about our Vacation Bible School, please contact Katlyne Thies, or Pastor at the church office.

Katlyne Thies
(314) 580-2143 mobile
Katlyne.Thies@Gmail.com

Pastor Clark
(314)852-5600 office
Pastor@AscensionStL.com

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our ascended Savior!

I am writing to share a change concerning the wearing of masks at Ascension that was approved by Ascension's Elders and Ministry Council. This change is prompted by the new guidance concerning COVID-19 that was announced last week by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and St. Louis City and County.

The wearing of face masks will be optional for worship services and adult Bible classes at Ascension. This change will take effect this weekend, May 22 and 23. Pastors Clark and Kobs, however, will continue to wear masks as an extra safety measure throughout Communion distribution and during other close contact. For detailed information concerning who the CDC advises can go without a mask, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

More information will be coming soon concerning the following areas at Ascension:

- updated mask wearing/social distancing policy for Sunday School, youth group, and Vacation Bible School
- updated seating capacity/registering for worship
- updated distribution of Holy Communion procedure

Please allow me to share a few pastoral notes. As a fellow pastor observed, in some ways, coming out of this pandemic is more complex than going into it. Undoubtedly, Satan will attempt to use these circumstances to divide God's people at Ascension. We may be tempted to make unkind assumptions about our brothers and sisters in Christ based upon their decisions regarding mask wearing. Instead, we have an opportunity to exercise love, respect, and grace toward one another as brothers and sisters in Christ going forward.

As changes are made moving forward, I realize that some will say that changes are too timid. Others will feel that these changes are too aggressive. Please know that these changes have been adopted after much thought, prayer, and discussion. Please continue to pray for your pastors and congregational leaders as we endeavor to navigate the rest of the way out of this pandemic.

I encourage you to take the words of Ephesians 4:1-3 to heart. The apostle Paul writes, "I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

In Christ,
Pastor Matthew Clark