

If our focus is on things of this world, there is little hope. Stories of politics, discord, inflation, tragedies, terrible storms vie for our attention, painting a bleak picture. Social media tells us people experience loneliness and depression in record numbers. Scrolling Facebook (which seems to gobble time like eating potato chips) shows others' lives who appear fuller, happier, prettier, younger than we are, making one feel "less than" or not good enough.

As the hymn says, He is the Lord of all hopefulness. He brings us bliss, strength, love, peace in our hearts – things that are opposite of the world’s messages and also attributes that can turn a weary heart from despair to joy. It’s as if God knew we would be bombarded with negative messages, and He provided a way for us to find welcome relief by connecting with Him through prayer.

Does it mean if we pray hard enough or in the right way, we won’t be lonely, depressed, sad, frightened? No, the Bible doesn’t say that at all. Jesus’ words to the disciples are meant for us – “in this world you will have troubles. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

If you participated in our Ascension Day of Prayer, thank you. Thank you for taking your cares to Him. We know He hears us. If the request slipped your attention, take heart. Make today a day of prayer. Make every day a day of prayer.

Landscape Refresh

Our native plants around the sign have been blooming and growing. It brings a smile to my face every time I water. This little bit of updated landscaping is a cheerful note of welcome that will continue.

Check out the display in the narthex about other opportunities to refresh areas of our landscape, including the “stretch” goal of building a path from the parking lot to our church’s front yard. We envision a gathering space and eventually the trail would connect all the way around the building. Ascension is known as the “church with the walker program” and this would be a great addition. We also have ideas about updating the landscaping at the entrance (potential butterfly garden) and renovating the prayer garden area between Fellowship Hall and the narthex (possibly a bird sanctuary). The west entrance to the Family Life Center needs updating and the main FLC entrance along the parking lot might be a great spot for lilies or other low-maintenance, sun-loving plants.

I don’t mind taking on solitary projects, but I can’t do these on my own! I hope to find other interested members who know more or want to learn about landscaping and caring for our outdoor space. I’ve already heard from a few people – please let me know you’d like to be a part of the refresh. Thank you, Kathy Jenkins

BIRTHDAY IN A BOX DONATION DRIVE –The Board of Human Care is partnering with Harvesters to ensure that local kids and adults can enjoy a birthday cake on their special day! Each Birthday in a Box goes to households served by agency networks to ensure a birthday doesn’t pass without the means to celebrate.

Each box contains all the necessary ingredients to make a cake as well as candles, balloons, banner, plates, cups, napkins and plastic utensils. We have applied for a Thrivent grant to get us started, and combined with your support we hope to achieve our goal of 50 boxes.

Donations will be accepted through the end of July. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase items needed to complete the boxes. If contributing using a check, please designate “Birthday Box Donation” so the funds can be allocated appropriately. See the table in the narthex or ask any member of the Human Care Board (Flannery Bartels, Johna Brill, Darlene Crain, Lourene Embree, Candy King, Mark and Mary Lippe, Dean and Bev Mettlen, Doug and Pam Rinas) for more information.



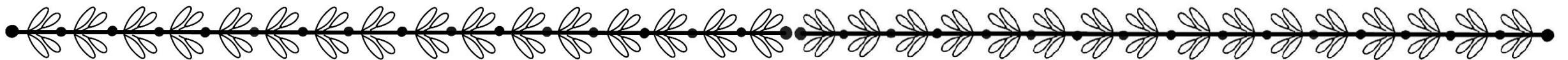


2025

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 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Bd of Elders following worship	2	3 Board of Outreach 6:30pm	4	5	6	7 Basketball 9-11am
8 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	9	10 Church Council 6:30pm	11	12	13	14 Basketball 9-11am
15 Confirmation Sunday New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	16	17	18	19	20 Basketball 7-9pm	21 No Basketball Craft Day 9am-6:30pm
22 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Mite Box Sunday	23	24	25	26	27	28 Basketball 9-11am
Missouri LCMS District Convention Columbia, MO			LWML Convention Omaha, Nebraska			
29 New Dimensions of Praise 10am LWML Convention	30	Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, 2 Corinthians 3:12		Sunday Worship Schedule: Bible Study 8:15am Sunday School 8:30am ~ Worship Service 9:30am		



*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18*