



ALC Newsletter

May 2024

Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
(In Person and also Live Stream!)
 followed by Refreshments,
 Fellowship, & Education

Jeff Blain, Lead Pastor 920-922-3353 - O; 920-517-9669-C
 Anthony Wick, Lay Pastor 920-922-3353 - O; 414-937-1903-C

From
 Pastor
 Jeff



What Are You Planting?

I'm hoping some day to be more diligent about planting a garden. Carol and I have tried a few times through the years to grow some different vegetables and fruits—but only with limited success. While I am certainly grateful for the produce sections in the grocery stores, there's nothing quite like the taste of food right from the garden or farm!

I ran across an interesting piece several years back that I would like to adapt a bit in hopes it helps you with your faith pondering. The original was called *"Planting Your Spring Garden."*

For the garden of your daily living, plant 4 rows each of...

Peas:	Peace of Mind	Peace of Heart	Peace of Soul	Peace in Relationships
Squash:	Squash Gossip	Squash Indifference	Squash Grumbling	Squash Selfishness
Lettuce:	Lettuce be Faithful	Lettuce be Kind	Lettuce be Patient	Lettuce Pray
Turnips:	Turnip for Worship	Turnip to Help Others	Turnip to Volunteer	Turnip for Lead
Thyme:	Thyme for Each Other	Thyme for Family	Thyme for Friends	Thyme for God

Water this garden freely with patience, and cultivate with love. There will be much fruit from your garden because you reap what you sow.

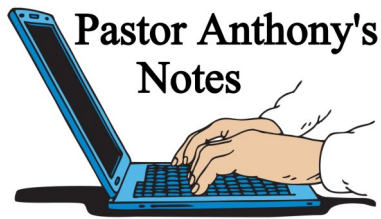
One of my favorite Bible passages is Colossians 3:17: *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (NRSV) The thoughts above seem to echo this verse. Certainly something to ponder...

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Visit our website at www.alcdfdl.org

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I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

-Ephesians 3.16-19

Hello Ascension family!

It is so great to finally be with you all in worship regularly. My family and I have felt so welcomed by everyone we have met and encountered here, and the name tags have been profoundly helpful in the effort for names to be connected to faces! I have been reflecting quite a lot on the reality of change not only in the life of myself and my family, but also the life here at Ascension. We are deeply grateful to be here, and are looking forward to many years of ministry together with Ascension.

The world around us is changing so rapidly it is nearly impossible to keep up with it all, and this influences our journey of faith both as a community but also personally. *We* are entering into a new season together, and this new season will bring about all sorts of changes and unforeseen things. I think it's important to reflect Paul's words to the church in Ephesus offer us a rich picture of his desire for the church (both locally and globally) to growing ever deeper into intimacy with the love of Father, Son and Spirit. It is from the richness of his glory that all things come to us, and it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are rooted and grounded in love. This love is the love of Christ, and it is through the context of the local church we are connected to this love and called to be more deeply rooted and to grow deeper. It is not by our own power as individuals, but with "all the saints" that we begin to comprehend is "the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge..." Knowing the infinite depth of the goodness and love of God is a communal act. Loving one another, praying for one another, forgiving one another; all these things are the ways in which the Spirit uses to grow us closer to each other and to God but also to be "filled with the fullness of God".

As we travel the uncharted winding roads ahead, let us remember Paul's prayer from Ephesians and also a prayer from St. Augustine:

"O God, in you there is no strife, no disorder, no change, no need, no death but supreme harmony, supreme clarity, supreme permanence and life."

Connecting Together: (The Power of a Name Tag)

As we continue to look for ways to better connect with one another, you can help out by filling out a name tag whenever you are at Worship.

Wearing a name tag with your **first and last name** can help us get to know one another better — including Pastor Anthony and his family! On top of this, whenever we ask our visitors and guests about the name tags, they tell us that it really helps to make Ascension a friendly and welcoming place.



Thanks for your consideration!!!

Next In-Vehicle Communion on May 19

If you have not been able to join us in person for Worship recently and you would like to receive Holy Communion in your vehicle, please plan to drive over to the church building on Sunday, May 19. A pastor will be there to serve for about 20 minutes beginning at 11:15 a.m.



National Day of Prayer is May 2

On Thursday, May 2, at 6 PM, you are invited to join with other Christians from a variety of local congregations as we gather at Veteran’s Park in downtown FdL to observe the National Day of Prayer.

There will be Music, Bible Readings and Prayers by area church leaders as well as time to pray in small groups. The service will conclude at 7 PM



Come and be part of the Ascension Family and Friends second annual night at the ball park. The date is Friday August 9. We have a block of 60 tickets in section 107, which is on the third base side. The cost is \$12 each. For an additional \$6, you can order a brown bag special. This includes a hot dog, chips, and a soda. After the game there will be fireworks. Please sign up at the better together table. For more information, please contact Jim Merkel.

The field’s name is Herr-Baker, located on the far east side of town at 980 E Division. This is close to the intersection of Division and Prairie Road.

2024 Labor Day Getaway

From August 30 - September 2, we will hold our 22nd “Labor Day Getaway” at Silver Birch Ranch. You are invited to come and hang out with some people from your church family over Labor Day Weekend at a wonderful Christian camp!

If you would like to take part, please pick up one of the bright orange brochures from the rack outside the Youth & Children’s Office and get your deposit turned in as soon as you can.

As of April 25, we still have some room in the shared cabins and spot for an RV/Trailer.



Women’s Book Club

Our Women's Book Club is open to any and all women ages 18+. Our May 6 (*note date change!) book is ***History Lost and Found*** by Beth Adams. We will meet at 6:30 PM outside the Sanctuary for some hot chocolate and discussion. **New Members are always welcome!**

Please contact Mary Gohl for more information!
mmgohl@gmail.com

Lawn Mowing Sign Up

It is time to once again mow the Church property. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the CARE 2 board outside the sanctuary later in April. We typically need 1 person each week for the riding lawn mower. Minimum age is 16 and training is required. When possible, we’d like the lawn mowed between Thursday and Saturday. (When there are Saturday weddings, we hope to have it done by Noon!)

For questions, please contact Gary Voigt at 920-579-8243 or Dave DeWitt at 920-922-3463. Thanks!



Would You Like to Join Ascension?

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about joining Ascension, please talk to Pastor Jeff or Pastor Anthony after worship or else give them a call, text or email!

As soon as we have 4-5 interested households, we will set up the next New Member Orientation.



It’s Annual Rummage Sale Time!

We will once again be looking for donations of new or gently used items for our annual rummage sale.

You may begin bringing your donations to the Zone on Sunday, May 12. **(Please NO electronics!)**

The dates of the rummage sale will be Wednesday May 22 from 8-5, Friday May 24 from 8-5, and Saturday May 25 from 8-12.

We will be looking for help setting it up, running it, and packing it up. Proceeds will go towards the St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter, Old Glory Honor Flight, and Operation Christmas Child.

Please contact Melody Matty at 920-252-5070 if you have any questions

Any Address Changes???

This is often a time of year when addresses change—esp. for our college students.

Please notify the Church Office of changes for mailing addresses, email addresses, and cell phone numbers.

(P.S. If you no longer have a land line, let us know that as well!)



RUMMAGE SALE



Children & Family Ministries

For Kids from Birth Through 6th Grade and Their Families
Contact us at children@alcfdl.org

SS Kids to Sing on Mother's Day

We are excited that our Sunday School Kids will sing some songs during Worship on Sunday, May 12!

Sunday School Offerings!

Hey Kids! Your Sunday School Offerings help to support **Nandutu Base**, our Compassion Child, who lives in Uganda, Africa. Please use one of the little envelopes and drop your offering into the collection box. Thanks!!!

P.S. We are looking for some people to take turns writing letters to Nandutu Base. If you want to help us do that, just let us know!

Youth & Family Ministries

A ministry for students in grades 7-12
Contact at youth@alcfdl.org



IGNITE. CONNECT. SERVE.

Wednesday Night Youth Group

We invite all of our 9th-12th grade youth and their friends to join us **whenever you can on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 PM** for our weekly Youth Group! Enter by the Sanctuary (Door #4) and come downstairs to the Youth Room in the Lower Level.

We look forward to seeing you!

Rite of Dedication May 19

On Sunday, May 19, we will hold a brief ceremony during Worship for our 2nd Year Confirmation students which marks the end of their classroom portion for their studies. Those who choose to make their Confirmation Promises will be asked to complete any remaining memory work and Bible/Worship Notes and then write up a "Faith Statement" to share with one of the pastors.

Confirmation Sunday will be November 10.

Honoring HS Grads

On Sunday, June 2, we will take a few minutes during our Worship Service to honor our HS Grads and their parents.

Letters and emails will be sent to all known HS Seniors. If you do not receive one, please talk to Pastor Jeff or Pastor Anthony.

Summer Mission Trip

There might still be room on the Summer Mission Trip to West Virginia. The dates are July 27 to August 3. Cost is about \$400. Talk to Pastor Anthony for more information!



Belize Shoes TY

Thanks to everyone who brought shoes and/or socks to send to Belize.

We packed up over 2,130 pairs of shoes, as well as several totes with socks and school supplies.



We are grateful for your generosity!

Save Your “Pop Tops”

Please bring aluminum “pop tops” to our collection box located under the bulletin board by the chairs in the Gathering Area by the kitchen. These help fund the Ronald McDonald house which provides lodging to the families of children receiving medical treatment. The aluminum “pop tops” can come from soda, cat food, or food/vegetables. Two families from Fond du Lac County and the Gysbers granddaughter are currently using RM facilities every year. If you can, please bag your pop tops before depositing them in the RM house. For more information, call 920-921-1396 and leave a message for Sherri or Harvey.



A Final Call for Estimate of Giving Offering Cards

Dear Ascension Members:

If you have not yet turned in your estimate of giving card, please do that by May 12.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration for how you sense God leading you to support our ministry!

150 Ways to Show Kids You Care

What are some things we all can do to increase the chance that our children and youth grow into their potential? Some years ago, a study was conducted to address this question. Among their many findings was a list of 150 ways that adults can show love, care, and support to our children and youth.

We thought it would be good to list some of these each month as an encouragement for us to model these insights and practices in our ministry together as well as in our personal lives:

- 101) Include them in conversations.
- 102) Respect them.
- 103) Join in their adventures.
- 104) Visit their schools.
- 105) Help them learn something new.
- 106) Be understanding when they have a difficult day.
- 107) Give them good choices.
- 108) Respect the choices they make.
- 109) Be silly together.
- 110) Hang out together.

Church Funnies

Kids sometimes have unexpected perspectives...

Q: When is it OK to kiss someone?

A: “The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn’t mess with that.” — Curt, age 7

A: “The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It’s the right thing to do.” — Howard, age 8



Annual Reports Due Now

All staff and ministry leaders should have their Annual Reports emailed to John Gohl by April 30. Thanks!



Annual Meeting is June 2

We will hold our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2 at 10:30 a.m. In addition to electing some Council Members and Officers, we will also select our LCMC and NALC delegates, adopt a Financial Ministry Plan (budget) for the coming fiscal year, and hear some brief reports about our ministry together in this past year. All voting members are invited and encouraged to attend. (Guests are also welcome to listen in!)

Congregational Meeting



Final Noisy Offering is May 19

Our final “noisy offering” of 2024 will happen on Sunday, May 19. Our kids will come around with metal bowls to collect any loose change that you are willing to give to them. (Cash is also accepted!)

The money given in our “Noisy Offerings” gets divided equally between Bible Camp Scholarships for our kids and Digging Water Wells in developing countries.

Start setting aside your coins for this fun way to give. Thanks in advance for your help and generosity!!!



Noisy Offering

2024-2025 Bible Study Fellowship

Ascension Women & Friends, you are invited to join our Bible Study Fellowship group this fall! We meet on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM. Here’s what you need to know...

REVELATION
THE HOPE

You are invited to join us for our 2024-2025 Study of Revelation

Tuesdays beginning in September

5:30 p.m. - Fond du Lac/Ascension Lutheran Church

Register at joinbsf.com

He who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

For more information, please contact Mary Gohl.



The next Adult Lunch & Games day will be Thursday, May 9th. We invite all adults—by yourself or with others—to come and enjoy a potluck meal at 11:30 AM. (Bring along a favorite dish to share!)

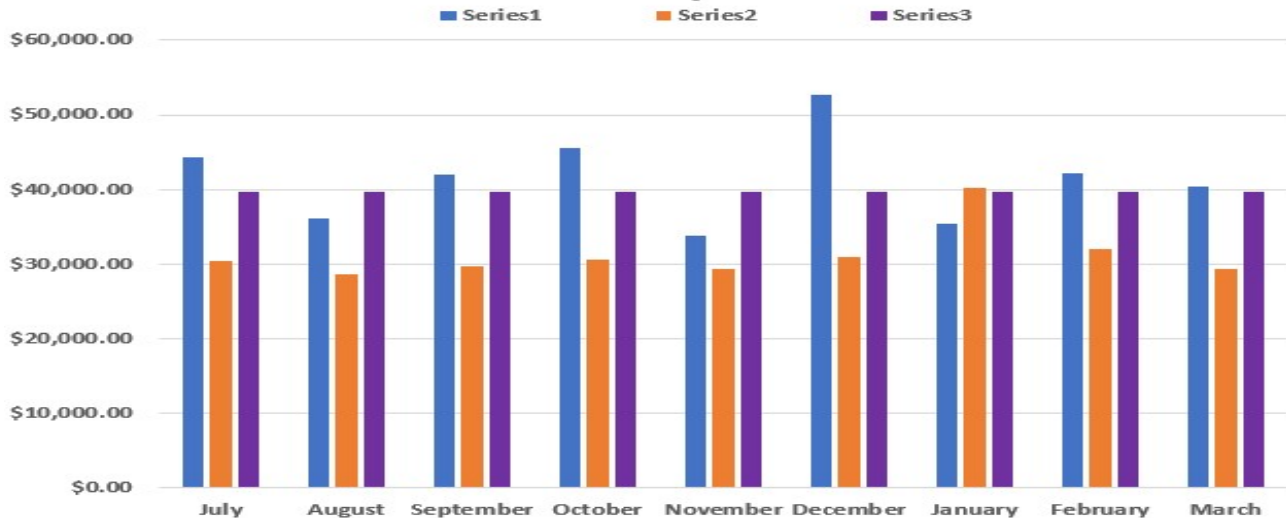
After enjoying the food and some conversation, we’ll play some fun games before we head home around 2:30 PM.

Sign up at the Better Together Table outside the sanctuary. If you have questions, please contact Chuck & Darlene Jinkins at 920-933-3757 or jinkins@execpc.com

General Fund Report — March 2024

	This Month	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance	\$66,746.96	\$31,443.67
Sources of Funds (incl. transfers)	\$53,884.04	\$533,025.33
Uses of Funds (incl. transfers)	\$41,732.81	\$485,570.81
Ending Balance	\$78,898.19	\$78,898.19
Addl GF Dollars + Accrued Payroll	\$50,500.00	
Balance Sheet Balance	\$129,398.19	

General Comparisons Fund



On Being A Steward

“There are 10,000 messages a week telling us we don’t have enough, we have not accumulated enough, we don’t have the right things.”

Author Unknown

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NRSV)

Building Fund Report

	This Month	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$110,118.34	\$122,576.97
Net Offerings	\$6,434.00	\$59,683.75
Interest Earned	\$23.42	\$225.68
Monthly Mortgage	(\$8,200.00)	(\$73,800.00)
Other Payments	-	(310.64)
Ending Balance	\$108,375.76	\$108,375.76
Loan Balance =	\$670,462.43	@ 3.875%



Jamie Mielke	04
Aliyah Kottke	04
Amy Hunkins	05
Tanya St. Louis	05
Aidan Price	05
Kelby Holzman	06
Katie Moder	07
Jenny Gumieny	08
Charlie Immel	08
Haddie Hughes	08
Jack Dana	08
Lincoln St. Louis	08
Harvey Gysbers	09
Linda Mussell	10
Darryl Zick	10
Will Vande Slunt	11
John Meyer	11
Jim Quackenboss	11
Matt Kottke	11
Kevin Benson	12
Kiersten Winter	12
Ken Krug	13
Hadley Morse	13
Gerri Parker	15
Kimberly Burgert	15
Kaity Keizer	16
Colyn Herrmann	16
Kenny Herrmann	16
Dana Rohloff	17
Easton Price	17
Shirley Pezewski	19
Lauren Bosio	19
Margie Burns	21
Joe Lander	22
Brielle Saeger	22
Caleb Wanezek	22
John Townsend	23
Mallory Nachtwey	23
Jason Smith	24
Zach Mueller	24

Veronika Henning	24
Gabriel Jones	24
Kasey Kapler	25
Kylie Kapler	25
Michele Cleveland	26
Tania Rhoads	26
Eric Freund	26
Jake Batterman	27
Mike Schoening	28
Nick Wettstein	28
Cindy Immel	29
Max Moder	29
Kennedy Volbright	29
Matthew Krell	30
Macalister Duehring	30
John May	31
Lydia Schoening	31



Scott & Shelly Ketelhut	01
Harvey & Sherri Gysbers	03
Joe & Emily Lackas	03
Patty & David Toshner	05
Michael & Kari Jones	06
Chris & Sara Herrmann	08
Bobby & Sarah Bannasch	08
Steve & Gail Schmuhl	14
Buck & Sarah Dumanch	14
Ben & Jenny Gumieny	17
Erik & Julie Bergen	21
Steve & Kay Miller	22
Darryl & Linda Zick	27
Rich & Lindsey Hofer	27
Paul & Tina Baleiko	29
Traci & Mike Freiberg	29
Warren & Gail Schwantes	30

Are We Missing Anyone's Birthday or Anniversary???

If you notice a missing birthday or anniversary, PLEASE contact the Church Office so we can update our records. Thank you!



Church Council Notes

Did you see it? Did you? You'll see it during the day or at night when it's all lit up. Are you wondering what it is.... it's the updated church sign!

The next time you pass the church make sure to look at the sign. The sign face has been replaced to make it easier to read along with an LED retrofit to not only make the sign brighter but also consume less energy. A big THANK YOU to all involved in making this update happen...especially Signarama for their non-profit dollar match grant for the project.

At our recent meeting, your Church Council spent time reviewing the preliminary Financial Ministry Plan. Please watch for some upcoming dates and times for Review Sessions where you can learn more as we work towards presenting the final proposal at the Annual Meeting. Please make a note on your calendars for the Annual Meeting to be held on Sun. June 2nd following worship. We hope you plan on attending.

We are thankful for Pastor Anthony's presence at our monthly council meetings. The 1st of many monthly reports was submitted and reviewed by Pastor Anthony discussing his initial onboarding activities and how he's getting to know more about Ascension. Your continued help in making him and his family feel welcome is greatly appreciated. Don't forget to wear your nametags ☐

The Church Council discussed approved the use of the Zone and Gathering Area by Conner McFadden for his upcoming Eagle Project. Watch for more details on this community project for ways where you can participate.

Ministry leads – please submit your annual ministry report to John Gohl by April 30th. They will be compiled to be included in the congregation's annual report shared at the Annual Meeting.

The Council looks forward to the upcoming Appreciation Days. If you have not yet signed up for a meal, please do so ASAP. We look forward to celebrating all that God has done and continues to do in our midst here at Ascension.

In His service,

Lori Anderson Lurvey, 1st Vice President

Email Contacts:

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Pres., 1st & 2nd VPs = 3presidents@alcfdl.org

Council Officers = officers@alcfdl.org

All Council Members = churchcouncil@alcfdl.org