



NEWS AND NOTES

November 27 & 28, 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	Tuesday Morning Bible Study Worship Team	9:30 am 7:00 pm
Wednesday	Quilters Women of the Word Bible Study Bell Ringers Advent Mid-Week Service Choir	9:00 am 9:30 am 5:45 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Thursday	Men’s Bible Study Advent Luncheon (MAC) Men’s In-Home Bible Study	6:15 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm
Friday	Office closed Youth Christmas Party (Ronnie’s)	6:30 pm
Saturday	Pastor on KFJO Hadler Wedding Worship with Communion	9:00 am 2:00 pm 5:00 pm

STEWARDSHIP

Luke 19:31 – “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’”

Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it.” Then he gave willingly. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life – in our homes, in the Church, and in the communities in which we live. In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

Stewardship Report

For the weekend ending November 13th

In-person attendance: 210
Online attendance: 38 (reached)

Amount Received to Share Christ’s Love

Amount Received	\$ 32,200
Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,019
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ 20,281

Capital Campaign Donations Since October 2019:	\$894,437
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE Work continues and will include cleaning and replacing the outside of the stained glass window over the altar and putting refurbished handles on the Eichelberger entrance doors. A hard surface flooring may be laid in the chancel. Other future projects include baseboard installation, new carpeting, pew refinishing, and additional work in the narthex.

Word of Life will have the windows along the playground replaced in November.

To God be the glory!

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 and she will supply you with a form. All pledges are kept confidential.

ADVENT LUNCHEON

Members and friends of Ascension have organized an Advent luncheon on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 12:00 pm on the fourth floor Veterans Room in the historic Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) at 405 Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis. See the reservation form at the end of this document for more information on registration for the event.

ANNUAL MEN’S RETREAT

The Annual Men’s Retreat is scheduled at Camp Wartburg Friday night and Saturday January 14 - 15, 2022. Brian Becker has written a book on the father/son relationship and will be leading the Retreat. Word is that there will be a chance to try hatchet throwing too! A flyer and more detailed information will be coming in the next few weeks, so stay tuned.

MINISTRY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thank you to all those who were willing to serve on Ascension’s Ministry Council! Congratulations to those who were elected: Marla Lopez, Vice President; Blake Rabe, Secretary; Members at Large: Anna Johnson, Emily Jones, Julie Krapf, Adam Pfaff, and Debbie Schmidt.

Again, we are thankful for everyone who was willing to serve and lead in this way!

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"

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/stream 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.



THRIVENT GRANTS



Do you have a Thrivent policy? If so, you can help the church apply for Thrivent grants. It usually takes only 15 minutes to apply and these grants can provide Ascension with \$250 towards church expenses for various eligible activities.

Contact Karen Hilkerbaumer at (314) 378-2977 for more information.

READ ALONG WITH PASTOR

God's Word is our source of life and strength during pandemics and at all times. Read along with Pastor Clark as he goes through the entire Bible in two years.

Each Friday, Pastor posts a video on Ascension's Facebook page and YouTube channel highlighting a theme or insight of that week's readings. Ask an usher for a daily reading schedule or stop into the church office. The readings for next week are **Joel 2 – Amos 6**.

CALLING ALL ELVES



It is time once again to decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season. Please note that helpers are needed Sunday, Nov 28th, starting around noon (after late service). Once decorating duties are completed, we will have a light supper - soup, crackers, cheeses, dessert - since an appetite will certainly have been worked up with all the trimming and decorating that has been done.

We ask that you RSVP to either Barb Shaffer – (314) 638-1517 or Debbie Hofmann – (314) 849-1207, to give us an idea of how many elves will need to be fed.

Please come join us in this fun event as we make the church beautiful for the holidays and have some fun and fellowship as well.

POINSETTAS AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

It's that time of the year again! We are asking for donations for the poinsettias and decorations that beautify our church for the Advent Christmas season. 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 \$8.50. All plants will be discarded on 1/8/2022.

Name _____

Poinsettia # _____ Amount \$ _____

Decoration Amount \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I will _____ I will not _____ pick up my poinsettia after 1/1/2022

Dedication:

NOVEMBER LIBRARY LOOK

The three books featured this month are by Glenn Sprich, an alumnus of Ascension and Lutheran South. He calls them ***Bible Studies for the Common Man***.

- ☛ **The Greatest Five**
- ☛ **Dynamic Duos of the Bible**
- ☛ **A Christians Guide to 10 Life Skills to Live a Healthy and Faith Filled Life**

These are all out on the library counter for you to check out!

WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY CLASS SCHEDULE UPDATE

The Women of the Word Bible Study class will not be held December 22th or December 29th.

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 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 / (314) 832-5600

Women of the Word Bible Study
Wednesdays from 9:30–11 am / ongoing
Location: Ascension / Fellowship Hall
Leader: Marlene Maxfield
Contact: 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 / (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 / (314) 413-2603
Contact Chris: chris.thies@outlook.com

ASCENSION OFFICE HOURS

There has been a temporary change in the church office hours and the office is now closed on Fridays.

WORSHIP SURVEY

Ascension's pastor and elders have composed a survey to learn the congregation's thoughts on a number of items connected to worship, music, Bible class, and our Sunday morning schedule. The survey was sent out by email on Monday, November 15th.

There will also be paper copies of the survey available in the church office. All those who are confirmed members of Ascension are invited to fill out this survey and share their thoughts. Please return surveys by Dec. 5th.

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: Deaconess 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 Deaconess Anna Johnson

LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES TREE

Dear Friends,

Every Christmas you all have graciously helped the many foster children in care. Once again a tree will be placed in the Narthex with 60 children's names and their wishes. Presents do not have to be wrapped, just attach the child's name to the present or bag.

If you prefer to give gift cards, they can be dropped off at the office or given to Bev or Rich Schaefer. The gift cards are used to purchase all the last minute gifts, coats, shoes, PJ's etc. for children who come into care after the ornaments have been put on trees.

It would help us greatly if the presents could be under the tree by **December 12th** so that the workers can make the Santa bags to be delivered to the foster homes and residential facilities by December 22nd. The children are in care all over Missouri due to fewer foster homes available in the metropolitan area so it takes time to deliver.

On behalf of all of us here at Lutheran Family and Children's Services, I thank you.



Bev Schaefer Foster Care Coordinator
(314) 754-2749

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 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.



YOUTH SUNDAY The next time we meet will be on January 9th. The Youth Disciples will meet from 2 till 3:30 pm and the Jr/Sr Youth will meet from 4 till 6 pm. Watch your email inbox for details.

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.



As a reminder, you are eligible to be a participant if you are currently in the 8th through 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.

GATHERING INFORMATIONAL MEETING We held an informational meeting for the LCMS National Youth Gathering on Sunday, October 24th. Many of you were not able to attend because of other commitments so Chris & Kathy are offering to make themselves available to anyone interested by personally reviewing with you the material presented. Please reach out to them to schedule time for a phone call, Zoom meeting or in-person discussion.

GATHERING REGISTRATION Registration forms for the Gathering are now available and are being emailed out to all those eligible in our mailing list. As our mailing list is not complete, please let us know if you need a registration form but have not gotten the email. We need registration forms returned quickly to allow us to begin more detailed planning of our transportation, lodging and chaperone needs.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

12/03/2021	Jr. & Sr Youth Christmas Party
01/09/2022	Youth Sunday
07/09-13/2022	LCMS National Youth Gathering

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 voice & text
Kathy.Thies@Hotmail.com

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

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



This year's Christmas Party will be a theater showing of **Elf** at Ronnie's Cinema on December 3, 2021. We have rented a full theater for our group to gather for a private showing of this Christmas classic.

Thanks to the generosity of some of our parishioners, the theater is paid for, along with a drink and snack.

This event is open to all youth in grades 3 through 12. Parents, this movie is rated PG so take that into consideration when making plans for your child to attend.

Each year we include a toy collection for a local charity. This year we will be supporting Lutheran Family and Children Services. They are asking for athletic balls of all kinds: soccer balls, basketballs, playground balls, footballs, etc. They will use these as Christmas gifts for the children they supervise in foster care. Please bring a new unwrapped ball for this collection.

Please be aware that we will be following Ascension's COVID protocols. This means we are required to wear masks while we are indoors. Masks can be temporarily removed for eating but should be worn at all other times.

➤ Schedule

- 6:30 pm Arrive at Ronnie's
- 7:00 pm Movie Starts
- 9:00 pm Pickup at Ronnie's

➤ What to Bring

- Mask
- Extra cash in case your child might want an additional drink or snack
- Toy donation

MISSOURI DISTRICT LCMS



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

It's been a very blessed fall for our offices! We are thankful that many church workers and lay people were able to join us in person this year for events, learning, and fellowship.

- The Pastors' Conference focused on encouragement and camaraderie and was very well received by the many pastors who attended.
- The Lutheran Older Adult Retreat (rescheduled from 2020) also had a great turnout with many joyful reunions and much learning.
- And finally, our Educators' Conference had over 400 registrants (a combination of mostly in-person with some virtual attendees.)

Thank you for joining us and thank you to those who help make these events possible with their support.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Mid-Week Worship: "Symbols of Salvation"

We're providing a "Symbols of Salvation" Advent daily devotion book for adults as well as a book for children with this theme.

- ✝ Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 pm
The Burning Bush, Exodus 3:1-14
- ✝ Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 pm
The Cloud in the Tabernacle, Exodus 40:17-20
- ✝ Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 pm
The Call of Gideon, Judges 6:11-24

Christmas Eve Worship (no Holy Communion)

- ✝ Friday, December 24, 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

- ✝ Friday, December 24, 11:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

- ✝ Saturday, December 25, 10:00 am

Sunday, December 26 with Holy Communion

- ✝ No Sunday school or Bible class
- ✝ One worship service at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion

- ✝ Friday, December 31, 5:00 pm

GIVING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30



"Who is Jesus?" a young boy asked the Ascension member in the Magi costume. One Live Nativity night, this boy saw the baby lying in a manger and heard about His loving Savior.

Be a part of this free event that we provide for our community by supporting us on #GivingTuesday at <https://bit.ly/GivingTuesdayLiveNativity>. Help us continue to give out a bag of cookies, a cup of cocoa, and to witness to more who ask, "Who is Jesus?"

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT UPDATED



Advent by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, December 5th. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, with a time for dessert, punch coffee, fellowship, and piano music from 6:15-6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be pre-purchased (not homemade) and will be plated and served. Gluten-free and sugar-free desserts will be available.

Musicians will begin playing in the sanctuary at 6:45 pm. Live streaming will also begin at 6:45 pm. The meditation for the evening will begin at 7:00 pm. Afterwards, weather permitting, we can gather on the church lawn to talk and sing.

Please sign up online or on the sign-up board in the church lobby. Space is limited, and sign-up will be necessary. Reservations are due by Wednesday, Dec. 1st.

The program for the evening will be emailed to everyone the week of November 29th. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Holderle at (314) 962-9979 or lholderle@yahoo.com.

LIVE NATIVITY



Ascension is excited to host our Live Nativity 2021! As our St. Louis Hills neighborhood becomes a premier place for looking at Christmas lights, Ascension has the opportunity to share the Light of Christ and proclaim our Savior's birth to our community.

The date for our live nativity is Saturday, December 18th from 5 pm to 9 pm. The live nativity will feature costumed characters, story boards highlighting Christmas Bible readings, radio broadcast, live animals, multiple angel choirs, a star-like spotlight, and cookies with hot chocolate.

If you would like to help share Christ this Christmas, please visit the displays in the church lobby where you can help fund the live animals or sign up to serve as one of the costumed characters (or in a number of other ways).

Thank you for your support.

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER: Pastor Matthew Clark

LITURGIST: Seminarian Joel Her, 1st Sunday of month
Seminarian Ben Wescoatt, 2nd 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 Matthew Hofman; 8:15 Allie Johnson;
11:00 Viento Hernandez

NEXT WEEK: 5:00 open; 8:15 Noah Maxfield;
11:00 Tyler Kern

ALTAR GUILD: 5:00 Diane & Mark Bracken;
8:15 Janet Rathgeber; 11:00 Marcia Passanise
NEXT WEEK: 5:00 Bev & Rich Schaefer;
8:15 Marlene Maxfield; 11:00 Thies family

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

READERS: 5:00 Robert Hofmann; 8:15 Melissa Maxfield;
11:00 Jo Bruns

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: December 5, 2021 –
Second Sunday in Advent
First Reading *Mal. 3:1-7b*
Epistle Reading *Phil. 1:2-11*
Holy Gospel *Luke 3:1-14*

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

TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

Dr. Daniel & Joan Jastram--Asia
Erin Mackenzie--Dominican Republic
Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood—Indonesia
John & Erica Tape, Latin American & Carribean Region

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	Jamie Federhofer

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

11/28 Joseph Helfrich
11/29 Robert Morton Sr., Kurt Oster, Gloria Lewis
11/30 Patricia Helfrich
12/01 Bee Danback, Kurt Hummel, Carlos Lopez, Kim Calogero
12/02 Karen Hilkerbaumber
12/03 Edward Peek, Emmeline Schmidt, Claudia Seifert
12/04 Ronal Schneidewind, Ethan Gurung

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

12/03 Ricci and Timothy Moore

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

YOUTH OF THE WEEK

Abigail Green
Anish Gurung
Allyson Brink
Henry Brink

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



**Ascension Members and Friends
Christmas Luncheon at the Missouri Athletic Club
Thursday, December 2, 2021**



Members and friends of Ascension have organized an Advent luncheon for all who would like to participate. The date is Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 12:00 pm in the fourth floor Veterans Room at the historic Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) at 405 Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis. Park in the multi-level garage directly behind the MAC on Lucas Street. The MAC no longer validates parking. The fee should be \$2-3 per car. Those who wish can carpool from Ascension.

After lunch, Christmas Carols will be led with Ascension Director of Music Ministry Gabe Maichel at the piano. Bring your camera and enjoy the elaborate Christmas tree, gingerbread village, and the display of trains in the lobby of the MAC before or after lunch.

You will select a meal from the superb buffet. This includes two soups, six entrees, two potato or other starch dishes, two to four vegetables, three to four meat, vegetable, or fruit salads, plus ingredients for an elaborate green salad, a selection of house-made breads, a variety of sandwich makings, and a dessert buffet where everything tastes as good as it looks. Also included are coffee, tea, and soft drinks.

Join us in celebrating the Advent season leading to Christ's birth. Complete the form below and mail it to Judith Hanses at 6700 Eichelberger St., 63109-3314 along with your check for \$22.00 for each luncheon reservation. If you wish to reserve a table of eight, please submit all reservations and payment together.

The luncheon has been a joint effort by John and Charlene Cook with Judith Hanses since 2010. We welcome Sherry Elliott to the team this year.

Make checks payable to Judith Hanses. Reservations and payment must be received by **Sunday, November 28, 2021.**

Names of Attendees: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Number of Reservations: _____ X \$22.00 per attendee = _____

