

The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 39, No. 11

November 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

Kris Friend, President
 Steve Salowitz, 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

I decided to reprint a sermon I preached in 2016 at our joint Saginaw Thanksgiving service. I think it still applies.

Saying please and thank you were things I was taught early on, so much so that sometimes I find myself saying thank you when maybe it isn't exactly what I want or should say. I try to send thank you notes, let people know I appreciate them. Sometimes it is good to be able to write a note to someone you appreciate. I don't think we say thanks enough. We are really good at being critical; but when things are going well, don't we sort of take this time for granted? We know that if we go to a restaurant and have bad food or service, we are going to tell everyone and post it on Facebook or Twitter. But if things are good, it is just what is expected, so we often fail to share this news of thanksgiving.

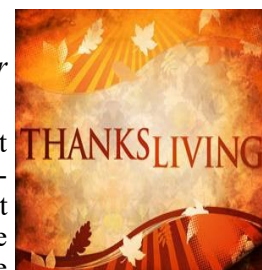
I am guessing that many of us have traditions that we have for Thanksgiving. Some of us will sit around the table and each person will share something they are thankful for. If I were to ask you tonight, "What are you thankful for?", what would you say? I think it is important to share what you are thankful for, with God and with the people you are thanking. I want to challenge us this year that we need to be more aware of giving thanks; but even more so, I challenge you to live thanks.

Some say talk is cheap, or put your money where your mouth is. I'm not sure that I can say the same about giving thanks; this talk of thanks is important. And yet I believe scripture calls us to more—to live a life of thankfulness, to live thanks, thanks-living. Paul says rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say rejoice. (Philippians 4:4) Our Lord is calling us to live a life of thanksgiving, to live a life in thankfulness to the abundance we have received from God.

Some of us might be asking ourselves, what abundance? I don't have a ton of money or a ton of time. Things aren't working out in my favor at all. This kind of thinking leads to a very sour way of living, very little giving, and dare I say, very little living. We rush from one thing to another, all the time complaining that we don't have time.

In Shakespeare's *King Lear* is this quote: "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!" Parents, many of you know the pain of trying your best and then feeling that your children are ungrateful. If I'm honest, I know that I was not as thankful for my parents as I probably should have been. I hated the word "no", and yet in retrospect that "no" saved me a lot of trouble, something I am thankful for now. But it isn't just in parenting. How many times do we wonder if anyone is thankful for what we've done?

However, I want to flip that around. What if what we do is out of thankfulness and not to receive thanks? If how we serve is out of gratitude for what we have, for our opportunities, instead of a way to receive the accolades from others, to have everyone else tell us how wonderful we are—even if it is helpful and nice to get those accolades. What if we move from thanks giving to thanks living?



(Continued from page 1)

I believe that when we rejoice always, when we realize that everything we need is provided by God, we will live a life of thanks. We find ways to give back, to pay it forward, to willingly share all that we have.

What ways are you living a life of thanks? Do you ever even think about it? Is there someone else in this room that you see living a life of thanks—someone in your family, or in your congregation?

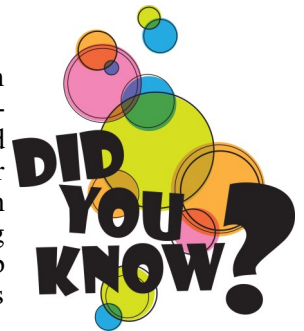
One piece of advice I gleaned from a famous television interviewer who focuses on positive thinking, is that at the end of the day, find at least three things to be thankful for that day. We often focus on what we didn't get done each day—but it changes your direction in life when you focus on the thanks—especially when you are ready to sleep. Sleep thankfully, and it may make living thankfully come easier.

So I challenge you to a day, a year, a life of thanks living.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

We have set the Annual Budget Meeting for Sunday, December 2nd and have been working on presenting as close to a zero-based budget as we can. Zero-based budgeting is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. The process of zero-based budgeting starts from a "zero base," and every function within the organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. Zero-based budgeting requires that the existence of a program be justified in each fiscal year, as opposed to simply basing budgeting decisions on a previous year's funding level. As with our own personal home budgets, we have wants and needs, and the Council's job is to flesh out the difference between the two and present a realistic budget that meets the needs of the congregation. We, of course, do this with a little faith that in the end God will provide.



On December 2nd, we will also present a slate to vote on for the following positions: Treasurer, Vice-President, Minister of Outreach, Minister of Congregational Care, and two Synod Delegates. These are all important roles within the church body here at Ascension, for various reasons. None of them are glamorous or seemingly exciting, but they are each important in carrying out the mission of Ascension Lutheran Church and God's work in and outside our walls.

Voting Members: Two at large members of the congregation who serve a one-year term. These individuals are selected by the congregation to attend the Synod Assembly and vote on a variety of things including anything from electing our Bishop to passing resolutions and bylaws. The next Synod Assembly will be held May 16th—May 18th in Mt. Pleasant.

The roles of the President, **Vice-President**, **Treasurer**, Secretary and the **Ministers of Congregational Care, Outreach**, Finance & Resource Management, and Spiritual Health serve on the Congregational Council. Council meets on the third Tuesday of the month and is tasked with the following to name a few:

- to set goals and priorities; to do long-range planning; and evaluate activities in light of the mission and goals
- to promote a climate of peace and goodwill, and foster mutual understanding when differences/conflicts arise
- to oversee the financial and property matters of this congregation
- to see that the congregational constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions are carried out

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Financial Secretary not only serve on the Congregational Council, but are the officers of this congregation. They oversee the staff, both called, and non-called positions.

Everyone's definition of exciting is different. We were all gifted with specific God-given talents and equipped with unique skills. None of the positions are glamorous, but are necessary to the function of the church here at Ascension and abroad. If any of the above **bolded** positions sound remotely interesting, or fit your specific skill set, please reach out to Steve Salowitz, acting chair of the Nominating Committee.

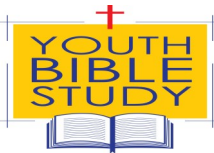
In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

YOUTH

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Please help support our Youth Group in a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. You can order from a participating youth or Pastor Julie, or you can order online at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter 990046905 for the group number. We receive 40% of the proceeds. Thanks for your support!!!



SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL STUDY

Our next study and fellowship will be Sunday, November 11th at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room. All are welcome!! Invite your friends!!

GREAT LAKES HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that our worldly understanding of greatness is upside down. During this year's Great Lakes Gathering, we'll explore daily themes that dig into Christ's understanding of greatness. Daily themes will include: Be Less, Be Hungry, Be Persecuted, and Be You. We'll explore together through worship, small groups, skill shops, and the community we form together how to take these inverted teachings of Jesus and apply them to our daily living as people of faith. How might we embrace a life that seeks humility, peace, and justice in the name of Christ in the face of a world focused on achievement, success, power, strength and wealth?



The Gathering will be held December 27th—December 30th. Early registration is \$105 plus room cost if registered by November 14th. Forms are available on Facebook and at ascensionlc.org. Friends are welcome. There will be some financial help to pay for housing.

Young adults age 18—25 are also welcome to register and attend. Programming for the Young Adult Track will intersect with the event, but also have components specifically designed for the young adult audience. Young adult participants register as individuals and do not require adult leader accompaniment. Young adult participants will be accountable to the Young Adult Program Manager, house with other young adults in The Radisson, and be expected to participate in all Young Adult programming components.

Check <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/gathering/> for more information.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

We had a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun with the middle and high school youth. We painted pumpkins, ate dinner, laughed, and went on the Haunted Train Ride. We chose three winners for the best pumpkins—it was a hard decision!!!



Ella Wagner



Lyric Haupt



Anni Mackel

Thanks to all those who made this fun night of fellowship possible!!

WORSHIP



JOINT THANKSGIVING SERVICE—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

We are invited to share in the celebration of Thanksgiving in a joint worship service at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway Road in Saginaw. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

ADVENT SERVICES

As we celebrate the season of Advent, we will worship and prepare with the following Wednesday services:

December 5th:	Hanging of the Greens
December 12th:	Holden Evening Prayer with the focus on preparation
December 19th:	Christmas and Mourning



Consider making these Advent services part of your preparation for Christ!



FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

It is that time of year once again to start planning and practicing for our Annual Family Christmas Worship Service. Please save the dates and plan on being a part of the service.

We will need some help to make this a wonderful and meaningful service. Here are some roles we need filled:

Children's directors:	We need two adults to help with this portion
Set and prop crew:	We need a few people willing to take on making of sets and props
Music helpers:	Ability to sing not required, just a willingness to work with children and have fun
Costume crew:	Gather, adapt or make the costumes we need

If you are interested in helping at all, please contact Bob Aldrich or Jen Salowitz for more information.

Rehearsal dates:

November 11th:	Practice during Sunday School hour
November 18th:	Practice during Sunday School hour Speaking/acting part rehearsal 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (<i>following church</i>)
December 2nd:	Practice during Sunday School hour
December 9th:	Practice during Sunday School hour Full cast walk-through practice 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (<i>following church</i>)
December 15th:	Dress rehearsal 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
December 16th:	Family Christmas Worship 10:30 a.m. worship service

The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the December 2018 issue is
Monday, November 19th at 12:00 noon.

Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We continue our Tuesday morning Bible Study of the book of Acts. The class is held from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Martha to Mary Women's Bible Study will begin on Monday, November 5th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. We will be studying, *"Laughing in the Dark: A Bible Study on the Book of Job"* by Chonda Pierce. In a unique and entertaining way, Job is studied through the lens of a woman. Chonda parallels her life and many women's experiences to Job's struggles and enduring faith. The writer is an American comedian often billed as "The Queen of Clean." She has been making audiences laugh for decades simply by sharing stories about her southern upbringing. Cost for the six-week study is \$10.00 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. 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.



OTHER

SCRIP CARDS

SCRIP Cards are a great Christmas gift for friends and family!! Please see the order forms on the table in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Durow at 860-2716.



NOMINATIONS NEEDED

The following positions are available for election at the Annual Budget/Election meeting on December 2nd: Vice-President, Treasurer, Minister of Congregational Care, Minister of Outreach, and Synod Assembly Voting Members. If you are interested in any of these positions, or you have questions, please contact Steve Salowitz.

SAGINAW METRO MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

Please join us on Thursday, November 8th at 8:00 a.m. to help distribute food at the pantry. Your help is appreciated!!



FALL FELLOWSHIP AT GABBY'S

Please join us on Monday, November 12th at 5:30 p.m. at Gabby's for food and fellowship. Please sign up on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

THANKSGIVING GIFTS

As part of your Thanksgiving offering, you are invited to share the fruits of the harvest. In previous years members have contributed wine to be used for communion and the response has been overwhelming—more than enough for the year. This year the Altar Guild is inviting you to help with monetary donations for communion wafers and bread used each week for communion. ***Monetary donations or wine (Mogan David Concord) will be received at worship on Sunday, November 11th and Wednesday, November 14th.*** Your contributions will be a way you can become a part of preparation for each service and help defray the cost.



OTHER

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Chancel for the Advent and Christmas season, please see the poster on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. Cost is \$10 per plant and must be paid before the plant is ordered. Please leave your payment envelope in the basket in the Church Office. **Order Deadline is Sunday, November 18th.**



HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

We are participating with Swan Valley High School to collect household and personal products for Christmas packages for families in need. Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, laundry soap, dish soap, dryer sheets, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, lotion, body wash, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, deodorant, etc. Items may be placed in the Gathering Area beginning Sunday, November 25th. All items should be delivered to the church no later than Sunday, December 16th. Thank you!!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please join the Altar Guild as we decorate for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 1st beginning at 9:00 a.m. A luncheon will be served for all following the decorating. Everyone is welcome to come help prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Hope to see you there!



Become Part of Our Church Family

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Ascension will receive new members on Sunday, December 2nd and Wednesday, December 5th. To get more information, please join us on Sunday, November 4th and/or Sunday, November 11th during Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. This time is for those who have questions and would like to discuss them with Pastor Julie and current members of the congregation.

Also please schedule a time to meet with Pastor Julie if you have not already met with her, and complete the form found at: <http://www.ascensionlc.org/forms-communications/>. If you are transferring from another congregation, please contact that congregation to have them mail us the transfer.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

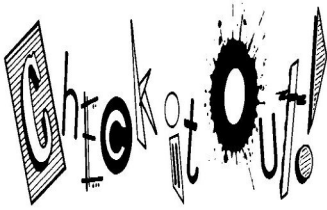
Our Congregational Meeting to approve the budget and elect council members will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at approximately 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please attend to see our working plan for the financial resources to meet our goal to Boldly Make Christ's Vision Known.



SHUT-IN CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Everyone is invited to help put together Christmas Baskets for our shut-ins on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The baskets will be filled with home-made baked goods, jellies, hand cream or a little gift. We are looking for donations of baked goods or whatever you wish for each basket. This will be a fun evening and a wonderful way to remember our members that can't worship with us on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please contact Edna Bell at 642-8130.

OTHER



A DAY OF LEARNING AND SHARING SKILLS—JANUARY 12TH

What skills do you have? What skills would you like to learn? Some ideas are basic knitting, crocheting or other crafts, beginning yoga/Zumba/exercise, makeup skills, decorating cookies, photography or how to use tools. I am looking to see if there is interest in this and for people willing to share their skills. Please contact Charleen Boland at charboland52@hotmail.com or 781-5623.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 4th	Given in Memory of Jerry Arnst by Leslee Arnst
November 11th	Given to the Glory of God by Jack and Delila Colpean
November 18th	Given to the Glory of God by Tanya Blehm
November 25th	Given to the Glory of God by Kathy McNally



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.

Daylight Savings Time Ends!

*Be sure to set your clocks
back one hour before you go to bed on
Saturday night, November 3rd.*



MEMBER NEWS



FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to these youth who received their First Communion in October: Maliyah Johnson, Harrison Salowitz and Dylan Gottlieb. Welcome to the Lord's Table.



MEMBER NEWS

November Birthdays

2nd	John Robishaw	19th	John Whelton
4th	Jan Faerber	20th	Bill Gottlieb
	Samantha Leffler		Barb Yancer
	Micaela Richardson	21st	Mason Friend
5th	Rick Hamilton, Jr.		Carol Hall
6th	Kathy York	22nd	Joyce Storm
7th	Jason Enright	23rd	Madison Huston
	Johnny Whelton	24th	Heidi Osterloh
10th	Connie Dutcher	25th	Richard Borm
11th	Jayde Wakeman		Makenzie Collier
12th	Bob Watz		Peggy Darling
13th	Delila Colpean	26th	Nathan Gottlieb
	Eric Lentner		Emerson Hendrick
15th	Bryan Joslyn	28th	Nan Buckey
	Russell Morgan		Lindsay McNally
17th	Dylan Gottlieb		Erin Peters
18th	Kayla Berg	29th	Nick Espinoza
	Waylon Earnesty		Ruth Jakes
	Donna Fries		

Anniversaries this Month



1st	Mike and Jan Faerber
	Chris and Ashley Howe
2nd	Brian and Cheryl Huebner
6th	Wayne and Dorothy Mayou
8th	Bryce and Megan Wakeman
12th	Bob and Tracy Aldrich
24th	Brad & Kelly Phillion

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 - Serenity Springs, 1413 Gratiot, Saginaw, MI 48602

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

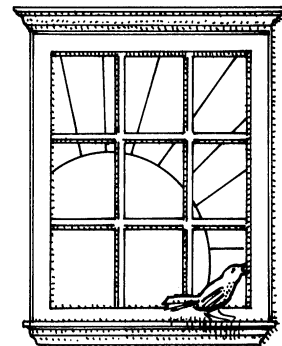
Helen Nothelfer - 302 Fulton Street, Room 108, St. Charles, MI 48655

Heidi Osterloh - 9345 Geddes Road, Saginaw, MI 48609

Ray Sundek - 770 Cheryl Street, Saginaw, MI 48609

Marcy Schafer - 8049 Area Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

Marv Yancer - 8936 N. Brookshire Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Marie Stuart

INFORMATION FOR OPIOID MISUSE

Opioids include prescription medications used to treat pain such as morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, hydromorphone and buprenorphine. The national opioid epidemic knows no age boundaries. Emergency room visits for suspected opioid overdoses for people aged 55 and over increased 32% in 2017, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to research by the Department of Health and Human Services, hospital stays related to opioid misuse among adults 65 to 84 more than quadrupled over a 20-year period ending in 2012.

Patients have the power—and the responsibility—to guard against opioid misuse. When visiting the doctor, you should:

- Share medical history openly, including any history of drug use or addiction.
- Update your medication list to help your doctor assess interactions between medicines.
- Take medications only as prescribed.
- Seek immediate help from your doctor if side effects or unexpected symptoms appear.
- Discuss alternative pain management strategies.

At home, you should:

- Keep all medication away from children.
- Never share medications with others.
- Never mix pain medications with alcohol or sleeping.

Most opioid abuse happens because someone other than the patient uses the drug, so proper disposal of medications is critical. Tips to remember when you have opioids or other prescriptions at home:

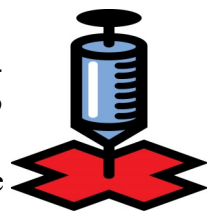
- Some medications come with disposal directions, including whether they can be flushed down a toilet or disposed of in household trash. If you have any questions, a pharmacist can explain how to safely dispose of medications.
- Many communities have prescription drop-off days at police stations or city halls. In addition, the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration maintains a database of drop-off locations. Go to bit.ly/disposalsite to search by zip code or city.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, Best of Health-Delta Dental

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Ascension held a flu shot clinic during October with a local drug store. The pharmacist provided flu shots for our congregation and twelve members received the vaccine. Thanks to all who participated. Get a flu shot soon if you have not already done so. Please stay well this winter!!!

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



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, November 11th 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.

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

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

- 4 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
11 Marv Lentner/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
18 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
25 David Witker/Tom Page & Jim Stuart

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

- 4 Madison Morgan/Lyric and Diedre Haupt
11 No Acolyte/Brooke Richardson
18 Maliyah Johnson/Anni Mackel & Kat Milbrandt
25 No Acolyte/Will Salowitz

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

- 4 Lynn Schomaker/Chris Crump
11 Ruth Schomaker/Shelly Dawson
18 Charleen Boland/Lisa Espinoza
25 David Witker/Tom Page

Friendly Callers

- 4 Bonnie Cavendish
11 David Witker
18 Sue Bailey
25 Bonnie Cavendish

Hospital Callers

- 4 Bettie Lyle
11 Sandy Graham
18 Rick Hamilton
25 Carol Lange

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

- 4 Patty Hamilton/Steve Haupt
11 Marty Debozy/*No Reader*
18 Dan Durow/Linda Luplow
25 Tom Erskine/Tom Page

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

- 4 Larry Nuechterlein/Bob Aldrich
11 Larry Nuechterlein/*Volunteer Needed*
18 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
25 Ben Salowitz/Bob Aldrich

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

- 4 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter
11 Tom Bailey/Steve Salowitz
18 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter
25 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

- 7 Glen Mack
14 Bill Gottlieb
21 *No Service*
28 Mike Clifford

Readers

- 7 John Schroeder
14 Larry Nuechterlein
21 *No Service*
28 Mike Clifford

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 7 J. Schroeder/Ben Salowitz
14 R. Van Marter/Glen Mack
21 *No Service*
28 J. Schroeder/Connie Dutcher

Prayers

- 7 Connie Dutcher
14 John Grolle
21 *No Service*
28 Mike Clifford

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.*