



ASCENSIONNEWS

January 2026
Volume 56 Issue 1

The following are letters from three seminary students from Concordia Seminary that Ascension is supporting: Ben Wagner, Will Vogt, and Cooper Reed

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you well as we move deeper into the semester. I wanted to share some updates about how things are going here at school.

Academic Life

I'm grateful to report that my studies continue to go very well. I'm maintaining straight A's in all of my classes, and I'm thankful for God's grace in helping me stay focused and engaged with the material. The workload is challenging but rewarding, and I'm learning so much that will serve me well in ministry.

I recently finished two of my biggest papers of the semester—one was 8,000 words, and the other was 6,000 words. They took a lot of time and effort, but I'm relieved to have them completed and turned in. It's satisfying to see major projects like that come together after weeks of research and writing.

Community and Ministry

One of the greatest joys of seminary life has been the friendships I've been building. I've been having a ton of fun with my friends here, and we've been doing a lot of events on campus together. We've organized extended evening prayer services and preaching opportunities, which have been wonderful times of worship and growth. There's something special about learning alongside people who share your calling and passion for ministry.

Personal Updates

Things continue to go very well with my girlfriend. Our relationship remains a real blessing, and I'm grateful for her support and encouragement during this busy season.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. It means so much to have faithful people like you walking alongside me during this formative time. Your investment in my education and ministry preparation is truly making a difference.

Blessings,

Ben Wagner



*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for
from it flow the springs of life.*

Proverbs 4:23



Hello, I pray this postcard reaches y'all in times of blessing and in God's peace! I'm writing to express my gratitude for your support as I work through my first semester of the MDiv program. As I reflect on these past few months, I cannot help but feel overwhelmed but feelings of humility abound too. I pray that your lives will continue in the blessings and love of God, especially as we approach the holidays.

I'm truly grateful, *Casper Dea*



Ascension Lutheran Church
4900 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri
64133-2538



Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

The 1903 dedication of the Martin Luther statue. Originally placed at Concordia Seminary's South Jefferson Avenue campus, the statue eventually was moved to the Clayton, Mo., campus.

Seminarian Update

The Vogt Post

ISSUE NO. 2 | NOVEMBER 2025



Will, Sarah, and Baby Olive at Concordia Maplewood

Life at the Sem.

Again, we would like to say thank you for all of the support that we have received this first semester! We truly could not be doing this on our own. It is see God's hand in every blessing that we have received this year.

Will's first semester is coming to a close on December 12th. He will have a holiday break and then jump right back into a three week Hebrew intensive in January before starting classes for the spring.

Will has really enjoyed the daily rhythm of both classes and time in chapel and the formation that comes from doing that alongside his fellow seminarians. His most challenging class has been systematics and the one he is enjoying the most is his exegetical class.

Updates and support

Baby Olive

Baby Girl is here! Olive was born at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis on November 6th at 6:01 PM. She was 5 lbs 11 oz when she was born and was 18 inches long. We are beyond thrilled that she is here!



Sarah and some of the seminary wives at the pumpkin patch this fall.



Seminary Women's Association

It has been amazing for Sarah to get to know all of the women these past couple of months. The Seminary Womens Association facilitates events on campus to bring women together every month. This includes a Tuesday night bible study, Wine and Cheese Night, Movie Night, And a Women's Retreat. It has been a true blessing during this time!

Resident Field Work

Will has been assigned to Concordia Maplewood Lutheran Church. He will serve and attend here for the next two years as well as when we return from vicarage. Will has already begun serving in the service on a weekly basis. Concordia has welcomed us well and we are excited to be here for the next couple of years.



*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23*



Dear Brothers and Sisters
at Ascension Lutheran Church,

Hello, my name is Will Vogt. I am a first-year seminarian from Spokane, Washington.

My wife Sarah and I are deeply thankful for your support! We just welcomed our first child (a daughter) this November and the support we have received from all the wonderful donors has helped us to feel prepared to welcome her while balancing school and other life responsibilities.

A little bit about us... I grew up in Spokane and my wife was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We met while at Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where we both worked full-time for several years. I graduated from Gonzaga University with a business degree in 2022 and my wife has had a variety of jobs but is staying home while we are at seminary to focus on raising our daughter.

Along with this letter, we've included a copy of our newsletter which my wife has titled, "The Vogt Post". These newsletters will be our way of keeping you updated about our family and our experiences here at the seminary. We are so grateful to be able to spend these next four years growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord in this place and we thank God that he is working through people all over the country to help make this possible.

Blessings,

Will Vogt





The **Lutheran Urban Mission Agency Auxiliary** will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 1701 NE 96th Street, Kansas City, MO. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with the opening service at 9:30 a.m. The speakers will be Nancy Neill and Carolyn Falls from Swaddling Clothes, a mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The Mission of the Month collection is monetary gifts for VBS and youth activities. BYO sack lunch. Breakfast nibbles, drinks, and dessert will be provided. Please RSVP by January 18 to Chris McElroy, 816-820-2556, cmcelroycrni@gmail.com. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and all donations for the Mission of the Month collection are appreciated. Thank you!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - In conjunction with Tackle Hunger, the Board of Human Care is “kicking off” a canned soup drive benefiting the food pantries at Immanuel and Messiah. We collected 149 cans of soup in 2024 and 159 in 2025, and set a “goal” of 175 for 2026. The drive will run through Super Bowl Sunday on February 8. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase cans of soup;

please denote your gift towards Souper Bowl of Caring. Remembering the words of Jesus from Matthew 25 – “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” – we encourage everyone to “team up” and help “tackle hunger” in our community.





Sunday Worship Schedule:
Bible Study 8:15am,
Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am

Ascension Lutheran Church
4900 Blue Ridge Blvd.
KC MO 64133

816-358-1919
secretary@ascensionlckc.org
Walkers M-F, 7-10am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Basketball 10am-12pm
4 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Bd of Elders following worship	5	6	7	8	9	10 Basketball 10am-12pm
11 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	12	13 Church Council 6:30pm	14	15	16	17 No Basketball Craft Day 9am- 6:30pm
18 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	19	20	21 LUMAA 9am @ King of Kings Lutheran Church	22	23	24 Men's Group 8am Basketball 10am- 12pm
25 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday Board of Human Care following worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 Basketball 10am-12pm



You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3