



# The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 3

March 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

## 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 BAPTISM**

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." ~Galatians 3:27-28



The season of Lent is a time to renew our baptism. In the Small Catechism, Luther teaches that baptism brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare. In baptism, we receive new birth, each and every day.

Therefore, Luther encourages us to remember our baptism daily. Since water is the earthly element, I often will make a sign of the cross on my forehead when I am showering, doing dishes, or washing my hands. It is that frequent reminder that I belong to God.

In baptism, we also make a covenant with God where we promise to:

- live among God's faithful people;
- hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;
- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- serve all people following the example of Jesus; and
- strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Baptism is an entrance rite of the church. Some congregations place their baptismal font at the entrance of the church so people pass it on the way into worship, as well as signifying the sacrament as an entrance into the worshipping community. In March, a baptismal font will be placed in the entry way. You are invited to dip your fingers into the font and make the sign of the cross if you desire—renewing the commitment you have made and reminding you of the promises God made with you.

As we enter into this season, consider ways in which you might live out your baptismal covenant—this might include adding in daily scripture reading or prayer, invite someone to worship or an event, encourage a friend who is ill or in need, visit someone who is sick or homebound, serve in the community, intentionally save extra money to donate to disaster relief or a community agency, or pray for someone you need to forgive.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." ~Acts 2:42, 46-47

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## YOUTH

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### 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](http://www.elcalivingwater.com).



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all high school students and parents. There is a scholarship grant available for graduating seniors that are members of Ascension. The scholarship packets, which include the guidelines and application form, are available in the Church Office. *Application deadline is March 31st.*

### 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](mailto:trammlou@sbcglobal.net) to participate or for more information.



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## WORSHIP

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### LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please join us on Wednesday, March 6th for our Ash Wednesday services at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

During the season of Lent, our Wednesday evening worship will focus on the 23rd Psalm. Holden Evening prayer will shape our service, and we will work our way through the psalm each week as follows:

March 13th—Psalm 23:1  
March 27th—Psalm 23:4  
April 10th—Psalm 23:6

March 20th—Psalm 23:2-3  
April 3rd—Psalm 23:5

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. and make these Wednesday evening services part of your Lenten discipline.

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## WORSHIP

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### NOT YOUR NORMAL WORSHIP

On Sunday, March 10th at 5:00 p.m., we will begin 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!!!

The theme for March 10th is “Show Up”, and the theme for March 24th is “God Creates”.

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## OTHER

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### 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.



### 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, March 6th and Wednesday, March 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.



### 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 corned beef dinner will be available along with all of Gabby's favorites. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

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## OTHER

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### WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

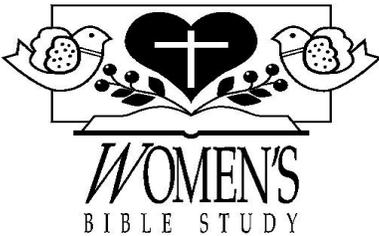
Ascension's Outreach Ministry is asking for your help with our Weekend Backpack Food Program. We are currently filling and delivering backpacks of food each week to 58 elementary school children in the Hemlock, St. Charles and Swan Valley school districts. These are children identified by the schools as not having adequate access to food when home on the weekends.



This program continues to grow and we are reaching out to you for help. The cost to fill one bag is approximately \$5.00. This amounts to \$20.00 a month to feed one child. So far, we have been able to sustain the program through grants and donations, but our funds/resources are running low. Please consider the following options for ways that you can help:

1. Bring your change/bills for our Noisy Offering on Sunday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 20th.
2. Consider "adopting" a student by donating \$20 a month to cover their food costs.
3. Make a financial donation amount of your choosing to the program.
4. Purchase grocery items that can be used in our bags. A complete list is posted on Ascension's Facebook page.

We thank you in advance for your help. ***Let's really make some NOISE on March 17th and March 20th!!!***



### MARTHA TO MARY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

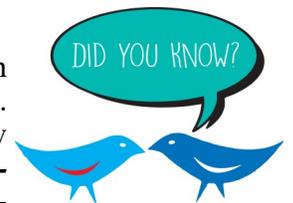
The Martha to Mary Women's Bible Study will begin on Monday, March 18th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. We will be studying, "Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All", by Karen Ehman, and we would love for you to join us! The author explores what the Bible says about when to speak, when to remain silent, what to say in social media posts, why "just sharing a prayer request" might be gossip, and why self-talk matters, too.

Using words well leads to healthier relationships and the joy of seeing what God can do when He's the one who speaks. Cost for the six-week study is \$8.00 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 (989)274-6787 or email her at [carltonrich@ameritech.net](mailto:carltonrich@ameritech.net).

### BERTHA H. WILSON FAMILY TRUST FUND

The Saginaw County Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America (ELCA), working in cooperation with the N/W Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA, administer the Bertha H. Wilson Family Trust Fund. It supports ministries of the ELCA congregations in Saginaw County. ***The grant application must be submitted to the Church Council for approval before submission. The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 19th and will review the applications. Once approved, applications need to be submitted and postmarked by April 12th.***

This is one of the rare opportunities for Ascension to acquire funding for those special projects that are in the minds/plans of the congregation. Let your imagination run wild, and let's apply for a grant(s). Please keep in mind, projects which will benefit the community and serve as a source of outreach have a higher probability of being approved. Forms are available in the Church Office.



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## OTHER

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### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications 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.*** We want to thank the following people for serving on this committee: Dawn Dalton and Dave Huston whose terms have recently ended; current committee members Bob Dillendeck, Lori Page and Ruth Jakes; and our newly-appointed members Lisa Whelton and Andy Friend.

### EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase a plant to decorate our Chancel on Easter Sunday, fill out an envelope (located on the Kiosk) complete with your name and flower choice. Please place your payment in the basket in the Church Office. All plants are \$10, and include Easter Lilies, Daffodils and Tulips. Payment must be made before orders are placed. Please make your checks payable to Ascension Altar Guild. ***Order deadline is Sunday, March 31st.***



### 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

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.



### COMING SOON—4TH ANNUAL RISE UP SOCCER CAMP 2019

Watch the Church Gathering Area, Ascension Website and Facebook for volunteer information. We would like to add assistant directors for each director position this year to begin training our replacements. If you have any questions, contact Bob Aldrich or Dave Dawson.

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## OTHER

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### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MARCH

March 3rd	Given in Honor of Nikki Herren's Birthday by Bonnie Cavendish
March 10th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
March 17th	Given in Celebration of Cole's Birthday by Brian and Lisa Stadler
March 24th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
March 31st	<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.

*The MESSENGER* is published monthly by  
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the April 2019 issue is  
**Monday, March 18th at 12:00 noon.**

Articles may be emailed to [ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com](mailto:ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com).

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## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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### A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23

Approximately seventy books have been distributed or picked up for the congregational book read. A few remain available on the table in the Gathering Area. We have had a group meet the last few Saturdays in February; and if enough interest is expressed, the discussion group time will continue into March as some attendees were unavailable for the first few sessions. If you are interested in participating in a discussion group but just received the book or started reading the book, please contact me at (989)980-0309 or the Church Office at 781-2170 so we can properly schedule. In any event, I trust your reading of the book will result in greater appreciation and understanding of Psalm 23 and our Good Shepherd.

Because the congregational read was a Thrivent sponsored event, I said we would have opportunity to pay it forward by making a special offering to Mustard Seed and/or Teen Challenge. Both are ministries Ascension has supported in recent years. Special envelopes for this purpose are on the table in the Gathering Area. **All are welcome to participate.** Please take an envelope and make your gift part of your worship offering.

Larry Nuechterlein  
Ministry of Congregational Care

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## MEMBER NEWS

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### March Birthdays

1st	Edna Bell	19th	Dan Durow
	Roger Koppenhofer		Rebecca Enright
	Chris Trier		Gregory Wortley
	John Whelton	20th	Darren Dancer
2nd	Erika Collier		Jacob Faerber
3rd	Nikki Herren	21st	Ella Wardlow
	Steve Salowitz	23rd	Andy Friend
7th	Debra Beyerlein		Heidi Mackel
	Dana McClure		Brett Phillion
	Joyce Richardson	24th	Jacob Crook
12th	Ella Frollo	27th	Robert Bolger
15th	Diane Kolinski		Lillian Hendrick
16th	Bob Mancini		Amy Kolb
18th	Cole Stadler		Mitchell Turner
		29th	Tracy Aldrich

### 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

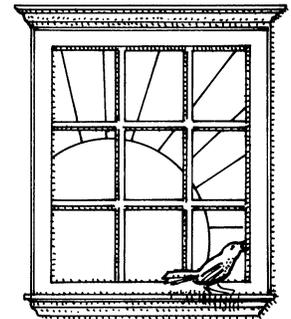
**Helen Nothelfer** - 302 Fulton Street, Room 108, St. Charles, MI 48655

**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



### BAPTISM

Pierce William Doerr, son of Jonathan and Amanda Doerr, was baptized on Sunday, February 10th. Pierce's sponsors are Scott Luplow and Stephanie Meyer. May God bless Pierce with His gift of grace.

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## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

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### 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](mailto:billandsarag@charter.net). Sara will provide additional information and assistance.

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.



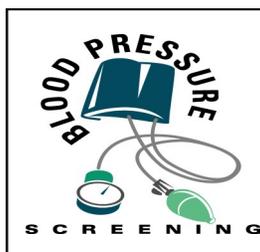
### HONDURAS MINISTRY: MISSION TEAM—MARCH 2019

On March 14th, a Team of five volunteers from Michigan will travel to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to teach health-related workshops. We have been in a companion synod relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Honduras Lutheran Health for Life ministry for over 12 years, sharing our faith stories and learning from each other. Please keep the Team of Max Quero, Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas, Janet Alcántera, Jamie Royalty and Linda Stark in your prayers as they prepare for their journey. The group will work closely with Honduran medical professionals as well as the leaders of the Lutheran Church of Honduras.



A vital part of our mission is empowering health volunteers in the poorest of neighborhoods. Access to water filters for clean water, healthy lunches for kindergarten children, HIV/AIDS education, dental hygiene workshops and basic first aid instruction has made a difference for our Honduran sisters and brothers in Christ. We pray for the Team's safety, for meaningful and effective workshops, for strengthening of relationships and for their peace. The Team returns to Michigan on March 21st with stories and photos of their experiences. After the April Honduras Team Meeting, we plan to share highlights of their work.

Bill and Sara Gregor, Honduras Team



### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

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

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## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

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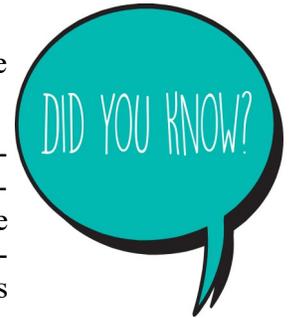
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Health Highlights by Steven G. Haupt, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

### MARIJUANA IS LEGAL...NOW WHAT?

Marijuana was made legal for medical use in the State of Michigan in 2008. It was made legal for recreational use in the fall of 2018.

Under the original law, marijuana was made legal to treat a number of conditions, including chronic pain, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, cancer, glaucoma, posttraumatic stress disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and others. It was *not* made legal to treat anxiety, depression, asthma, non-chronic pain, schizophrenia, or social anxiety disorder. Research on the effects of marijuana treatment for chronic pain patients has found "modest evidence" of its effectiveness.



Supporters of the law legalizing marijuana for recreational use have suggested that it is no worse than alcohol. Supporting that, an average of 88,000 deaths occur due to alcohol each year (mostly driving-related), while zero deaths can be attributed directly to marijuana use. If you drink alcohol and drive, you are 2,200% more likely to be involved in a car accident. If you smoke marijuana and drive, that figure is "only" 83% more likely. Ergo, it's not a good idea to do either. Incidentally, a University of Michigan study showed that over 50% of medical marijuana users had driven within two hours after smoking it, with over 20% describing themselves as being "very high" at the time. The introduction of legal marijuana for recreational use is unlikely to decrease the number of high drivers.

Heavy drinking may cause blackouts or immediate difficulty forming memories. Heavy use of marijuana, particularly among younger individuals, has been associated with long-term problems with learning and memory. Neither substance is considered safe for use during pregnancy. As reported by drugabuse.com, a longitudinal study found that heavy users of marijuana lost an average of 8 points off their measured IQ between the ages of 13 and 38; that's a significant loss in intellectual ability. Note that IQ's of healthy individuals are stable over time.

Is marijuana addictive? According to the Centers for Disease Control, yes, it can be. One in ten users of marijuana becomes addicted. For individuals under the age of eighteen, that figure is one in six. By contrast, the National Institute of Health reported in 2015 that 6.2% of Americans over the age of 18 suffer from alcohol use disorder. 86% of adults report some use of alcohol. That means that about one in fourteen people who drink alcohol abuse it. In other words, marijuana is more addictive than alcohol.

Harvard Health (as reported by drugs.com) indicates that the risk of heart attack is significantly elevated in marijuana users in the hour after smoking. Also as reported by drugs.com, the amount of carcinogenic chemicals in marijuana is 50-70% higher than in tobacco.

The following are also associated with frequent use of marijuana: lower life satisfaction, poorer physical health, poorer mental health, increased relationship problems, and lessened academic and career success.

In summary, just because marijuana has been legalized for recreational purposes does not mean it is a benign substance. It is a drug with many harmful effects; it can cause both physical and cognitive problems if used heavily over a long period of time, as well as to negatively impact one's life in a variety of areas. Hopefully, Michigan citizens will proceed with caution in responding to this change in the law.

References: [www.michiganradio.org](http://www.michiganradio.org); [www.freep.com](http://www.freep.com) (Detroit Free Press web site); [www.drugabuse.com](http://www.drugabuse.com); [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); [www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov); [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com); [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

*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.

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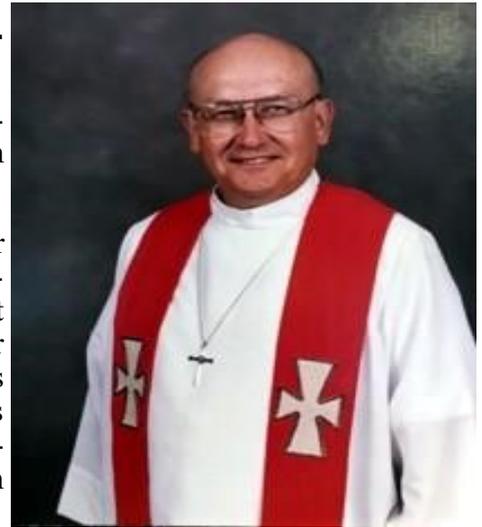
## IN MEMORY

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### IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDING PASTOR, JACOB “JAKE” E. KNOEDLER: MARCH 18, 1933—DECEMBER 18, 2018

The founding pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church passed away in December. His name was Pastor Jacob Knoedler. He came to Shields in 1959 to start a mission church.

He and I graduated from Capital University in 1956. Capital is our church’s college in Columbus, Ohio. It is next door to our ELCA Theological Seminary. Like many of the men in our class, Jake moved next door to study and become a pastor in the Lutheran Church. After the four years required to become a pastor, he was a Youth Pastor at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Roseville (Detroit). After one and a half years he was assigned his first church....Ascension. St John’s Lutheran Church in Saginaw had purchased seven acres of land for developing a “Mission Church” west of town, on the corner of Gratiot and Van Wormer Roads.



Pastor Jake, as he became known to us, organized our congregation and built the first sanctuary, a pagoda-like design that he felt would be unique enough to be remembered. He and his family lived in a “parsonage”, the house on the very south corner of the property. The house was built by a member of our church, George Wilson, Tim Wilson’s father.

Beverly and I moved to Saginaw with three very small children four years later, in the summer of 1964, to find Ascension, with my good ping pong and golf buddy from Capital University, now the pastor. We became good friends with Jake and Martha. They showed us how to “camp” and our kids grew up together. We immediately became solid members of Ascension, and Jake asked us to lead the Luther League. Classes met Sunday mornings in our home on Herbert Drive, one block from the church, with about a dozen teenagers, including Rusty Van Marter and Barbara Schomaker, who we now know as Rusty and Barb Van Marter.

We remember Pastor Jake for his kind and strong leadership. He led Ascension for four and a half years and got us started in growing what is now our home, Ascension Lutheran Church. He went on to establish a church in Jackson, Michigan; and after that he moved to Florida, where he became a spiritual leader in the communities of Orlando and Melbourne.

Jake, may you Rest in Peace. We thank you for showing us how to build and grow a church. We pray God’s blessings for you; for many, you were our first look at a Pastor and Disciple of His church.

*Roger Koppenhofer*

That gives you a little idea of the impact that Pastor Jake had on Ascension. We are so grateful that God sent him to start our church. He was very thankful that he was able to come in 2011 to help us celebrate Ascension’s 50th Anniversary. There were many special memories shared. ***If anyone would like to sign a sympathy card to be sent to his daughter and son in Ann Arbor, please stop into the Church Office and sign it by Sunday, March 10th.***

*Rusty and Barb Van Marter*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Thank you to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to attend the annual meeting that was held on February 17th. Most of us are not fans of meetings in general, but the annual meeting is important for several reasons. First, as you may know, this meeting is required per our constitution to be held in February. Secondly, the annual meeting is designed to recap the past year's activities, but more importantly put them on record officially. Finally, the annual meeting is one of the avenues the congregation has to make our voices heard. So thank you to the 31 members who attended to allow official church business to occur.



One question posed at the annual meeting was regarding average worship attendance from 2018 vs. previous years. Although council sees a monthly report for each individual month's giving and attendance compared to the previous year, we do not keep or report a yearly running total. This kind of accounting is tracked at the Synod level; we submit a report to them yearly. The report contains a variety of statistical information, including giving and attendance. In this report you will find interesting tidbits such as, we received more members than we removed in each of the years 2013 to 2017. Average worship attendance of baptized membership is roughly on average around 22% (math majors, this is not an exact average), with a high of 23.9% to a low of 21.8% (data source 2010-2017). Average weekly worship attendance in 2017 was 170 and in 2018 it was 159. If you are a numbers junky and want more of this data, check out the ELCA website report for Ascension at: <http://www.ELCA.org/tools/updatcongregation>.

Are you one of God's sheep? Are you a cast sheep? Maybe your wool is matted down? Are you stuck in a valley, or meandering your way to higher ground? Do you know your shepherd? Does he use a staff or rod to guide you? If you understand these questions, then you are enjoying "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23" and better yet, attending a discussion group. If you have no clue what I'm talking about, you haven't started reading or haven't gotten your copy of the small, but insightful book that explores our relationship with our shepherd. It is worth your time to read, reflect, and join a discussion group.

I am going to give my age away, and maybe only a few of you will get this when I say: "The Roof, The Roof, The Roof is Leaking!". Never fear, because our Trustees are on it. They have been patching to the best of their abilities and they have been researching a solution. The council met with representatives from the Trustees and they have agreed on a plan to fix the roof in 2020. We have some seed money donated via estate planning from one of our members who recently passed. Look for more information to come.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

***Daylight Savings Time  
begins on  
Sunday, March 10th.***

Don't forget to set your clocks  
ahead on Saturday, March 9th



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## SERVING IN MARCH

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### 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  
 31 *Volunteer Needed*/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein

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

- 3 Dick Schomaker/Lisa Whelton  
 10 Marty Debozy/*No Reader*  
 17 David Witker/Chris Crump  
 24 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton  
 31 Charleen Boland/Shelly Dawson

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

- 3 *No Acolyte*/Joscelyn Whelton & Sabrina Wagner  
 10 *No Acolyte*/Sophia Milbrandt  
 17 Mackenzie Morgan/Anni Mackel & Olivia Wagner  
 24 *No Acolyte*/Brooke Richardson  
 31 *No Acolyte*/Gabby Dalton

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

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

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

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

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

- 3 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter  
 10 Madison Morgan/Steve Salowitz  
 17 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter  
 24 Marty Debozy/Josh Crump  
 31 Marty Debozy/Steve Salowitz

### Friendly Callers

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

### Hospital Callers

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



### WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers	Readers	Sound Board/Video Screen	Prayers
1:00 6 Ruth Schomaker	6 Ben Salowitz	6 R. Van Marter/Connie Dutcher	6 Connie Dutcher
7:00 6 Mike Clifford	6 John Schroeder	6 Bob Aldrich/Ben Salowitz	6 Mike Clifford
13 Glen Mack	13 <i>No Reader</i>	13 J. Schroeder/ <i>No Video</i>	13 <i>No Prayers</i>
20 Mike Clifford	20 <i>No Reader</i>	20 R. Van Marter/ <i>No Video</i>	20 <i>No Prayers</i>
27 Bill Gottlieb	27 <i>No Reader</i>	27 J. Schroeder/ <i>No Video</i>	27 <i>No Prayers</i>

*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.*