



ASCENSIONNEWS

April 2026

Volume 56 Issue 4

We humans always search for some sense of identity, security, and meaning in our harried and hurried lives. Some seek meaning in various philosophies, ecstatic experiences, or principles for successful living. Some find security in acquiring great wealth or power or both. Many look within themselves to discern their “true identity.”

Such searching is a First Commandment matter. Martin Luther asked, “What is God?” and gave this answer: “A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress ... That now, I say that upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god” (Large Catechism, I:1-3).

As we journey through Holy Week and soon celebrate the joys of Easter, we see that God has graciously provided the very identity, security, and meaning we so desperately seek. We echo the request of the Greeks in John 12:21, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

The Greeks may have merely sought a literal introduction to Him, but Jesus gave us so much more. Our Lord used their request to point us to the true source of our identity, security, and meaning, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:23b–24 ESV).

If you want genuine identity, security, and meaning, look to Jesus, “the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2b ESV). His cross-won forgiveness restores us to our identity as God’s beloved children. We rest secure in His grace and mercy. We are given the lifelong purpose of confessing and praising Him.

In Baptism, Jesus’ death and resurrection are now ours. In the Gospel proclaimed, we hear how Jesus, once lifted on the cross, has lifted us out of our sin. In His Supper, we lose our life and gain the life of Christ for us.

Jesus is the “grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies.” After He died, He rose again and even now “bears much fruit” (John 12:24) in bringing you to faith in Him and giving you sure and certain identity, security, and meaning ... in Him.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend! (Lutheran Service Book, 430:7)

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Randy K. Asburry
Second Vice President, Missouri District



A new way to say 'welcome to our church'

The area around the west sanctuary entrance is getting a refresh! Council approved a plan to replace the bushes in the area between the sanctuary doors and the office doors with native plants to create a welcome garden. Memorial funds from Carole Calia's loved ones will be used to fund the project. Carole loved greeting visitors to our church; her family appreciates this way of honoring her memory.

Currently there are decorative rocks in that space which need to be moved to other parts of the church landscape. Please contact Kathy Jenkins if you're willing to help with "rock relocation" efforts.

This time of year, it's fun to see sleeping plants come back to life! Last year we updated the sign with new plants. Even if you don't have a green thumb, consider spending an hour or two performing cleanup, trimming, leaf removal or parking area clean up to keep our beautiful space bright and welcoming. Plenty of ways to help!



Upcoming Events

Red Cross Training Event, including for AED, has been scheduled. It will take place on Saturday, April 18th from noon to 5 p.m. in the family life center.

Mark your calendars - May 14th - Ascension Day of Prayer. Just as Easter follows the 40 days of Lent, Ascension Day follows 40 days after Easter Sunday. We will hold our 3rd annual Ascension Day of Prayer to mark the day our Lord ascended into heaven. The theme is based on 7 petitions of the Lord's Prayer. More to come.

Voters Meeting May 17th following Worship Service. Reports of church activity plus annual elections for half of the elected boards. A potluck meal will follow the meeting.

This Daily Devotional for April 2026 is based on the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible and the liturgical calendar of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

April 2026 is a profound month in the church year, beginning in the depths of Holy Week, moving through the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter), and continuing into the Easter Season. The theme is "Resurrecting the Spirit of Christianity," focusing on the power of the risen Christ to renew the hearts and lives of His people.



A Prayer for Resurrecting the Spirit

"Almighty God, who through Thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech Thee that, as Thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by Thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen."



Living in Faith

Faith is ... Relying on Our Heavenly Father's Grace and Mercy

In the Word-*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead* (1 Peter 1:3).

Of the Word- A German submarine sank a British freighter off Africa in 1941. The sub surfaced amid wreckage, lifeboats, and wounded men. When the British were ordered to board the sub, they thought they would be killed or captured. Instead, the German captain had his doctor treat their wounds. His crewmen repaired their lifeboats. He gave them food, water, wine, and tobacco, then set them on a course for the nearest land. They were not treated as enemies, but they were shown mercy.

We have not been treated as enemies of God. Because of our sin we deserve hell which is eternal separation from Him. The grave should swallow us, and we should sink into a sea of torment forever.

No, God has not dealt with us as we deserve. He put our sins on Christ and dealt with Christ. Our Father gave us what we have not deserved. God, who is full of grace and mercy, has given us a living hope.

Our wounds have been treated, and we have been clothed with Christ's own holiness. He has set us on a course for heaven. That is the sweetest truth we will ever hear!

Walking with my Lord- I thank You, O God, for Your mercy toward me, a sinner. In Jesus' most precious name I pray. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living in Faith. Author: Rev. Darold Reiner. 25/30 ©2007, revised 2025 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.





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

Ascension Lutheran Church
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 KC MO 64133

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 No Bible Study Good Friday Service 6:30pm	4 Men's Group 8am Basketball 10am-12pm
5 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 8-9am New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	6 Office Closed	7 Church Council 6:30pm	8	9	10 Bible Study 10am	11 Basketball 10am-12pm
12 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	13	14	15 Bible Study 10am	16	17 Bible Study 10am	18 Basketball 10am-12pm AED Training 12-5pm
19 New Dimensions of Praise 10am	20	21	22 Bible Study 10am	23	24 Bible Study 10am	25 Basketball 10am-12pm
26 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday	27 Dorcas Circle 6pm	28	29 Bible Study 10am	30		

*When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15:54-55*