



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 39, No. 6

June 2018

MINISTERS

"As a progressive and open church, we boldly make Christ's vision known."

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Bob Aldrich, Education Coordinator
Jennifer Salowitz, Musician/Choir Director
Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse
Cheryl Huebner, Secretary
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Message	1
Youth	2-4
Other	4-5
President's Message	6
Stewardship	6
Member News	7-8
Health Highlights	9
Serving This Month	10
Calendar	11

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesdays 7:00pm

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JULIE

1 John 3:16—"Let us know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another."

1 John is one of my favorite books of the Bible. It is full of comfort and of challenge. The verse from above isn't as famous as John 3:16—for God so loved the world...but it does explain the depth to which God loves—that God laid down His life, the life of God's one and only Son; and God calls us to love no less.

1 John continues with the question—"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."—1 John 3:17-18

This love is hard, risky, and maybe even dangerous. Certainly this love is life giving—our life to give. We can't love like this on our own. 1 John 4:7 tells us this love comes from God—we love because God first loves us; a love that is sacrificial. In 1 John 4:8 we hear the familiar statement God is love. And then the statement that if we don't know love, we don't know God.

One of the reasons I think we struggle with loving is out of fear—fear of losing something that we value from a world perspective. It might be the fear of losing an opportunity that seems really important right now, but honestly if we thought about it, won't matter much in the future. One of the most common statements in scripture when God is speaking to people is "do not be afraid." And yet, we are afraid, often of the unknown.

In the next weeks, I am preparing for a whirlwind with our youth—first to Stony Lake with our youth, and then almost immediately to Houston to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. But first, I will spend four days at the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event, MYLE. I realize that my norm of being in the white Caucasian majority will be challenged. Instead I will experience the uncomfortableness that others may feel when they come into our communities. I don't know what I'm afraid of, other than the unknown. But I do know that 1 John states "there is no fear in love." I know individuals who will be at this event. I know people of color in my own life that I love with all my heart. I know I will be uncomfortable, and I know this ripens my ability to learn and experience.

What are you afraid of that keeps you from going all in on God's love? What holds you back? 1 John 4:18—"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." May our love be perfected, as we boldly make Christ's vision known.



YOUTH

CONFIRMAND FAITH STATEMENTS

Ashley Blehm

My faith has guided me through life and still will, whether I like it or not. My faith came from my mom taking me to church since I was younger. My faith will always guide me, even if I go off of the course that I have set out for myself.

Erika Collier

When I hear the word faith I think of the cross. When I envision the cross I think of how God made the ultimate sacrifice. He sent his one and only son to be crucified, just so that the sins we humans commit would forever and always be forgiven by him. God knew from the beginning of time when he created us, that we would be the dominant species, we would be the ones he especially looked out for. He was willing to make this choice and do everything he could to protect us even when it meant sending Jesus to the cross. So when I think about Faith, it shows me God's unending love for us. God's grace is a gift. It is not something that we deserve and there is nothing that we can do to earn it. As I have grown, I have come to realize that at all times, God is there. Sometimes I have to look harder than other times. In certain situations when I feel trapped, I remind myself to look around. To look at all the good in the world and all that God has blessed me with. I look and see that there are always people in worse situations than me who still find a way out. This inspires me to push through whatever obstacles are blocking my path to success and happiness alike.



Max Faerber

I believe I have a relationship with God, not to where going to church and being part of it makes our relationships thrive, but more of a relationship where I can talk to God and God can talk to me. A relationship where God helps me better understand myself and my purpose.

Madison Huston

My faith journey started with my parents. They had me baptized. It was important to them that I was initiated into the Christian faith. I ran around this church as a toddler and the members knew me way before I knew them. I went to Sunday School because my parents brought me. It was important to them that I learn the traditional stories of the Bible. Through craft projects, songs, games, and stories, I learned about Adam and Eve, Joseph and his brothers, the Christmas story and more. But these were just stories. It wasn't until Confirmation that I learned that "my" journey in faith was just starting. I still have many more questions than answers but the one thing that I do know is that God loves me and I look forward to the relationship that we will have.

Carlie Kolb

My faith changes as I get older because I begin to listen more as people talk about their faith. Making me think more about mine. Attending ABI class has also helped me have a better understanding of faith.

Alex McClure

It means I am a follower of God. It means that I will live my life according to God's commandments. I have learned the stories and I will share with the world.

Nathan Ryder

Faith is a word with different meanings for everyone. To me it means believing not just God and Jesus, but anything like a thought or friends. What has helped me grow in faith is my grandma and mom encouraging me to come to church. It has helped me want to go to church. That is how I have grown in faith.

YOUTH

3RD ANNUAL SOCCER CAMP: JULY 23RD—JULY 26TH

Wow, can you believe it has been three years since we began using sports to teach about Jesus? The time just flies by so fast when we have such an awesome story to share and a great way to get the point across.

We will once again be hosting a four-day soccer camp at Ascension. As always, it will take a small army of volunteers to provide a high quality camp experience. We are looking for volunteers from Ascension to fill some very key positions. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with the kids who come to learn about soccer and Jesus.



Positions Needed and Time Commitment:

****Daily Bible Devotion Leader (Each day 6 - 7pm)***

You will lead a small group of campers of the same age group in a faith-based discussion. All of the materials will be provided for you; we just need you to share your faith and time.

****Adult Snack Leader (Each day 6 - 7:30pm/shopping and prep time as needed)***

You will work with camp directors to plan daily snacks and purchase all needed supplies. You will then work with your Snack Team to prepare the daily snacks and deliver them to the Bible Devotions rooms at the pre-arranged times.

****Snack Helper (Each day 6 - 7:30pm)***

As a snack helper you will work with the Snack Leader to prepare, deliver and clean up after the daily snacks.

****Registration Helper (Each day 5 - 6pm)***

You will be working with our Director of Logistics and Public Relations to check in each camper daily and help with the daily running of the camp. On the first day you will help smoothly and quickly get all campers registered and ensure that they have all of their camp supplies.

****Soccer Camp Assistant Coach (Each day 5:30 - 8:30pm)***

You need to have a soccer background for this spot; so if you do, why not share it with the kids? This coach works under the four head coaches and our Director of Soccer on the field to teach the fundamentals of the game and good Christian sportsmanship to all the campers. You will be assigned to an area or a team for the week.

****Sideline Cheer Squad (Any day 6 - 8:30pm)***

Can't play soccer and don't want to commit to coming every day? No problem; come be a part of our cheer squad. Come any day to cheer on our campers, coaches and helpers. Feel free to bring your own pom poms and signs.

Should you have any further questions about any specific position or anything camp related, please feel free to talk to one of the camp directors: Bob Aldrich, Brittany Aldrich or Dave Dawson.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GATHERING

Our Wednesday Youth Nights will begin on Wednesday, June 13th at 8:00 p.m. What will we do? We have the gaga ball pit and we can play volleyball. Hopefully we will have some crafts, food, campfires, games, and a place to hang out. You can help by bringing water or pop to share (we will put in the refrigerator) and snacks. We will need adult chaperones. And of course, invite all your friends!!!

YOUTH



MICHIGAN ADVENTURE TRIP

We will be going to Michigan Adventure on Tuesday, July 10th from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. This event is open to all youth going into the 6th grade - 12th grade. The cost is \$55.00 if paid on or before June 17th. After June 17th the cost is \$60.00. Checks should be made to Ascension Youth. Friends are welcome!!! Bring sunscreen, snacks for the bus and money for food at the park. *After June 17th, the trip will be open to families who wish to go if there is space available.*

OTHER

ASCENSION'S SECURITY AND SAFETY TEAM (ASST) UPDATE

On Sunday, June 3rd, the Security and Safety Team will be hosting a training session for the Hospitality Managers and Ushers. It will start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

As we've all learned in these matters, the most important aspect is *situational awareness* and this session will highlight key features of that concept. Included will be discussion items explaining 911 calling procedures, securing our building, monitoring the exterior, first aid and responding to medical emergencies, Ascension's firearms policy as relates to Michigan's carry laws, and lastly, dispute resolution methods such as de-escalation techniques.



The session will be led by Rick Herren, who is very knowledgeable and experienced in security issues. If you are not a Hospitality Manager or Usher, not to worry—everyone at Ascension is invited to attend. It's important. And by the way, word of mouth has it that other churches in the area are formalizing their security issues. For instance, St Marks is converting their exterior door lock keys to key cards (like the hotels). Ascension's key card locks are already on order! Contact Jim Stuart with any questions.



MUSTARD SEED SHELTER

It's Christmas in July! We are showering the Mustard Seed with toiletry and cleaning products during the month of July. Please gather personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo and conditioner (full-sized), and body wash as well as household cleaning products. Watch for boxes that will be placed under the windows in the Gathering Area throughout the month of July! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Salowitz or Marty Debozy.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Our 2018 Back to School Fair is Thursday, August 9th, but it is time to rev-up our preparations. We have set up the white barrel for donations of new underwear and socks and we are in need of your clean, gently used clothing. All sizes are welcome, but we especially need children through teen sizes, boys and girls. We are also in need of large cardboard boxes to sort clothes into. Please drop your clothing donations/boxes off in the Quest Sunday School room. If you have questions regarding the clothing donation, please feel free to contact Kris Friend or Melissa Morgan. Financial gifts are needed as well for the event. *T-shirt order forms are available on the Kiosk if you need a God's Work Our Hands t-shirt.*



OTHER



RUMMAGE SALE

We will be holding our Annual Rummage Sale on Friday, September 14th and Saturday, September 15th. Proceeds will benefit our Outreach Ministry and Youth Ministry. We need your help! Please donate items that are still in good, working condition. If it should be thrown away, throw it away. But if you just don't want or need it, we will be happy to take it off your hands. Donations may be dropped off during regular office hours. Please call the Church Office to make sure someone is available to open the garage.

If you would like to help organize, please contact Pastor Julie. We will be setting up times to organize the items throughout the summer. Put the dates on your calendar so that you can help work.

Thanks in advance for helping to make this a successful event!!

BERTHA WILSON FAMILY TRUST FUND

The Bertha Wilson Family Trust Fund Committee authorized the following grants to Ascension: \$2500 for the Back to School Fair, \$1000 for the Annual Soccer Camp, \$600 for the Weekend Food Backpacks for Kids, and \$200 for Congregational Care for their Cancer Support Ministry.

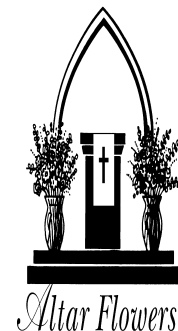


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee authorized \$500 scholarships to Brittany Aldrich, Jacob Dawson, Jack Herren, Kristen Huebner, and Courtney Wardlow. The committee also authorized \$1000 for the Back to School Fair, \$1000 for the Honduras Children's Dental Program, \$400 for Congregational Care for their Cancer Support Ministry, \$360 for Music Ministry for the purchase of youth instruments, and \$200 for the Watermelon Garden for Hidden Harvest.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JUNE

June 3rd	Given to the Glory of God by Jack and Delila Colpean
June 10th	Given to the Glory of God by Jill Colpean
June 17th	Given in Memory of Richard and Amelia Borm by Richard H. Borm
June 24th	Given in Memory of Marie's Mother by Jim and Marie Stuart



The Flower Chart is posted in the Gathering Area on the Usher/Acolyte Room door. The cost is \$25.00. A payment envelope will be mailed to you. These arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week for worship and may be picked up after the late service on Sunday morning.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Spring is here, or it is supposed to be. Mother Nature in Michigan hasn't gotten the memo yet; must have been sent via snail mail. Our seasons here in our great state are not always punctual, or happen as we plan; kind of like life in general. Spring often is turbulent, and can cause some damage. A couple of weeks ago, the wind wreaked havoc on the shingles—shingles on the main building, the garage, and the pavilion. Thanks to the Trustees, repairs have been completed or are in process. Thanks, Tom, for promptly addressing this.



Our Stewardship Campaign is well underway. Thanks to all who have returned their cards and pledged an amount large or small. By returning a card you are not only contributing to the Mission of Ascension and supporting God's work; you are assisting the official record keeping at Ascension. In the next year we will have to update our record-keeping software. This software tracks our membership and our giving (think financial statements) among other church statistics. Our future software options will have expanded capabilities of course, but at a cost. Our future options seem to charge per member versus a flat fee, which is why turning in a commitment card is an important step in our record keeping. We unfortunately need to clean up our membership rosters. Therefore, if you or someone you know considers Ascension their home church, please turn in a commitment card.

Council is working on developing metrics to help monitor vital statistics of the church. We have always tracked attendance, and giving, but we are looking at keeping more real time statistics to monitor trends. We also are developing a means to track indicators of our progress toward our goals. The purpose of all of this is so we can develop a scorecard of our success, a pulse if you will, on how we are doing compared to our set goals. It is my hope that once said tools are developed we will be able to share the data with the congregation to keep all in the loop.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

STEWARDSHIP



COMMITTING TO MISSION—2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Stewardship is about how we live our life with the resources God has given us, primarily truth, time, talent and treasure. During this stewardship campaign you have received a mailing that included a Commitment Card. If you have not yet returned your card, please do so at your earliest convenience. We ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to the mission and ministry of Ascension Lutheran Church. This is part of our practice as disciples to commit, and grow in our commitment, as we mature as disciples. We ask you to return the designated card no matter how much you are able to commit this year. Not only are we asking for your commitment financially, but the return of the card indicates your continued participation in the mission of Ascension.

MEMBER NEWS

June Birthdays

1st	Jack Colpean	21st	Patrick Carney
2nd	Todd Clauss		Rob Joslyn
	Brooke Phillion		Julie Stoltow
3rd	Joyce Berg		Vicki Wenzel
	Ali Denman	22nd	Carol Wilson
6th	Savannah Maddox	23rd	Kelly Phillion
8th	Tom Erskine		John Stroebel
	Alana Fleming	25th	Nathan Earnesty
9th	Michael Gottlieb		David Faerber
11th	Josh Mack		Bob Foley
12th	Wanda Dankert		Jessica McRae
	Angelica Espinoza		Jackie O'Dell
13th	Spence Webb	27th	Victoria Durow
	Doug Wortley	28th	Wendy Awad
	Sally York		Alec Preston
14th	Liam Fleming		Garrett Preston
	Sarah Wortley		Rob Thomas
17th	A.J. Denman	30th	Deborah Faerber
18th	Nancy Holvey		Jeff Whelton
20th	Owen Edsall		Marv Yancer

Anniversaries this Month



2nd	Jon and Alicia Leffler
6th	Craig and Joan Ford
11th	James and Cheryl Andrus
13th	Tim and Carol Wilson
14th	Jim and Donna Hayes
19th	Rick and Nikki Herren
20th	Eric and Dori Dalton
21st	Anthony and Katherine Naples
27th	Tom and Sue Bailey

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE ON ASCENSION'S CARE LIST

These are members who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis, who need to be remembered by their family at Ascension. Mail a card, plan a visit or say a prayer for these members of our church family.

Ron Schultz - 10400 Swan Creek Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609

Bob Foley - Great Lakes Rehab, 4181 Tittabawassee Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604

Frances Edie - 4850 Gratiot Rd., Apt. D2, Saginaw, MI 48638

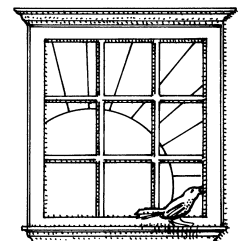
Peggy Lockhart - 6143 Longmeadow Blvd. North, Saginaw, MI 48603

Nancy Holvey - Saginaw Geriatrics Home, 1413 Gratiot, Saginaw, MI 48602

Gene Burchfield - 4354 Mt. Hope Road, Apt. 106, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Helen Nothelfer - 302 Fulton Street, Room 108, St. Charles, MI 48655

Heidi Osterloh - 9345 Geddes Road, Saginaw, MI 48609



MEMBER NEWS



Scarlett Constance Naples, daughter of Anthony and Katherine Naples, was baptized on April 29th. May God bless Scarlett with His gift of grace.

Serpahim Lynda Esma Darabos, daughter of Robert and Heather Darabos, was baptized on April 29th. May God bless Serpahim with His gift of grace.

Lucas Edward Dreyfus, son of Kip and Emily Dreyfus, was baptized on May 20th. May God bless Lucas with His gift of grace.



2018 High School Graduates:

Jacob Dawson
Kristen Huebner
Courtney Wardlow
Jack Herren
Brittany Aldrich
Bryan Joslyn (not pictured)

2018 College Graduates:

Brooke Phillion
Steven Boland
Bob Aldrich



The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the July 2018 issue is
Monday, June 18th at 12:00 noon.

Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Sharon Boyd

STEPS TO TAKE FOR PREVENTING FALLS AMONG YOUR OLDER LOVED ONES

Did you know that one in four older Americans fall every year? Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries for people age 65 and older. If you have an aging parent or grandparent in your life, helping them reduce their risk of falling is a great way to help them stay healthy and independent as long as possible.



Here are six simple steps you can take to help reduce the risk of falling:

1. Ask loved ones if they are concerned about falling, dizziness, or balance, and suggest they discuss it with their health care provider, who can assess their risk.
2. Discuss their current health conditions: find out if they are experiencing problems managing their own health. Is it getting more difficult for them to do things they used to do easily?
3. Ask about their last eye checkup. If your loved ones wear glasses, then make sure they have a current prescription.
4. Notice if they are holding onto walls, furniture, or someone else when walking. These are all signs that it might be time to see a physical therapist. Suggest a cane or walker.
5. Talk about their medications. Suggest that they have their medications reviewed each time they get a new prescription. Also, be aware of non-prescription medications such as sleep aids.
6. Do a walk-through safety assessment of their home. There are many simple and inexpensive ways to make a home safe (increase lighting throughout the house, make sure there are two secure side rails on the stairs, and install grab bars in tub and shower and near the toilet in the bathroom).

Source: NCOA, Nation Council on Aging

“For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.” Proverbs 3:26

A graphic for blood pressure screening. It features a stethoscope with a heart-shaped chest piece. The words 'BLOOD PRESSURE' are written in a circular path around the top of the stethoscope, and 'SCREENING' is written in a circular path around the bottom. A small heart icon is at the bottom center.	<p>BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING</p> <p>Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, June 10th after each worship service.</p>
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MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE

On Tuesday, May 15th, Michigan Blood held a drive at Ascension. The goal they set for us was 19 units. Thanks to all who participated—donating 14 units. Two others came but were not able to give. Working together we give life to trauma victims, those having surgery or cancer treatment, burn patients and premature babies. Sincerest thanks for your support—and to the Lord for His many blessings!

Sara Gregor, RN, Parish Nurse and the Parish Health Committee

Health Highlights are brought to you by the Parish Health Committee whose members are Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse, Sharon Boyd, Jennifer Deaton, Dr. Steve Haupt, Marie Stuart, Joan Ford, Kris Friend and Traci Collier, DC.

SERVING IN JUNE

Head Ushers--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
 10 David Witker/Tom Page & Jim Stuart
 17 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
 24 Marv Lentner/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein

Acolytes--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 Madison Morgan/Will Salowitz & Gabby Dalton
 10 No Acolyte/Ella Wardlow
 17 Maliyah Johnson/Joscelyn and Courtney Whelton
 24 No Acolyte/Carlie Kolb

Prayers of the Church--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 Charleen Boland/Shelly Dawson
 10 David Witker/Tom Page
 17 Lynn Schomaker/Chris Crump
 24 Ruth Schomaker/Lisa Espinoza

Readers--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 No Reader/No Reader
 10 David Witker/Tom Page
 17 Edna Bell/Barb Van Marter
 24 Charleen Boland/John Whelton

Video Screen Operators--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 Larry Nuechterlein/Gus Hendrickson
 10 Melissa Czubaj/Breanna Kocsis
 17 Larry Nuechterlein/Bob Aldrich
 24 Ben Salowitz/Ben Salowitz

Sound Board Operators--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

- 3 Ashley Blehm/Rusty Van Marter
 10 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter
 17 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter
 24 Marty Debozy/Josh Crump

Friendly Callers

- 3 Sue Bailey
 10 Bonnie Cavendish
 17 David Witker
 24 Sue Bailey

Hospital Callers

- 3 Carol Lange
 10 Roger Koppenhofer
 17 Bettie Lyle
 24 Sandy Graham



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

- 6 Bill Gottlieb
 13 Mike Clifford
 20 Ruth Schomaker
 27 Glen Mack

Readers

- 6 No Reader
 13 Mike Clifford
 20 Larry Nuechterlein
 27 Joyce Richardson

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 6 R. Van Marter/Glen Mack
 13 J. Schroeder/Connie Dutcher
 20 R. Van Marter/Glen Mack
 27 J. Schroeder/Connie Dutcher

Prayers

- 6 Connie Dutcher
 13 Mike Clifford
 20 John Grolle
 27 Connie Dutcher

*Thank you to everyone who participates in these important ministries.
 If you are unable to serve on your assigned day,
 please let the Church Office know who will be filling in for you.*