

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 7

MINISTERS

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

<u>Staff</u>

Julie Bailey, Pastor Bob Aldrich, Education Coordinator Jennifer Salowitz, Musician/Choir Director Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse Cheryl Huebner, Secretary Dawn Dalton, Custodian Lauren Huebner, Supplemental Custodian Ruth Schomaker, Supplemental Custodian Nicole Crump, Nursery Attendant Britt Aldrich, Supplemental 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

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as



July 2019

of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. —Acts 2:1-4

It is mid-summer already. The summer season begins in the Church with the story of Pentecost, when the Spirit of the Lord comes upon all gathered in order that they may be sent to share the good news. The Spirit empowered and equipped them, just as the Spirit does for the Church today. Martin Luther, in the explanation of the Third Article of the Creed, states that the spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, makes holy and keeps. With the Spirit, we are crucified and risen with Christ and shaped for relationships with the wider world, in authentic and vulnerable ways.

As our congregation continues to gather in worship, fellowship, prayer and study—we gather in the name of the Holy Spirit. As we worship and praise God, we are also brought face to face with the reality of brokenness in humanity and in the world. As we read from the gospel of Luke we see Jesus at the margins of society, places where people are often unseen and unheard. As disciples we are sent out to the margins, to see and to listen, to encounter and understand.

As I write, I am in the final mental preparations for our youth event partnered with the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. We just visited two homeowners where we will do some significant work on their homes in the Houghton Jones neighborhood of Saginaw. As with every summer, I am thinking about the opportunities I have for sleeping somewhere other than my bed—this time on the floor of an elementary school. And then I remember, I will at least have somewhere to lay my head—not as soft and comfy as my bed, but in a way it does remind me that not all people are privileged to have a place to call their home and their bed. I pray that the young people, and the adults who experience this event, will listen and see those in our community that often go forgotten as we lay our heads in more comfortable places.

It is also time to think about the Back to School Fair. Based on the attendance last year, we are expecting fewer children, yet we will give our best to those that come. Bob and his team have been working hard on getting ready for Soccer Camp, which is another opportunity to welcome both people who call Ascension their church home and those who are visiting for the first or one of many times.

May the Spirit empower us all this summer, as we share the good news of Jesus Christ in the many ways the Church goes out. May the Spirit be with you!

Worship



NOT YOUR NORMAL WORSHIP

Join us on June 30th, July 14th, and July 28th 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!!!

Youth

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GATHERING

This year our 6th—12th grade youth are invited to youth nights following the "Not Your Normal Worship" services. We will begin around 6:00 p.m. on the following Sundays:

June 30thJuly 14thAugust 11thAugust 25th

July 28th



The Gaga Ball pit will be available, as well as some yard games. We will have some crafts, food, campfires, and a place just to hang out. Because we are starting earlier, we will include a movie on most nights if people desire. Of course, friends are welcome!

If you can provide snacks to share and/or bring some games, that would be great. We also need some firewood for the bonfires.

***Adults and parents—need some people to sign up to help chaperone and lead, or this will be cancelled due to our Child Safety Policy.



SUMMER CAMP

Elementary, middle and high school youth will be attending camp at Stony Lake from July 7th—12th. Watch for other opportunities.

MICHIGAN ADVENTURE TRIP

We will be going to Michigan Adventure on Tuesday, July 16th from 8:00 a.m. midnight. This event is open to all youth going into the 6th grade—12th grade. The cost is \$60.00 if paid on or before July 3rd. After July 3rd the cost is \$65.00. Checks should be made to Ascension. Friends are welcome!!! Permission slips are required (available on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area). Bring sunscreen, snacks for the bus and money for food at the park. *Because we have space available, this trip is now open to families who wish to go.*





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. More information is available on the table in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Aldrich at trammlou@sbcglobal.net.

OTHER

RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISER

We are asking for your help to raise money to re-shingle our roof. The cost is approximately \$20,000 and the project will take place during the summer of 2020. *So far we have a total of \$8,236.* You can support the campaign by buying a "square of shingles" at \$100, or you can give any amount you like. No donation is too small!! There is a display table in the Gathering Area with envelopes designated for this fundraiser. Envelopes are also available in the pews. Donations may be placed in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Fries or Tom Bailey.





GRACE LUTHERAN MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund (GLMEF) was created in 2014 to carry forward the legacy of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA, of Saginaw. Its purpose is to support local mission outreach in the Saginaw Metropolitan area and within the County of Saginaw and is administered under the N/W Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA. Only the investment earned income derived from this fund is used. Applications are available in the Church Office and must be postmarked by Thursday, August 1, 2019. Grant awards will be mailed by September 1, 2019.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

All people of faith are called to care for God's Creation. Because Michigan still generates more than 1/3 of its electricity by burning coal, conserving energy is one way Ascension can help repair the world. Learn how to save money, take advantage of a free home energy analysis program, and earn a



gift of up to \$2,000 cash for Ascension. *Please tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this great opportunity as well!!* Contact the Church Office at 781-2170 if you are interested in signing up for this free analysis program.



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 or are interested in helping to sort the clothing.

COLLECTING NEW SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR

This year we have printed tags that list specific gender and sizes of socks and underwear for the Back to School Fair. This is to ensure that we have the sizes most needed for the event. Please check out the bin in the Gathering Area, and take a tag (or more) and return the socks and underwear to the bin. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Crump at 284-0370 or Nicki Crump at 751-8633.





RUMMAGE SALE Our Annual Rummage Sale is July 18th and July 19th from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and July 20th from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Proceeds will benefit our "Raise the Roof" fundraiser. Put the dates on your calendar so that you can help work the sale.

> Here is your opportunity to help now! We need sorters prior to the sale. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. If there is a time that you and a small group would be available, you can add that time.

The Trustees are arranging people to help get the merchandise out and back in the garage each day, but more hands make less work. So even if you are not signed up, please come and help if you can. It's fun!!!! A signup for the sale days will be posted on the Kiosk as well.

Oh, and don't forget to bring your stuff in for us to sell!!! Donations may be dropped off during regular office hours. Please call the Church Office to make sure someone is available to open the garage. Thanks in advance for helping to make this a successful event!!

CELEBRATION OF PASTOR JULIE'S ORDINATION

The congregation, friends and colleagues of Pastor Julie will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of her ordination on Sunday, July 21st. The Open House reception will be held between services beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. Please join us for some light refreshments.





TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will meet again beginning on Tuesday, July 23rd with the reading of 2 Peter. All are welcome!!

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

We will be hosting our annual Back to School Fair on Thursday, August 8th. We are off to a great start with the purchasing of undies and socks, and we have received several bags of clothes that will need sorting. Your help is needed. The event is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., but we will go as long as people are there to get supplies.





TIME AND TALENT

Christian Stewardship is about faithful use of all God has given us: time, talent, possessions and money. A Time and Talent Sheet provides the opportunity for every person in the congregation to share his/her gifts and ways in which they may serve as disciples together with the congregation. Our goal is that every person will complete one, no matter how old or young we are! Every person has something they can do.

Time and Talent Sheets are available at the church and on Facebook. You can also download and complete it on the church website or sign into your Breeze account and complete it under the Time and Talent section. We are the church together!!!

"HONOR...YOUR LEADERS IN THE LORD'S WORK." I THESSALONIANS 5:12 NLT

If you want to encourage your pastor and leaders:

•Cut the criticism. Many leaders are evaluated annually based on their job performance; pastors are evaluated weekly. Remember, if a particular sermon doesn't scratch where you itch, probably some -body else needs to hear it.

•"Remember your leaders who taught you the Word." (Heb 13:7) Pray for their spiritual growth. Living your faith is a journey. Grow and celebrate along the way.

•Write a note or e-mail. Especially when something your leader says or does ministers to you. Verbal encouragement is good, but a note can be read many times.

•Put your talents to work. Ask where your skills are most needed and become an active member. Are you mechanically inclined? Service the pastor's car or make a home repair.

^oSquash gossip. James (1:26) said "If you...don't control your tongue...your religion is worthless." Counter negative talk with positive comments. Correct misinformation with truth.

•Be openly responsive. Nothing encourages leaders like seeing people respond to their preaching, teaching or leadership responsibilities.

•Lose the measuring stick. Instead of expecting them to serve as you think they should, thank God for your pastor's individual style and special gifts to minister as needed.

From "The Word for You", Bob Gass Ministries December 14, 2018

Congratulations, Pastor Julie, as you celebrate 20 years dedicated to serving the Lord! Our praise and thanks to God for you.

Sara Gregor, Ascension Member and Parish Nurse

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JULYJuly 7thGiven in Celebration of Morgan and Casey's Birthdays
by Brian and Lisa StadlerJuly 14thGiven in Honor of Jack Herren's Birthday
by Bonnie CavendishJuly 21stGiven in Celebration of Pastor Julie's OrdinationJuly 28thGiven in Celebration of Kristen's Birthday
by Cheryl Huebner

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.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed July 1st through July 5th. Please contact Pastor Julie at 574-5663 if you need pastoral care during this time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

It is summer, and it is time to imbibe. I will define it as Webster defines it, in case you are unfamiliar with the term as two of my colleagues were during a recent study session. Imbibe, defined as "to take in with the senses, drink in, absorb; to inhale; to take into the mind and keep, as ideas, principles, etc...." Possibly not the definition some of you were thinking, but at any rate, go ahead and imbibe. It is the time of year to absorb some sunshine (if you can find it amongst the rain clouds),



inhale the fresh air, the smell of fresh cut grass, the air of the sea or lake. But don't forget to keep our Lord's ideas and principles in your mind as you do so this summer—worship continues whether at home or on vacation. Don't forget to imbibe in His word.

Spiritual Health: Besides imbibing his word...Soccer Camp is happening July 22nd—July 25th. Sign up to volunteer and participate!! It will be here before we know it. This is a great way to share Jesus with our youth and the youth in the wider community. This is our fourth year of hosting this event. If you think back, this was a revolutionary idea and event for Ascension; we stopped VBS and started Soccer Camp. Since its conception, we have impacted the lives of 142 kids and 120 volunteers. We want to continue our success reaching the youth of the community and spreading the teachings of Jesus, but this requires new leadership to carry on this endeavor. Interested in getting the youth of our community to imbibe the wisdom of Jesus while playing soccer? Talk to Bob Aldrich about leading this awesome opportunity.

Finance & Resource Management: We began in May of 2017 pledging 1% for mission support. Two years ago this was scary. Our financial status was just beginning to become more solid; think not wondering how to pay our staff. Yet, we imbibed. We took into mind His teachings and principles (first fruits giving) and two years later, here we are. We are giving 5.5% for mission support as of July 1, 2019. This is amazing!! When we unleash the Holy Spirit by enacting his principles and deeds, the unthinkable happens. Speaking of unthinkable, how successful have you been at keeping your grass cut so far this season? God has blessed us with more rain than we know how to use, making keeping up our lawns a challenge. I want to personally thank our Trustees and Mowing Team for keeping Ascension looking good during this difficult mowing season. The rain has not only made keeping the lawn up a challenge, but keeping the leaks from happening. If you haven't given to the "Raise the Roof" fund, please do so. Buying a "square of shingles" may seem daunting, but if we all follow his first fruits teachings, like we did in May 2017, we will have this roof leakproof in no time.

Outreach: We are doing just that: "to reach farther (than); exceed; surpass." You know you are doing this when you are getting your teeth cleaned and your hygienist tells you her neighboring (non-ELCA, non-Lutheran) church is going to partner with you to feed the youth of the community. I was speechless, and not just because my mouth was full of dental instruments; something Ascension started has gotten the attention of other churches in the area. Imagine the possibilities if many tackle this issue? How many could the collective impact when we have impacted nearly 60 students weekly as the school year ended? Speaking of outreach...don't forget the Back to School Fair on August 8th. Donate your time, socks and underwear, and gently used kids clothing. We need everyone's support and hands to make this event successful.

Congregational Care: If you haven't already, fill out the Time and Talent Sheet on Breeze. Breeze is our new church accounting software with amazing capabilities. It can track giving (which we always have confidentially via church envelope numbers), as well as baptismal, marriage and death dates to name a few. Besides normal church statistical data, it can track spiritual gifts. Better yet, we are now able to push messages on various platforms (text for example) to select individuals/groups, making communication amongst church members more nimble. Example—communication to usher team for upcoming Sunday. It could happen with Breeze if we all do our part and sign in and enter our data.

So imbibe! Imbibe the sunshine between the clouds. Imbibe the wonders of summer—crackling campfires, fireflies, rhythmic lake waves, early morning sunrise and a sunset or two. Imbibe in all the gifts that God has given us as Christians.

In Christ's Service, Kris Yackel-Friend

Member News

1st	Dorothy Mahl	14th	Ellen Foley
2nd	Marisa Richardson		Jack Herren
	Makena Whelton	15th	Sally Schultz
	Don Wight	16th	Nancy Arms
3rd	Barb Robishaw	17th	Carolyn Ball
	Tammy Webb		Barb Huston
4th	Leslie Denman	18th	Gabby Dalto
	Hugh Dickie		Ron Fries
	Michael Kolinski		Elliot Naples
5th	Ahren Awad	20th	Casey Stadle
	Diedre Haupt	21st	Barb Van M
	Arlene Neuenfeldt	25th	Bev Daubert
7th	Ray Sundeck		Molly McGr
	Amy Wortley	26th	Norm Hamil
8th	Dave Dawson		Dick Schom
	Dan Wenzel	28th	Gus Hendric
10th	Morgan Stadler		Anthony Na
12th	6	29th	Adalynn Hei
13th	Lija Preston		Ben Salowitz
	Danielle Wenzel		

July Birthdays

Anniversaries this Month

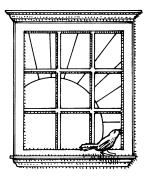


- Herren Schultz v Armstrong yn Ballien Huston v Dalton Fries Naples v Stadler Van Marter Daubert v McGrandv Hamilton. Sr. Schomaker Hendrickson ony Naples ynn Hendrick Salowitz
 - Bob and Laura Mancini 6th
 - Luke and Danielle Hendrick 7th
 - Pam and Dietrich Mackel 8th
 - Jim and Wanda Dankert 11th
 - 18th Bob and Gina Dillenbeck
 - 20th Ken and Laura Schian Everette and Sally Schultz
 - 22nd Tony and Melanie Dancer
 - Rick and Allison Hamilton 23rd
 - 28th Darcy and Diane Lobsiger-Braden
 - Jeff and Lisa Whelton 29th

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 Mary Yancer - 8936 N. Brookshire Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609 Delila Colpean - 302 Fulton Street, Room 103, St. Charles, MI 48655



Member News

Alice Lily Champion, daughter of Shane and Sarah Champion, was baptized on Sunday, June 23rd. Sponsors are Marianne Palmieri and Dr. Roseanne Palmieri. May God bless Alice with His gift of grace.

Brooks Louis Druelle, son of Barry and Amber Druelle, was baptized on Sunday, June 23rd. Sponsors are Ashley Druelle and Jonathan Cox. May God bless Brooks with His gift of grace.



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Sharon Boyd

COMMON SIGNS OF ELDERLY ALCOHOL ABUSE

Not everyone who drinks regularly has a drinking problem and not all problem drinkers drink every day. If you notice any of the following behaviors or incidents in an elderly loved one, it may indicate alcohol abuse.

•Drinks to calm nerves or forget their problems

°Quickly gulps down drinks

•Lies about or tries to hide their drinking habits

•Has hurt themselves or someone else while drinking

•Has a high tolerance and needs more alcohol to "feel" its effects

•Is irritable or resentful when not drinking

•Increasingly isolates themselves and avoids participating in activities that do not include alcohol

Many elders are clever about hiding their bad habits, so family and physicians can't always be blamed for not addressing them. If you suspect your loved one is abusing alcohol, notifying their family physician is critical for providing treatment for them.

There are many types of treatment available. Twelve-step programs and individual or group counseling can all be successful for recovery. Many programs also include marital and family counseling as part of the treatment.

"Let all that you do be done in love"-1 Corinthians 16:14

 $Source: \underline{https://agingcare.com/articles/alcohol-abuse-elderly-parents133827.htm}{}$

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE

Support the Back to School Fair with a blood donation. MI Blood will again be part of the Back to School Fair on Thursday, August 8th. Donation times are 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. MI Blood will give us grant funds (\$5 for each person attempting to donate) IF we meet our goal drive of 22! A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gathering Area or you can contact the Church Office. Walk-ins are also welcome. Let's make this a success!!



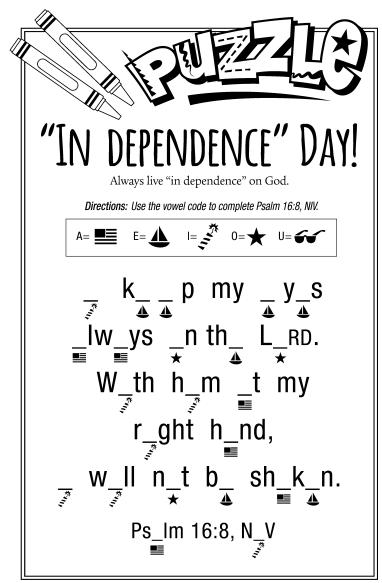


BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

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

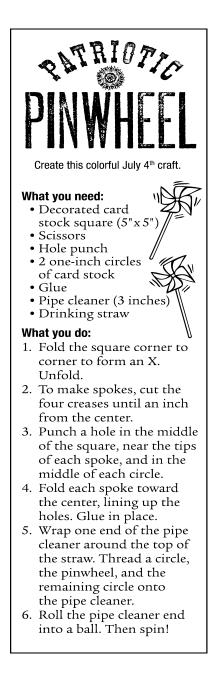
Health Highlights are brought to you by the Parish Health Committee whose members are Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse, Sharon Boyd, Jennifer Deaton, Dr. Steve Haupt, Marie Stuart, Joan Ford, Kris Friend and Traci Collier, DC.

KIDS PAGE



I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand,



SERVING IN JULY

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

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

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

- 7 No Acolyte/Gabby Dalton
- 14 No Acolyte/Katiana Milbrandt
- 21 No Acolvte/Diedre Haupt
- 28 No Acolyte/Alexis Richardson

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

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

Friendly Callers

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

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

- 7 Tom Erskine/Linda Luplow
- 14 Joan Ford/Lynda Goward
- **21** Patty Hamilton/Steve Haupt
- 28 Dick Schomaker/Linda Lentner

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

- 7 Larry Nuechterlein/Bob Aldrich
- 14 Melissa Czubaj/Steve Salowitz
- 21 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
- 28 Melissa Czubaj/Steve Salowitz

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

- 7 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter
- 14 Will Salowitz/Josh Crump
- 21 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter
- 28 Marty Debozy/Will Salowitz



WEDNESDAYS

Sound Board/Video Screen

3 No Service

Pravers

3 No Service **10** Mike Clifford

17 Connie Dutcher

- **10** John Schroeder/Ben Salowitz
- **17** Rustv Van Marter/Glen Mack
- 24 Connie Dutcher **31** Mike Clifford

31 Joyce Richardson

Readers

3 No Service

10 Mike Clifford

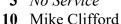
17 Steve Salowitz

24 Larry Nuechterlein

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.

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

Head Ushers **3** No Service



- 17 Bill Gottlieb 24 Glen Mack
- **31** Bill Gottlieb

24 John Schroeder/Connie Dutcher **31** Rusty Van Marter/Glen Mack