



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 39, No. 9

September 2018

MINISTERS

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

STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor
 Bob Aldrich, Education Coordinator
 Jennifer Salowitz, Musician/Choir Director
 Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse
 Cheryl Huebner, Secretary
 Dawn Dalton, Custodian
 Lisa Mlujeak, Custodian
 Nicole Crump, Nursery Attendant
 Melissa Durow, Nursery Attendant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 Steve Salowitz, Vice President
 Charleen Boland, Treasurer
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Phone (989) 781-2170
 ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net
 Website - www.ascensionlc.org

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JULIE

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.



Music and songs have been very impactful in my life and in my journey of faith. This summer we sang a song called "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" at the multicultural youth event and it has been in my mind since then. There are many renditions of the song. I used it in a sermon; and I am guessing that at least once every day the song comes into my head, if not sung from my mouth.

As a person of faith, this song reminds me that no matter what is happening in my life or in the world, this is only temporary—for the ultimate is my faith in Jesus, the prize. Keeping my eyes on Jesus helps me respond in faith to whatever is going on. I know that rough times will happen in life; they have happened...but none of this changes the love and grace that is in Jesus.

As a community of faith, this song means something as well. It is easy as a community to get tired, to be content, or to get frustrated that things aren't going as we planned. And then I hear "keep your eyes on the prize." I believe Jesus is calling us to be a community of faith that is an example of people who live with their eyes on the prize.

As a church, as the people of God, I encourage you to keep your eyes on the prize in life and in our community of faith. Community is about relationships. It is participation together in worship, study, prayer and service. It is being there for each other; it is about getting to know the people of God as you continue to grow in relationship with Jesus. We may have fallen short in the past, and I am sure we will again. But we press on; we keep our eyes on the prize.

So keep your eyes on the prize; hold on!

YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

High school students will meet monthly beginning Sunday, September 16th at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room for study and fellowship with Pastor Julie. We will meet on the Sundays of the contemporary worship service, which will normally be on the second Sunday of the month at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please don't leave Pastor Julie hanging!!!



FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion preparation will be held on Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. During this class, youth will learn the history of communion, the understanding of communion, make bread and paint a communion chalice. The practice at Ascension is that children baptized may begin to commune on a regular basis following their First Communion instruction. This is determined through mutual conversation with the pastor, child and parents. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 7th.

Please contact Pastor Julie if you have questions or you believe your child is ready to receive this instruction.

Please complete the following form and return it to the Church Office.

Child's Name: _____ Parent Phone #: _____ Age: _____

LEARNING OUR FAITH—CONFIRMATION PROGRAMMING CHANGES

I recently saw a church sign that said "faith is caught, not taught." I would agree, but also know that our faith is strengthened when we know our language of faith, which is scripture.

Over the last year, we have discussed changing the confirmation program. Details of the program will be sent to the families who have youth participating. Our goal of the program is to teach the youth the essential stories and theology of our faith as they prepare to affirm their baptismal faith as their own. Over the course of two years, the required classes will be taught, along with electives. Each student must complete their required classes, as well as a specified number of electives of their choosing. Students may finish in two or three years. Students may start the program in 6th grade.



Classes will be taught in groups, or the youth can learn the material by using an online or self-study course. We will have some classes taught on retreat. If the student can't attend the class, it will be the responsibility of the youth and parent to make up that material, which must be completed prior to being confirmed.

In the recent past, we have sought to teach all the Bible stories at the time of confirmation. We are now going to review the Bible stories that teach us about how God acts in our lives, building on the learning that has been done in Sunday School and in the home. We are learning that faith is a life-long process that does not begin at confirmation or end with confirmation.

Our first class will be held on Sunday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Classes will be held until 7:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend this first class as we explain what is expected. You will also receive a mailing with more details.

Returning students will be dealt with individually, based on what they have already experienced and participated in previously.

YOUTH

GREAT LAKES GATHERING

The Great Lakes Gathering will be held December 27th - 30th in Lansing. Registration opens September 1st. The cost is \$105 prior to November 5th. Hotel rooms are \$70 per night, which we will book after we get our registrations—so the earlier the better to make sure we get the rooms! Registration forms available on the website and on Facebook (to find click on files). For more information go to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/gathering/>.



WORSHIP

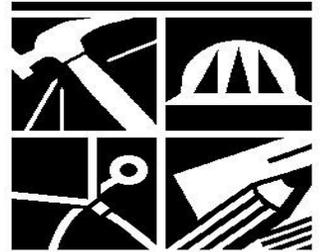


CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. The choir will sing at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on the 4th Sunday of the month from September through April. All are welcome to join.

SPECIAL WORSHIP OFFERING

During the first weekend of September our country celebrates Labor Day, a day that historically celebrates the labor unions. The first Labor Day occurred in 1882 in New York City. For the most part, Labor Day is celebrated by barbeques and marks the end of summer.



On September 2nd and September 5th, you are invited to celebrate your labor as we offer with thanksgiving the labor we do in our lives. During the offering, you will be invited to bring forward something that symbolizes what you do in your vocation or how you labor for the sake of the world. If you are in the medical profession, you might bring a stethoscope. If you are in construction labor, you might bring a hammer. Students or teachers might bring books. These will be placed at the altar area during the offering, and you may take them after worship.



Outdoor Worship

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC

Join us on Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 a.m. for an outdoor church service under the Pavilion. Bring a dish to pass and stay for a picnic potluck following! We will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs and ask for side dishes and desserts to be contributed by attendees. There will be games to play and activities to engage in during the picnic. Sign up on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will begin a contemporary worship service at the 10:30 a.m. service on the second Sunday of each month (except in September when the service will be held on the third Sunday). I'm seeking anyone interested in joining the contemporary team as an instrumentalist or vocalist. Lots of possibilities! From youth who play in the band at school to others taking private lessons, or adults who play a variety of instruments—all are welcome to inquire and discuss possibilities. Please contact Jen at (810)310-0493 or jldowell2@yahoo.com.



WORSHIP

SAMARITAS UPDATE

On September 16th, we will welcome Kevin Majeske, the Director for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) East, to our worship services. He will share with us a brief update on the ministry Samaritas is doing in our community. Kevin oversees five group homes and three Support Services programs totaling 152 clients and 131 staff for Samaritas. He has been with Samaritas for 24 years and has served in roles as a Group Home Manager, assistant Regional Director East, Statewide Auditor for PWD, and in his current role as Director PWD East. A native of Auburn, Michigan, he joined the Army on the delayed entry program prior to graduation from high school, entered in August of 1976, and retired from the Army in September of 1994. He joined Samaritas one week after retirement from the Army and is very passionate about the people we serve as they are some of the most vulnerable children and adults in the state. Kevin has a daughter and a 22-year-old cat named Joker. He enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting.



NOISY OFFERING

We will be taking a Noisy Offering for Samaritas on Sunday, September 16th and Wednesday, September 19th. The funds raised will help support the ministry of Samaritas. Samaritas ministries in Saginaw include:

Community Center: <https://www.samaritas.org/Building-Communities/Community-Center>
Samaritas Senior Living: <https://www.samaritas.org/Senior-Living/Locations/Saginaw>
Action Thrift Store: <https://www.samaritas.org/Building-Communities/Action-Thrift-Store>

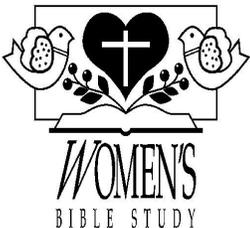
Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause.

The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the October 2018 issue is
Monday, September 17th at 12:00 noon.
Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, September 4th we will resume our Bible study reading the book of Acts. The class will be held from 10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m. All are welcome—whether you are well-acquainted with scripture or not. Join us as we read and discuss together. Coffee will be on!



MARTHA TO MARY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a study on Monday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m. We will be studying Mary Kassian's Bible study, "*Knowing God By Name: A Personal Encounter*", and we would love to have you join us! The study focuses on 35 Hebrew names of God that describe His character, His relationships, and His purpose. Cost for the seven-week study is \$13.00 for the participant book. Martha to Mary is open to women of all ages and stages of faith, members and non-members, as we seek a closer relationship with our Lord. We know that you'll be blessed by God's Word and fellowship with other women, and we'll be blessed by your presence. Please sign up on the Kiosk so we may order the appropriate number of participant books. For more information, contact Joyce Richardson at 274-6787 or carltonrich@ameritech.net.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School Class



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 23rd at 9:15 a.m. We will begin with a series on the Affirmation of Baptism. All are welcome, whether you are a new member or lifelong, knowledgeable or learning the faith, and old or young.

OTHER

RUMMAGE SALE

Ascension will be hosting a rummage sale and proceeds will be split between our Youth Ministry and our Outreach Ministry of Ascension.

The rummage sale will be held on Friday, September 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, September 15th from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Help is needed to sort and set up for the sale. Times will be posted on the Kiosk, in the announcements, and on Facebook. Donations welcome if in good and sellable condition. Please call the Church Office prior to coming to make sure someone is available to meet you at the garage. Thanks for your support!!



HELP WANTED

Samaritas is looking for 6-8 volunteers from our congregation for the Habitat Build at the Community Center on September 29th and October 13th. People of all skill levels are welcome. Minimum age requirement is 12 years old and this activity counts towards community service hours for those who need them. If interested, contact Nick at Samaritas at (248)660-7708.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who served at the Food Pantry on August 18th. The next Food Pantry workday for Ascension is Thursday, November 8th. The Food Pantry is held at St. John Lutheran Church at 2nd and Federal. Please arrive around 8:00 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2nd	Given to the Glory of God by Jack and Delila Colpean
Sept. 9th	Given in Memory of Daughter, Kristi by Sheila Dambro
Sept. 16th	Given in Memory of Susan by Marvin Lentner
Sept. 23rd	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
Sept. 30th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>



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.

OTHER



Register Now!!



“Caregiving Tools – Finding Joy in the Journey”

If you are a Family, Friend or Professional Caregiver this presentation is for you.

- *identify 6 Stages of Caregiving
- *purpose & action plan for each stage
- *key coping strategies
- *stumbles & steadies



Marti Hannon – Speaker
Prior caregiver, Professional Caregiving Presenter and founder of World Changer Consulting.

Date: Saturday,
October 13, 2018

Times: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
or
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Uptown North Main
975 N Main St.
Frankenmuth MI

Cost: FREE

CEU's: Allied Health Professionals Licensed Social Workers & Nurses (RN, LPN, APN) can earn 3 CEU's for a fee of \$15.00 (cash/check only) payment at event.

*Other professionals please inquire

The registration information for the event can be found at <https://caregiving-tools-finding-joy-in-the-journey.eventbrite.com>.



Since so many people have requested the recipe for this dressing we are printing it for everyone. It is from the kitchen of Sue Yackel (aka Kris Friend's mom). Kris made a salad with this dressing for the volunteers at the Back to School Fair and everyone loved it!!

*Mix equal amounts of sugar and cider vinegar with $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of oil; season to taste.

For example: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable oil. Season the dressing to taste with minced garlic, salt, pepper, and/or parsley.

This is great over fresh garden veggies—cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, and even green peppers if you like. The amount of dressing will be dependent on the size of your bowl of veggies. Marinate for at least two hours or more, depending on how soft you like your veggies.

OTHER

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the Back to School Fair a success. Everything ran smoothly and was well organized thanks to all the forethought and hard work of several individuals. Each and every person who represented Ascension did a great job! So...woohoo to all!!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Back to School Fair. This event went off without a hitch thanks to everyone who selflessly gave of their time.

Fall is near and it is time to start planning for next year's council. The following positions will be on the ballot: Vice-President, Treasurer, Outreach Ministry lead and Congregational Care Ministry lead. If you are interested in serving on the council or have any questions about any of the positions, please reach out and ask any one of us.



Finance Ministry: This month the council approved to increase mission support to 3.5% for the third quarter, retroactive to July 1, 2018. This is an ongoing goal to increase mission support by one-half percent every quarter as long as our cash flow remains stable. This goal is a part of first fruits giving.

Outreach Ministry: We have received \$3,000 total in grants to fund the weekend food bags/backpacks for school children. Thanks to the Grace Endowment Fund and a private donation from a family member of one of our congregation members.

Congregational Care: Financial Peace University begins September 10th. We continue to need individuals willing to make and take meals to members who have recently undergone surgery or suffered a death in the family, as well as help make visits to our shut-ins.

Spiritual Health: We are in need of individuals with a variety of gifts to serve the Lord during worship. The same few individuals serve, and more individuals in the rotation would lessen the burden on those currently serving. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity: usher teams, readers, choir, sound or video operator, hospitality managers, please contact Marty Debozy. She will connect you with the appropriate individual.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

MEMBER NEWS

September Birthdays

2nd Alex McClure	20th Emily Hamilton
3rd Jayme York	21st Samantha Beyerlein
4th Betty Cliff	Diane Lobsiger-Braden
5th Jennifer Dickie	Noah Ryder
Jim Stuart	Rusty Van Marter
6th Leslee Arnst	22nd Emily Edsall
Jack Colpean, Jr.	23rd Jenny Maier
Jenny Nielsen	24th Brock Vasquez
7th Jeanne Schultz	27th Carl Boland
10th Marie Leonard	Makenna Dawson
12th Jamie Waters	Max Dawson
13th Nancy Kozak	Ethan Earnesty
14th Anne Nielsen	John Schroeder
16th Kris Friend	28th Ron Schultz
17th Nathan McClure	Erin Steffen
Nathaniel Ryder	29th Linda Lentner
Lori Schultz	30th Amanda Doerr
Brandon Wardlow	Alicia Lopez
18th Melissa Hostetler	

Anniversaries this Month

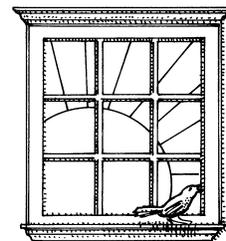


1st	Robert and Rita Bolger
	Darold and Jeanne Schultz
18th	Scott and Kim Anderson
20th	Ed and Lisa Espinoza
24th	Jonathan and Amanda Doerr
26th	Jason and Rebecca Enright
27th	Russ and Melissa Morgan

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



Roland Andrew Denman, son of Andrew and Leslie Denman, was baptized on Wednesday, August 8th. May God bless Roland with His gift of grace.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Joan Ford

URGENT CARE VERSUS EMERGENCY ROOM: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

You cut your thumb while slicing cucumbers. It's bleeding and it appears deep. What do you do? Knowing where to go with an accident or illness can be tricky, especially when your primary care doctor is booked or it's after hours. Your own doctor should be your first choice since they know your health history; but if unavailable, an urgent care facility is a good choice for most non-emergency situations.



Urgent Care centers can treat the following situations:

Earaches and infections	Headaches
Minor cuts, strains and bruises	Back and joint pain
Fever and flu symptoms	Rashes
Cough, cold and sore throat	Mild allergic reactions
Animal bites	Minor lacerations
Mild asthma	Fractures
Urinary tract infections	

Urgent Care centers can usually get you in and out quicker and are more affordable.

Emergency rooms are your choice for *emergency* situations. If you have a life-threatening illness or injury, go straight to your nearest emergency room. Such situations include:

Chest pain	Overdose
Stroke, sudden numbness or weakness	Uncontrolled bleeding
Head trauma	Severe allergic reaction
Shortness of breath or severe asthma attack	Loss of vision
Severe cuts or burns	

References: U of M Health.org, Go Healthuc.com

He heals the broken hearted and bandages their wounds. Psalm 147:2 NLT



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, September 9th after each worship service.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS—MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to those who supported the Michigan Blood Drive during the Back to School Fair on August 9th. There were 24 who registered. Persons donating—23—with 24 units collected. (Michigan Blood's goal for us was 22 units). The church will receive \$10 for each of the 24 who registered. The money will be put toward next year's God's Work Our Hands event expenses. We thank God as He continues to bless our work as we serve Him at Ascension!



Sincerest thanks, Sara Gregor, 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 SEPTEMBER

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

- 2 David Witker/Tom Page & Jim Stuart
- 9 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
- 16 Marv Lentner/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
- 23 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
- 30 David Witker/Tom Page & Jim Stuart

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

- 2 *Volunteer Needed/Volunteer Needed*
- 9 No Acolyte/Outdoor Service
- 16 Maliyah Johnson/Will Salowitz & Kat Milbrandt
- 23 No Acolyte/Makena Whelton
- 30 No Acolyte/Victoria Durow

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

- 2 David Witker/Tom Page
- 9 Lynn Schomaker/Lisa Espinoza
- 16 Ruth Schomaker/Chris Crump
- 23 Charleen Boland/Shelly Dawson
- 30 David Witker/Tom Page

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

- 2 Marty Debozy/Tom Page
- 9 T. Erskine & D. Durow/Van Marter & J. Whelton
- 16 Dan Durow/No Reader
- 23 Joan Ford/Lisa Whelton
- 30 Dick Schomaker/Chris Crump

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

- 2 Ben Salowitz/Bob Aldrich
- 9 Larry Nuechterlein/*Volunteer Needed*
- 16 *Volunteer Needed*/Bob Aldrich
- 23 Melissa Czubaj/*Volunteer Needed*
- 30 *Volunteer Needed*/Bob Aldrich

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

- 2 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter
- 9 Dan Roth/*Volunteer Needed*
- 16 Madison Morgan/Rusty Van Marter
- 23 Marty Debozy/*Volunteer Needed*
- 30 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter

Friendly Callers

- 2 Bonnie Cavendish
- 9 David Witker
- 16 Sue Bailey
- 23 Bonnie Cavendish
- 30 David Witker

Hospital Callers

- 2 Sandy Graham
- 9 Rick Hamilton
- 16 Carol Lange
- 23 Roger Koppenhofer
- 30 Bettie Lyle



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

- 5 Mike Clifford
- 12 Ruth Schomaker
- 19 Bill Gottlieb
- 26 Glen Mack

Readers

- 5 Mike Clifford
- 12 Larry N. & Joyce R.
- 19 Ben Salowitz
- 26 Joyce Richardson

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 5 R. Van Marter/Glen Mack
- 12 J. Schroeder/Connie Dutcher
- 19 R. Van Marter/Glen Mack
- 26 J. Schroeder/Connie Dutcher

Prayers

- 5 Mike Clifford
- 12 Connie Dutcher
- 19 John Grolle
- 26 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.*