



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 2

February 2019

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

Kris Friend, President
Gus Hendrickson, Vice President
Charleen Boland, Treasurer
Kathy McNally, Secretary

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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

The Priesthood of All Believers...this sounds like a Lutheran tagline. But it is true. Martin Luther, in his study of Scripture, teaches that the entire church is the priesthood of believers—all believers; not only the rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service. Every member of this body of Christ is a priest, gifted for the sake of the congregation, community and world. Ministry is not reserved for only those hired to do ministry, or those who go to the special school called seminary.



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."—1 Peter 2:9

Each and every one of us is part of this priesthood—we all have the same access to God as any other person. The idea that the person set apart as an ordained pastor has some sort of special line direct to God is not totally true—because in Christ we all have that line to God. Each one of us has been called in our baptism, claimed; and together we share the responsibility of ministry together.

Our congregation council is currently working on a "Talent Sheet"—where we will be asking every member—every—no matter how old or how young, to complete so that we can see what gifts we have to offer each other for the sake of our ministry. Even if someone else is doing that ministry currently, there is always room for others to participate. I am sure that we won't think of every possibility, but we are doing our best to get those things that we need listed. The reality is that each of us has something to offer, and we are stronger because of each other.

With the "new" structure of council, one of the goals was to empower people to do the ministry they feel called and equipped to do, knowing that none of us can do everything alone. Ministry is multiplied, skills are multiplied, and we as a church together as the priesthood of all believers will continue to boldly make Christ's vision known.

YOUTH

SUMMER CAMP

We are planning on attending summer camp this year from July 7th—July 12th. This includes elementary campers (3rd—5th grades), confirmation campers (6th—8th grades), and high school campers. Those youth who will be entering the confirmation program this fall are encouraged to register with confirmation camp so we can begin to build relationships.

Ascension is committed to our youth and believe that camp offers an experience we cannot reproduce. All first-time confirmation campers will have ½ of their registration paid if registered prior to February 28th. Registration is now open and each family registers their youth online. I am told this week fills up quickly, so please be mindful of the deadlines.

Register on-line at
www.elcalivingwater.com

	Regular Rate	Early Bird Rate
First Timers • For campers grades 1-3	\$285	\$250
Discoverers • For campers grades 3-6	\$415	\$380
Challengers • For campers grades 6-8	\$410	\$375
Confirmation • For campers grades 6-8	\$410	\$375
Servant Hearts • For campers grades 8-12	\$455	\$420
Counselor-In-Training • For campers grades 10-12	\$410	\$375
Bridge Builders • For campers grades 9-12	\$410	\$375
MYLA • For campers ages 13-16	\$450	\$450
Abundant Life • For adults with developmental disabilities	\$375	\$375

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Living Water Ministries is committed to creating access to our programs. Equally committed are our donors who have helped subsidize over \$161,000.00 in scholarship awards since 2015! Scholarships are often provided in collaboration with the home congregation and after the completion of our short scholarship application. To receive a copy of our scholarship application form please contact our registrar by telephone at (231) 861-4138 or via e-mail at office@elcalivingwater.com.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all high school students and parents. There is a scholarship grant available for graduating seniors that are members of Ascension Lutheran Church. The scholarship packets, which include the guidelines and application form, are available in the Church Office. **Application deadline is March 31st.** If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 781-2170.

The MESSENGER is published monthly by
 Ascension Lutheran Church.
 Deadline for the March 2019 issue is
Monday, February 18th at 12:00 noon.
 Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

The 2019 Council met for the first time this year; we did a little team building as we welcomed a new vice-president to our team as well as began work on updating the strategic plan. Specifically, we examined the initiatives (long term, 3-5 year goals) and worked through the 2019 annual goals. I will be sharing the plan next month when they are finalized. I can share a few other happenings.



DID YOU KNOW?

Outreach: The Back to School Fair team met and established Thursday, August 8th, as the date of the event. Although all clothing is appreciated, we really, REALLY need clothing for children, especially sizes an elementary student would wear. If you don't have those sizes at your house, ask your friends, neighbors and relatives for donations. We are now sponsoring 58 children weekly, between the Swan Valley, St. Charles, and Hemlock school districts, with our weekend food bags and appreciate your donations of food.

Spiritual Health: If you haven't already got a copy of "*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*" to read, sign up in the Library or check with our Minister of Congregational Care, Larry Nuechterlein. Put April 13th on your calendars! We are fortunate enough to host "A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper" here at Ascension. The performance begins at 7:00 p.m. The portrayal has music, song, and is an interactive theatrical performance. All are welcome, so invite your family and friends.

Congregational Care: Check out the Library for self-help books and resources. See above regarding our congregational read of "*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*". Remember, if you are aware of someone in crisis (hospitalization, illness, or death in the family), we have a care team that can deliver meals. Please contact Marty Debozy if there is a need.

Finance & Resource Management: We will be working closely with the Trustees to establish a plan to fix the roof of the building (everything except the Sanctuary) as it is nearing its life expectancy and we have had some issues with leaking.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend



**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
of Ascension Lutheran Church**

Sunday, February 17th
in the Sanctuary at approximately 11:45 a.m.

The Nursery will be staffed during the meeting.

*All Confirmed Members of Ascension Lutheran Church
are encouraged to attend as we review our year
in ministry in 2018 and attend to any official business.*

OTHER



OFFERING ENVELOPES

2019 Offering Envelopes are available in the Church Office. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes today.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Break up the winter blahs with a quick read in a favorite magazine. Remember, the Library has a number of magazines to loan out. Some of the current ones are on display in front of the Library. Others are in the boxes on the bottom shelves to the left of the door.

The first box has general-interest magazines. The second box has basically women's-interest magazines (design, recipes, lifestyle, etc.). The third box has nature-related magazines (gardening, animals, parks, outdoor activities, etc.).

Read any you wish and return them for others to enjoy.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for our Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. We are reading the book of Acts. All are welcome—whether you are well-acquainted with scripture or not. Coffee will be on!

SEWING GROUP

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 20th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bring your sewing machine, and join us for fun and fellowship. We will be working on an easy community service project. Contact Sandy Graham at 781-1619 with any questions.



NOT YOUR NORMAL WORSHIP

Beginning on Sunday, March 10th at 5:00 p.m., we will host a new worship service—but it is Not Your Normal Worship. We will meet every other week at 5:00 p.m. We will use videos and whatever gifts people bring with them to praise God. If you are expecting the “normal,” you are welcome, but this may not be your type of worship.

We are inviting all who know Jesus, those who have heard of Jesus, and those who want to learn about this Jesus to join us for this time. We plan on upbeat, engaging, interaction, using music that moves us. Some of the youth in our congregation are helping to plan the service.

So come, join us, for this Not Your Normal Worship. Ironically, the theme for this first worship is...Show UP! Bring your friends!!!

OTHER

WEARING OF THE GREEN FELLOWSHIP

Join us on Monday, March 11th at 5:30 p.m. at Gabby's for Ascension's Wearing of the Green Fellowship. The traditional Irish corn beef dinner will be available along with all of Gabby's favorites. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2019 to fund projects which may support any of the following activities:

- Christian Education
- Mission Opportunities
- Evangelism
- Special Capital Improvement Opportunities
- Youth Programs
- Scholarships
- Technology
- Music Ministry
- Family Outreach

Because of the limited amount of money the Endowment Fund Committee makes on its investments each year, the committee reviews each application and awards monies on how the request fits the mission and purpose of the church. The maximum amount that can be funded for any activity is \$1,000. The applications are available in the Church Office and must be submitted by March 31st. If there are any questions, please contact Bob Dillenbeck, Endowment Fund Committee Chairperson, at 799-2065.

A LIVING PORTRAYAL OF THE LAST SUPPER

Mark your calendar to attend "A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper" on Saturday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. The portrayal is an interactive theatrical performance with music and song. Ascension will host this free event and it is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors.



FOOD PANTRY

Here is the schedule for the first months of 2019. We are awaiting word on whether the Food Pantry will need to move to Saturday's during the summer months. Please NOTE: Ascension is scheduled February 14th and May 9th. Certainly extra hands are sometimes needed, so if you can't work on our assigned days, please help on the other days.

Dates	Day/Time	Team
Feb 14	Thurs 8:00 AM	Ascension
Feb 28	Thurs 8:00 AM	Faith
Mar 14	Thurs 8:00 AM	Our Saviour/St. John
Mar 28	Thurs 8:00 AM	Bible Study from Resurrection/Faith
Apr 11	Thurs 8:00 AM	Zion/Freeland
Apr 25	Thurs 8:00 AM	Zion/Saginaw
May 09	Thurs 8:00 AM	Ascension
May 23	Thurs 8:00 AM	Faith

OTHER



BLOOD DRIVE HELP NEEDED

The Parish Health Committee is not able to sponsor the Michigan Blood drives as we have in past years. Is there a high school or college student who needs community service hours? Maybe there is a family who would want to provide this opportunity to the congregation and community. Usually, Ascension holds this event in early May and during the Back to School Fair in August. Help the church support Michigan Blood. If you are interested, please contact Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse at 791-7995 or billandsarag@charter.net. Sara will provide additional information and assistance.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| February 3rd | Given in Memory of her Husband, Richard,
by Marilyn Christensen |
| February 10th | <i>Flowers Needed</i> |
| February 17th | Given in Celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
by Rusty and Barb Van Marter |
| February 24th | Given in Celebration of her Birthday and Anniversary
by Edna Bell |



Altar Flowers

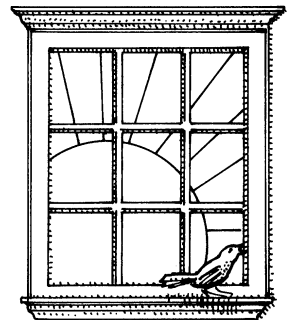
The Flower Chart is posted in the Gathering Area on the Usher/Acolyte Room door. The cost is \$25.00. A payment envelope will be mailed to you. These arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week for worship and may be picked up after the late service on Sunday morning.

MEMBER NEWS

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
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
Ray Sundeck - 770 Cheryl Street, Saginaw, MI 48609
Marcy Schafer - 8049 Area Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
Marv Yancer - 8936 N. Brookshire Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609



MEMBER NEWS

February Birthdays

1st	Esther Mack Josh Whelton	14th	Olivia Bostwick
		16th	Jacob DeLaRosa
2nd	Sheila Dambro Brad Phillion	18th	Anni Mackel
		20th	Aaron Gottlieb
4th	Nelson Staples		Harris Salowitz
5th	Bill Gregor Jeannie Hamilton Maliyah Johnson	21st	Kathy Kaul
		22nd	Zachary Maddox
			Scarlett Naples
9th	Brooke Richardson	24th	Roland Denman
10th	Todd Albrecht Pat Bruske David Maeder	25th	Max Dreyfus Paul Nielsen
		26th	Dori Dalton
11th	Holly Bostwick	27th	Natalie Fleissner
12th	Chuck Latty		Ken Schian
13th	Patrick Dalton Carol Schroeder		Layne Wakeman
		28th	Chase Hamilton

Anniversaries this Month



5th	Bruce and Traci Collier
14th	Mike and Elaine Clifford Amy and Russell Kolb
15th	Ronald and Marie Leonard Rusty and Barb Van Marter
18th	John and Julie Stroebel
19th	John and Ginny Whelton
23rd	Don and Lorna Arndt
24th	Dick and Ruth Schomaker
25th	Todd and Alisha Albrecht Jim and Marie Stuart
26th	Marv and Barb Yancer
27th	Gilbert and Edna Bell

BAPTISMS

Colton Matthew Fries, son of Ronald and Shawntella Fries, was baptized on Sunday, December 23rd. May God bless Colton with His gift of grace.

Donna, Gabriella and Emma Frollo were baptized on January 6th. Gabriella and Emma are the daughters of John and Donna Frollo. May God bless Donna, Gabriella and Emma with His gift of grace.



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Kris Friend

FOODS AND HABITS TEENS SHOULD AVOID

1. Skipping breakfast: As many as 20 percent to 30 percent of teens do not eat breakfast on a regular basis. Eating breakfast can upstart a teen's metabolism, which helps with weight control, mood, and school performance.

2. Eating snacks teens love: These are high fat and calorie-laden snack foods: chips, pizza rolls, fast food etc., foods with high calories and little nutritional value. These fill them up but don't provide adequate nutrition for growing/developing bodies.

3. Fast food: The number of calories and sodium in fast food is staggering. For instance, a Bacon Clubhouse Burger from McDonald's contains 740 calories and 1480 milligrams of sodium. A Quarter Pounder with Cheese contains a whopping 540 calories, 40 grams of fat and 1330 milligrams of sodium. Fries are a source of saturated fats and sodium overload. A medium-size order of fries from Burger King contains 22 percent of the recommended daily value of sodium and 26 percent of the daily recommended maximum intake of saturated fat.

4. Drinking soda: One study found an increase in the prevalence of soft drink consumption from 37 percent in 1978 to 56 percent in 1998. Sugary beverages remain a favorite among teens. Soda is one of the most nutritionally void food items out there, packed with sugar and additives that do more harm than good. Popular sodas—as well as energy drinks—are sweetened with high fructose corn syrup and contain phosphoric acid, which may lead to bone loss. The average soda may contain up to 10 teaspoons of sugar per 12-ounce can. Most sodas contain caffeine, a stimulant that can have serious side effects. In fact, energy drinks contain dangerously high levels of caffeine for teens. Studies show that for each additional soft drink consumed per day, the risk of childhood obesity increases by 60 percent.

Source: Morin, Amy. verywellhealth. "4 Bad habits Teens have and Popular Junk Foods Teens Really Should Not be Eating". February 16, 2018/February 22, 2018.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ~ Mathew 25:35



Do you need a walker or other assistive device? A shower chair? The church has a small collection of donated items available for anyone who may be in need. If you have the unfortunate need following a hospital stay or injury, please contact the Church Office to see what we have in our closet.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, February 10th after each worship service.

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.

A MESSAGE OF
Love

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.

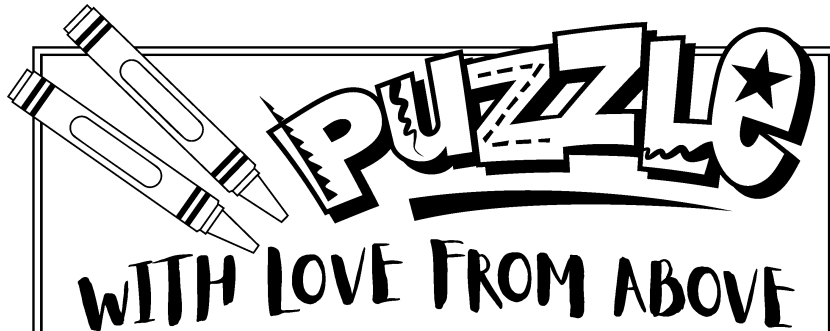


What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

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

- 3 *Volunteer Needed*/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
 10 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
 17 David Witker/Jim Stuart & *Volunteer Needed*
 24 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston

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

- 3 Tom Erskine/Linda Luplow
 10 Joan Ford/*No Reader*
 17 Patty Hamilton/Barb Van Marter
 24 Larry Nuechterlein/John Whelton

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

- 3 Madison Morgan/Anni Mackel & Olivia Wagner
 10 *No Acolyte*/Gabby Dalton & Ella Frollo
 17 Maliyah Johnson/Lyric & Diedre Haupt
 24 *No Acolyte*/Sabrina Wagner

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

- 3 Melissa Czubaj/Kris Friend
 10 Charleen Boland/Ben Salowitz
 17 Larry Nuechterlein/Will Salowitz
 24 Melissa Czubaj/Bob Aldrich

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

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

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

- 3 Marty Debozy/Steve Salowitz
 10 Madison Morgan/Ashley Blehm
 17 Tom Bailey/Steve Salowitz
 24 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter

Friendly Callers

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

Hospital Callers

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



February 2019

WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

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

Readers

- 6 Larry Nuechterlein
 13 Mike Clifford
 20 Joyce Richardson
 27 Ben Salowitz

Sound Board/Video Screen

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

Prayers

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

*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.*