



NEWS AND NOTES
June 19 & 20, 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	8:30 am
Tuesday	Worship Team	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters	9:00 am
Thursday	Men’s Online Bible Study Men’s In-Home Bible Study	6:15 am 7:00 pm
Saturday	Pastor on KFYO Nepali Fellowship Worship with Communion Music on the Lawn	9:00 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 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. The cross above the altar has new background colors made by George Lluka to exactly match the colors of our paraments. 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.). Still to come: baseboard installation, new flooring in the sanctuary and refurbishing of the pews.

STEWARDSHIP

GENEROSITY Mark 4:40 – “He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’” Faith means trust. If we trust the Lord, what do we have to be afraid of? Isn’t it fear that holds us back in our stewardship? Isn’t it fear that stops us from following the Lord’s Word to give generously toward His work in the Church? Well then, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” The Lord has proved His trustworthiness by His cross. You can trust Him.

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 June 13th	
In-person attendance:	159
Online attendance:	60 (reached)
Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love	
Amount Received	\$9,097
Budgeted Amount	\$12,019
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$ 2,922)
Capital Campaign Donations Since October 2019:	\$799,392

Note to Worshippers

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

Ascension livestreams its worship services.

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

COVID WORSHIP UPDATE

May 26, 2021

Dear people loved by Christ,

**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
1 John 4:18a**

Ascension's elders, congregational president, and pastors recently met to discuss Ascension's plan as we begin to emerge from the threat of COVID-19. Our discussion was done with much prayer as we looked not only to CDC guidelines, but more important, to God's Word. Our conversation was shaped by words such as 1 John 4:18 as we made decisions, not out of fear, but love for neighbor—confident of God's perfect love for us in Christ our Savior.

Even if not all members of Ascension agree with decisions that were made, we pray that these differences of opinion would not become an opportunity for Satan to divide us. Instead, we ask the Lord to make each of us "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

As an email last week indicated, the wearing of face masks is optional for worship services and adult Bible classes at Ascension. For detailed information concerning who the CDC advises can go without a mask, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. In addition to this, please note the following updates connected to COVID procedures.

Seating for Worship

Registering in advance for worship (online or by phone) in order to reserve a seat is no longer necessary. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this reservation process over these past months. Moving forward, tape will be removed from the pulpit side of the church to allow for seating in every row. Every other pew on the lectern side will remain taped-off to allow for intentional social distancing. Worshipers are free to sit where they are most comfortable.

Lobby Area

Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in the church lobby. The large self-serve urns will be used again for coffee on Sunday mornings. Tables and chairs will return to the Hintze Library area for fellowship.

Offering

We will continue to forego passing the offering plate at this time. We ask worshipers to please place offerings and gifts in the wooden box in the narthex or consider giving online. Online giving (whether one-time or continuous) can be arranged through our website, www.ascensionstl.com, under the tab "online giving."

Communion Distribution

The elements for Holy Communion will return to being placed on the altar, where the Words of Institution will be spoken. The Lord's Supper will then be distributed following Ascension's "continuous line" procedure. Those communing will come forward into the chancel to receive Christ's body and blood. Those distributing communion will sanitize their hands immediately before and also wear masks during distribution.

Materials in the Pews

We are discontinuing the use of "Fellowship Books" in order to record attendance in worship. We will instead soon be utilizing attendance cards for individuals and families. Our hymnals, *Lutheran Service Book*, will be placed back in the pews. However, for the immediate future, words to hymns/songs will also be printed in the bulletin.

Mask Wearing for Children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School

Ascension has made in-person Sunday School and VBS a top priority. We believe it is vital for children to learn God's Word, and the Gospel of Jesus, both in the home and at church. To allow for this in-person learning to take place as safely as possible, we are requesting that children (following CDC guidelines) wear masks while at Sunday School and VBS for the immediate future.

This decision was guided by two main reasons:

This request follows the operational guidelines set by the CDC (cdc.gov), to which the City of St. Louis is requesting we comply. In the 4th Commandment and its meaning, we are called to "honor" and "obey" earthly authorities, recognizing that God Himself has put these authorities in place (see Romans 13:1-2; 7).

While transmission of COVID among children may be very unlikely, Ascension's leadership still has concern for the safety of the youngest among us. We encourage parents to partner with us in helping children see masks not as objects of fear, but as a way they can show love for their neighbor.

**I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, 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.
Ephesians 4:1-3**

In the verses above, the apostle Paul urges the Church in Ephesus to be characterized by humility, gentleness, patience, love, unity, and peace. I pray that these same godly qualities are demonstrated by each of us at Ascension as we heal from this time of COVID.

In Christ,
Pastor Matthew Clark

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 ushers 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 **Psalms 48-82**.

ASCENSION T-SHIRTS



Summer is here 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) 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 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



Ascension's 8:15 am worship services will be broadcast on Lutheran owned and operated, **KFUO Radio AM 850** during the months of May, June and July.

Thank you to all who sponsored a broadcast. **All dates have been filled.**

THIS WEEK'S KFUO BROADCAST SPONSOR & DEDICATION



Carol & Clarence Goetsch

In thanksgiving of our 63rd wedding anniversary.

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"

CHILDREN CALLED BY NAME TO BE CHILDREN OF GOD



Join us in celebrating two baptisms! Please welcome into God's family these two children of God.

Levi Scott Hartnett, son of Lauren and Matthew Hartnett, Jr. The family had a private service Thursday, June 17th.

Natalie Elizabeth Fletcher, daughter of Mila and Jason Fletcher. The family had a private service Saturday, June 19th.

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

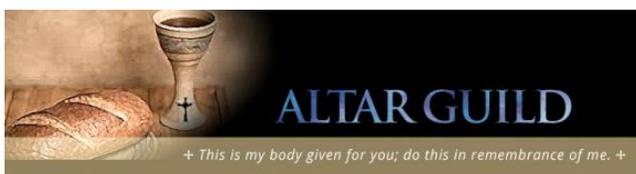
Teachers: Pastor Clark, Gagan Gurung, John Gurung, and Friends

Sunday School Co-Coordinators

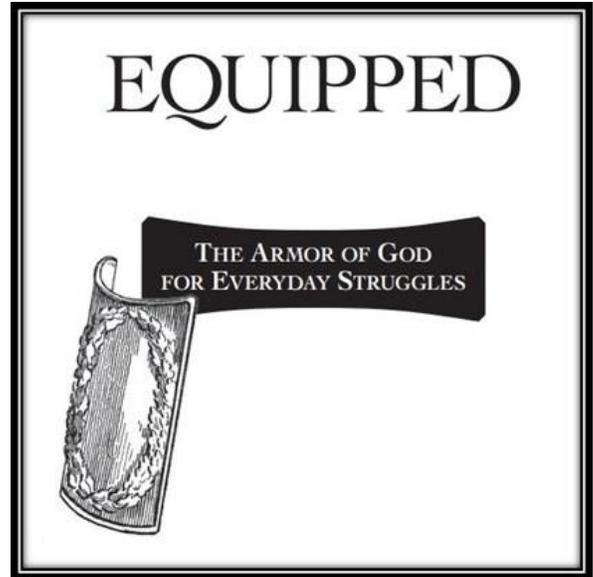
Lisa Clark and Anna Johnson

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELP WANTED! Altar Guild is one of Ascension's service groups in need of helping hands. We have a wonderful group of people who serve our congregation by setting up the Lord's table for Holy Communion before each service. Many hands make light work. To avoid overburdening a few, we ask you to consider serving in this special and meaningful way. Don't have a lot of time or travel a lot? That's OK, you can help as much as you are able. Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis and altar guild does not require a huge time commitment. You can even serve as a family. It's a great opportunity to teach children about the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the gift of service. The 11:00 a.m. is in especially great need of volunteers. Don't know what the altar guild does? That's OK too, you will be given instruction. Please contact Jan Pendleton at 314-353-5412 or Cheryl Chambers at 314-306-8837 with your questions or concerns you may have.



SUMMER 2021 SERMON SERIES



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.

Fill out and return at least 7 sermon outlines to receive a free copy of the book.

June 05/06	Unmasking the Enemy
June 12/13	Belt of Truth
June 19/20	Breastplate of Righteousness
June 26/27	Shoes of Peace
July 03/04	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.

CFNA is also in need of volunteers to help with this project. Sewing experience is welcomed, but not necessary. For more information, please contact Carol Buckman (314) 517-8513. Thank you for your support.

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 Open; 8:15 Will Maxfield;
11:00 Tyler Kern

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Anna Clark; 8:15 Open;
11:00 Bella McMeans

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

Clarence & Carol Goetsch to the Glory of God and for the success of Ascension Lutheran Church.

Carl Fadler to the Glory of God.

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Jane Fryar; 8:15 Nancy & Doug Pfitzinger; 11:00 Marcia Passanise

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Tracy Middleton; 8:15 Jan & Jack Pendleton; 11:00 Diane Thies

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

READERS: 5:00 Tom McCain
8:15 Tracy Middleton; 11:00 Carlos Lopez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Bella Bracken
8:15 Marlene Maxfield; 11:00 Ted Cox

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: June 27, 2021 –
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Old Testament Reading *Lam 3:22-23*
Epistle Reading *2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15*
Holy Gospel *Mark 5:21-43*

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

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.

ASCENSION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Jones James Keltner
Brian Kitson Thomas Kitson
Tristan Rabun

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

6/20 Laura Brink, Jaime Gaal, Layla Manning, Mark Pfaff,
Mary Pfaff, Linda Slatin, Susan Waddell
6/21 Mya Brodie, Roberta Kern, Kiera Stiles
6/22 Bill Ingraham
6/23 Eric Bower, Valerie Johnson, Thomas Morton
6/24 Tessa Kamp, Mary Pastor
6/25 Ally Brink
6/26 Charlene Cook, Elizabeth Herndon, Oliva Lopez,
Kate Moffat

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

6/22 Randy & Sharon Agne, Clarence & Carol Goetsch,
Debbie & Gregory Meyer
6/24 Brian & Julie Hilkerbaumer, Gabe & Emily Maichel

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

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Abigail Green
Anish Gurung
Jaylee Schulz
Sarah Stiffler
Natalie Maichel

ASCENSION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SERVING AS FIRST RESPONDERS

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

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		

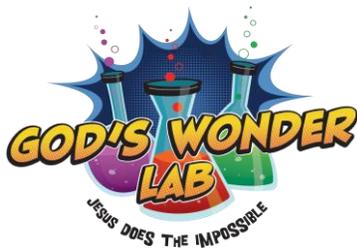
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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 Word of Life Principal, Melissa Bergholt at mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net or 314-832-1244 x 111. We are hoping to fill this position prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



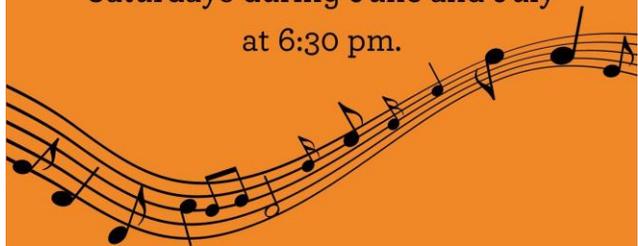
Thank you to all the students who attended and volunteers who made VBS such a success. We appreciate the hard work and enthusiasm that went into this week and are grateful to have such outstanding helpers.

We also thank those who donated supplies or money for this **Wonder**-ful week!

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 A big thanks to our Music Director, Gabe Maichel, for organizing this series!

- June 19 Caroline Cinema (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*

PRE-SHOW FOOD ON THE LAWN

FOOD ON THE LAWN Following a cinema theme, this week the Men's Club will not be barbequing, but will be selling water, soda, Gatorade, and ice cream while you enjoy the sounds of Caroline Cinema. All purchases will be cash only. We look forward to another great evening on the lawn!

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! Select the event you want to participate in and sign up! Invite a friend to be a part of these ministries. A link to register can be found on the Identity page of Epiphany Lutheran Church's website: www.elcstl.org.

YOUTH DISCIPLES While we have started back with some youth activities, those activities have focused on the Jr and Sr youth groups. We want to shout out to all of our Youth Disciple parents and let you know that we will be restarting activities for ALL ages come this fall. It has been very overwhelming planning and holding these few spring/summer events coming out of this pandemic and we have not been able to include anything particularly targeted for the Youth Disciples.

9-SQUARE IN THE AIR For those of you that have attended MO District Jr Youth Retreats in the past, I am sure you got to play a round or two of 9-Square In The Air. Guess what? Ascension has acquired our own copy of the game for our use at youth activities! The game play is kind of a cross between 4-square and volleyball and is so much fun. We are making plans for an event specific to playing with our 9-Square In The Air for the first time.

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.

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!

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