



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 4

April 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
Jamie Hartley, Custodian
Nicole Crump, Nursery Attendant
Melissa Durow, Nursery Attendant

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Kris Friend, President
Gus Hendrickson, 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

I Believe: Lutherans and the Creeds

By definition, a creed is a statement of faith or belief.



"Like the Scriptures, the three ecumenical creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—are written documents. They originate from the earliest centuries of the Christian church's history, a time when theological and philosophical questions about the identity of Jesus were widely debated among Christians. All three creeds affirm that God is fully present in Jesus, that Jesus Christ is both God and human (not a semi-divine or super-human creature that is neither). These three creeds are called ecumenical because they are all accepted and used by the overwhelming majority of the world's Christians. All three are affirmed in the Lutheran confessional writings and in the ELCA's governing documents". (elca.org)

At Ascension, we tend to use the Apostle's Creed almost every Sunday. It begins with "I believe..." It is the creed used at baptism and at the affirmation of baptism. It is our teaching creed, the one Luther included in the Small Catechism.

The Nicene Creed begins "We believe..." This creed is used primarily on festival days like Easter and Christmas. The Nicene Creed was adopted in 325 C.E.

The Athanasian Creed is used on rare occasions. In some congregations it is read on Trinity Sunday, as the primary focus of this creed is on the relationship of the Trinity.

In our worship, we generally use one of these creeds as a statement of faith for us as individuals and as a community. During this reciting of the creed, we are reminded that we come from a long line of believers, and in some way are joined together in that belief. For me, these creeds are so much deeper than repetition—it is binding me to the community of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

YOUTH

BLESSING OF HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

We will be blessing our high school and college graduates during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 19th. If you would like to take part in this service, please provide Bob with a graduation picture, a baby picture and four to five other pictures of the years in between. The pictures are for a slide show that we will be presenting at the service. You can send the pictures to him electronically, or give them to him in church. Please email Bob at trammlou@sbcglobal.net to participate or for more information.



YOUTH ENCOUNTER SERVICE

Take the Challenge! Put Your Faith in Action!!

This year our high school youth will partner with our Catholic brothers and sisters in an amazing opportunity of service, fellowship and faith from June 23rd—June 29th. Cost for the event is \$135 and includes food, transportation, overnight accommodations, some work supplies and materials. We plan to work in the area where Mustard Seed and Hidden Harvest are located.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Teams will work together each day at a house in the city and within an outreach organization. Home repairs depend on the condition of the house and on what we can accomplish in one week. Such projects could include putting up drywall, painting, limited construction (fix a sagging floor or install new steps) and other general repairs. Plus, you will also be involved in direct outreach through various outreach organizations. Evening get-togethers will offer fun, learning, and new friends.

Registration is due by May 1st and the forms are available on our website. Space is limited and will be received first come first served.

Join me as we make a difference!

SUMMER CAMP

We are 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. Registration is open and each family registers their youth online. This week fills up quickly, so please be mindful of the deadlines. Please register at www.elcalivingwater.com.



Church Camp



4TH ANNUAL RISE UP SOCCER CAMP

Our 4th Annual Rise Up Soccer Camp will be held July 22nd—July 25th. Camp will run from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Kids from 1st—6th grades are eligible to participate. We will work on skills and drills, scrimmage, and enjoy a healthy snack while we learn about God and His plan for us. So get off the bench and go tell it on the mountain!! Invite everyone you know to Ascension's Soccer Camp. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Aldrich at trammlou@sbcglobal.net.

WORSHIP

USHERS NEEDED

We are in need of people who are willing to commit to serve as ushers on a four-week rotation. We have openings on almost every team for people who are willing to usher—help with distributing bulletins, collecting offering, communion, and assisting with needs of the congregation during worship. This is something that people of any age can help with. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Andy Friend.



NOT YOUR NORMAL WORSHIP

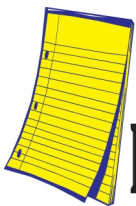
Join us on Sunday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m. for our "Not Your Normal Worship". The worship service will consist of singing, discussing faith, prayer and communion.

This is for all—those who are wondering who Jesus is and about what a community of faith is, as well as those who are "all in". Bring your friends!!!

OTHER

CARE TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

One of the services of the Care Team is to supply meals for a limited time to families in distress due to a death, illness, etc. Some of the people who have worked in this ministry before are unable to continue. We could really use some help with this service. It doesn't take a lot of time, and usually only a few times a year since we take turns. You may provide your own meal or use items from the freezer at church. The meal just needs to be delivered to the family on the day you choose. We will provide necessary information. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Marty Debozy at 642-8135 or mdebozy@aol.com.



Take Note!

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial Services? Did you know you may have financial opportunities that cost nothing to you? You may be eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars. This is money that Thrivent gives to help 501c3 ministries (non-profits), including the congregation. To access this, you will need to sign into your account online, and you can direct your funds. This money again costs you nothing, and our representative tells us much of this money goes unclaimed. If you need help, please let us know, and we can help you. You also are eligible to apply for a Thrivent Action team. This is another benefit as a member that provides \$250 seed money for projects. If you would be willing to help us with an action team, please let us know.

SEWING GROUP

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 3rd and Wednesday, April 17th 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.



OTHER

BRUNCH AND A MOVIE

The Tuesday Bible Study group invites you to join us on April 9th at 10:00 a.m. for brunch and then to watch the movie "Paul the Apostle." Our group will have finished reading the book of Acts and is celebrating and remembering with this movie. You are invited and may bring a dish to pass.



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.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Bible Study group will begin reading the book of 1 Peter on Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. We will read and discuss. No prior knowledge necessary. *(We will not meet on April 16th.)*



SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT: LEARN OF THE LUTHERAN HONDURAN MISSION WORK

On Sunday, April 28th come and have fun at Sunday School (teachers and parents included) learning how you can make a difference doing God's work. Two individuals, who have encouraged the Honduran people through the Health for Life Mission program, will tell about their experiences in training 12 health volunteers in Tegucigalpa and nearby communities.

You may even discover ways you can pray and provide for the Mission. Also, you will be one of the first to hear about the March 2019 Health for Life trip. It's all about how God's love is expressed and shared among His faithful people. *Our guests have a request...please bring a small empty plastic water bottle to Sunday School on April 28th.*

NOISY OFFERING FOR THE HONDURAS HEALTH FOR LIFE MINISTRY

On Sunday, April 28th and Wednesday, May 1st, members of Ascension will be asked to support the Lutheran Church of Honduras with a noisy offering. The ministries in Honduras include lunches for kindergartners, water filters for clean water for families, dental hygiene for children, and programs for teaching health assistants. Please give generously—your change, paper, or check—to aid in this work and serve our sisters and brothers in Honduras as we share Christ's love.



FOOD PANTRY

Ascension is scheduled to volunteer at the Food Pantry on Thursday, May 9th. We are awaiting word on whether the Food Pantry will need to move to Saturday's during the summer months. Certainly extra hands are sometimes needed; so if you can't work on our assigned days, please help on the other days.

OTHER

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

We will be hosting our 6th Annual Back to School Fair on Thursday, August 8th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. This is part of the God's Work Our Hands initiative—for the church to proclaim the Gospel in our actions and show the world the love we have from God. It truly is God's work and our hands.

We have been making the necessary preparations, and it is time to ask for your help. You can help by:

- Donating new socks and underwear (bin is in the Gathering Area)
- Bringing in gently used clothes for all K-12 sizes
- Volunteering to help sort clothes as they come in (see Kris Friend or Melissa Morgan)
- Setting aside August 8th to help with set-up, work during the event, and help with clean-up



Thank you for your support of this community outreach event.

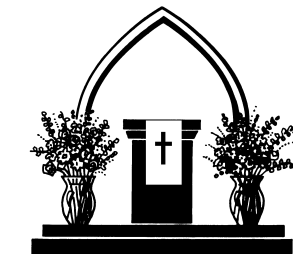


GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING NEEDED

Time to start cleaning out your closets and weeding out unwanted and outgrown clothing. Please make sure it is clean, and in good repair. **Boys/Girls K-12 sizes needed.** Drop your donations off at the church Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., or before or after worship. We're also looking for large boxes. Please contact Kris Friend at 245-6446 if you have any questions.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR APRIL

April 7th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
April 14th	Given to the Glory of God by Dawn Dalton
April 21st	Given in Honor of their Fathers by Eric and Linda Lentner
April 28th	Given in Celebration of Lauren's 21st Birthday by Cheryl Huebner



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.

The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the May 2019 issue is
Monday, April 15th at 12:00 noon.
Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

MEMBER NEWS

April Birthdays

1st	Thomas Deaton	19th	Judy Carr
2nd	Rhys Awad		Pam Mackel
5th	Margie Fruk	20th	Frances Edie
9th	Greyston Hendrickson		Ryann Kittle
	Hannah Waters	23rd	Courtney Favazza
10th	Chelsea Houthoofd		Steve Haupt
11th	Joel Richardson		Kathy McNally
12th	Dawn Dalton	24th	Jack Goschke
13th	Glen Mack		Sara Gregor
14th	Brent Fleissner	25th	Breana Mack
	Carlie Kolb	28th	Susie Mackel
	Carrie Nielsen	29th	Sophia Milbrandt
18th	Courtney Wardlow		

Anniversaries this Month



3rd	John and Carol Schroeder
15th	Michael and Elizabeth Clark
17th	Ben and Chris Crump
22nd	Eric and Linda Lentner
	John and Marisa Richardson
28th	Ron and Lori Schultz
29th	Larry and Maija Preston

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

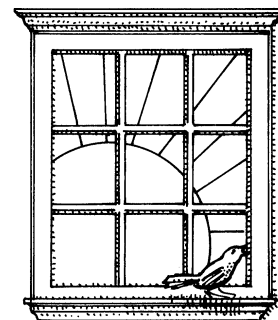
Heidi Osterloh - 9345 Geddes Road, Saginaw, MI 48609

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

Delila Colpean - 302 Fulton Street, Room 103, St. Charles, MI 48655

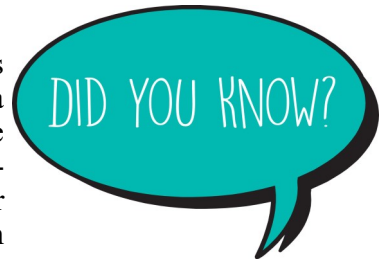


HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Joan Ford

BACTERIAL AND VIRAL INFECTIONS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

As you might think, bacterial infections are caused by bacteria and viral infections are caused by viruses. Perhaps the most important distinction between bacteria and viruses is that antibiotic drugs usually kill bacteria, but they aren't effective against viruses. Bacteria are single-celled microorganisms that thrive in many different environments. Some live in extremes of cold or heat. Others make their homes in people's intestines, where they digest food. Most bacteria cause no harm to people, but there are exceptions.



Infections caused by bacteria include: strep throat, tuberculosis, and urinary tract infections.

Inappropriate use of antibiotics has helped create bacterial diseases that are resistant to treatment with different types of antibiotic medications.

Viruses are even smaller than bacteria and require living hosts, such as people, plants or animals to multiply. Otherwise they can't survive. When a virus enters your body, it invades some of your cells and takes over the cell machinery, redirecting it to produce the virus.

Diseases caused by viruses include: chicken pox, AIDS, and common colds.

In some cases, it may be difficult to determine whether a bacterium or a virus is causing your symptoms. Many ailments such as pneumonia, meningitis, and diarrhea can be caused by either bacteria or viruses. Your doctor can often pinpoint the cause by listening to your medical history and doing a physical exam. If necessary, he or she can also order a blood or urine test or a culture to help confirm a diagnosis.

Vaccines have drastically reduced the number of new cases of viral diseases such as polio, measles, and chickenpox. In addition, vaccines can prevent infections such as the flu, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and HPV. For some viral diseases, such as influenza, HIV/AIDS, and herpes simplex virus, antiviral medications have become available.

John 1:2 "I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you."

Sources: Mayo Clinic-James M. Steckelberg, MD Webmd



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, April 14th after each worship service.

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.



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

It is beginning to feel like spring out there, in a Michigan sort of way. Whatever season or seasons we are experiencing at any given moment here in our great state, we can be thankful we are not experiencing anything extreme, unlike our brothers and sisters in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. Please keep them in your prayers.



As always, I will try to highlight a few ministries and happenings on this page. I cannot always do justice to each and every ministry or event that happens within and outside our walls, so forgive me.

Spiritual Health: This Lenten season Pastor is covering the 23rd Psalm, in conjunction with the book “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23”; hope you have been attending Lenten services. We are hosting “A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper” on Saturday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. This group of disciples has been performing for fifteen years, sharing this important bible story through music, song, and theatrical performance. This is open to all and is FREE! Please invite your friends and family to this event. We need individuals willing to bring snacks as a show of hospitality to our visitors. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Kiosk or contact me directly. Did you know that we have 110 members, newborn to eighteen, within our congregation? Did you know we have twenty-one middle-school kids in our confirmation group who are amazing? The Council and I were recently invited to share information about Ascension with them. They were well-behaved, but more importantly, well-spoken and had incredible questions and ideas. I challenge you to stop and say hello to one of them and listen to their ideas. They are our future, and also our present.

Finance & Resource Management: We continue to grow our Mission support. We moved this month to increase our support from 4.5% to 5% as of April 1st. Keep up the great work, faithful servants. Last month I shared our roof is in need of repair. The Trustees have been quoted a price of \$20,000 to re-shingle over the existing roof. This will need to be done in the summer of 2020. Council has set aside some “seed” money (\$4,500 from an estate gift) and the Trustees have come up with a financing plan. Keep your eyes and hearts open for a campaign to “Raise the Roof”. You can support the campaign by buying a “bundle of shingles” at \$100 to help us reach our goal. Don’t worry, you can participate even if you don’t want to buy an entire bundle; no donation is too small.

Outreach: Our Weekend School Bag Program continues to grow. The team leader is submitting appropriate paperwork for various grants in the area to help fund this project with estimated costs of \$10,000 - \$12,000. Every dollar and box/container of food is greatly appreciated. We feed approximately sixty area children through the program weekly. Back to School Fair planning has been underway for a couple of months. Clear your calendars for Thursday, August 8th. The socks and underwear box is already in the Gathering Area. Be on the lookout for more opportunities as it gets closer.

Congregational Care: We are a family; we may not always all agree and get along; we are human. But we are a FAMILY. The Proverb, “charity starts at home”, is not a biblical verse but comes pretty darn close to one. It is often associated with 1 Timothy 5:8, “And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and it’s worse than an unbeliever.” That is some powerful verse! Please consider taking on a role to serve or “provide” for one of your Christian/Ascension “relatives”. Join the Prayer Team, Hospital Caller Team, or visit a shut-in. No act is too small. I challenge you to send a card, make a call to someone in need, or contact someone you miss seeing at church.

In Christ’s Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

God so loved the world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

What you need:

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.



Jesus gives us life

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)



Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)



Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)



This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)



Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)



Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)



While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)



This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)



These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)



These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)



Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, linens, spices, silver coins

SERVING IN APRIL

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

- 7 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
 14 David Witker/Jim Stuart & *Volunteer Needed*
 21 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
 28 *Volunteer Needed*/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein

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

- 7 Marty Debozy/Melissa Durow
 14 Dan Durow/*No Reader*
 21 Tom Erskine/Steve Haupt
 28 Joan Ford/Linda Lentner

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

- 7 Maliyah Johnson/Diedre & Lyric Haupt
 14 *No Acolyte*/Sabrina Wagner
 21 Maliyah Johnson/Makena Whelton
 28 *No Acolyte*/Alexis Richardson

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

- 7 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
 14 Charleen Boland/*Volunteer Needed*
 21 Melissa Czubaj/Bob Aldrich
 28 Melissa Czubaj/*Volunteer Needed*

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

- 7 Charleen Boland/Lisa Espinoza
 14 David Witker/Chris Crump
 21 Lynn Schomaker/Shelly Dawson
 28 Ruth Schomaker/Lisa Espinoza

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

- 7 Madison Morgan/Rusty Van Marter
 14 Dan Roth/Josh Crump
 21 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter
 28 Marty Debozy/Ashley Blehm

Friendly Callers

- 7 David Witker
 14 Sue Bailey
 21 Bonnie Cavendish
 28 David Witker

Hospital Callers

- 7 Rick Hamilton
 14 Carol Lange
 21 Roger Koppenhofer
 28 Bettie Lyle



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

- 3 Glen Mack
 10 Mike Clifford
 17 *No Service*
 24 Bill Gottlieb

Readers

- 3 *No Reader*
 10 *No Reader*
 17 *No Service*
 24 Steve Salowitz

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 3 Rusty Van Marter/*No Video*
 10 John Schroeder/*No Video*
 17 *No Service*
 24 John Schroeder/Glen Mack

Prayers

- 3 *No Prayers*
 10 *No Prayers*
 17 *No Service*
 24 Mike Clifford

MAUNDY THURSDAY-7:00p.m.

Head Usher

- 18 *Volunteer Needed*

Reader

- 18 J. Richardson

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 18 R. Van Marter/C. Dutcher

Prayers

- 18 Connie Dutcher

GOOD FRIDAY-1:00 p.m.

Head Usher

- 19 *Volunteer Needed*

Reader

- 19 Ben Salowitz

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 19 R. Van Marter/C. Dutcher

GOOD FRIDAY-7:00 p.m.

Head Usher

- 19 *Volunteer Needed*

Reader

- 19 John Schroeder

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 19 J. Schroeder/B. Aldrich

*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.*