



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 9

September 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
Ruth Schomaker, Supplemental Custodian
Nicole Crump, Nursery Attendant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Message	1-2
Christian Education	2-5
Other	5-7
President's Message	7
Member News	8
Health Highlights	9
Serving This Month	10
Calendar	11

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

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

This is a song we have sung at camp, in worship, and many of us hum as a reminder that God dwells in us. Each week we worship in a place we call sanctuary, a place where we strive to be safe and welcoming to all.



At the Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA by majority vote approved the following:

- To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy "Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities" (AMMPARO);
- To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial;
- To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS, and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary;
- To declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a sanctuary church body;
- To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

For many, we heard about this breaking news on one of the 24-hour news stations, stating that the "ELCA would, 'get this', become the first sanctuary church body; pledging to shelter illegals and fight deportation." It then spread throughout social media with people assuming and picking up on tidbits without actually listening or investigating what this means.

(Continued on page 2)

First, the passage of this memorial does not advocate for any breaking of law. It does ask that we accompany people in their journey, walking alongside as Jesus commands us to love—advocating for the rights of all humans as are the rights given to us by God and the rights defined by our own country.

We are a sanctuary church, have been long before this designation. I would hope every church was a sanctuary by definition—not as the political system has come to redefine. “With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.” Amen.

For more information, you can go to <https://www.mittensynod.org/news/sanctuary-church/> to find a response from Bishop Satterlee and to find more information about what this means to us as people of faith.

If you would like to talk more about this, we will be meeting at Gabby’s on Monday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m. for “Conversation and Cocktails”. Feel free to come early and eat.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is that time of year again when we return to our normally scheduled program. This year we are starting a new curriculum called Whirl. This program will help increase our children’s knowledge of Biblical stories that are the foundation of our faith. Below you will find some key dates listed for you, along with some other really helpful information on the upcoming year.



Key dates—mark your calendar (more dates to come):

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ◦Now—September 8th: | Register your child/children at the table in the Gathering Area. |
| ◦September 8th: | Attend Rally Day at 9:15 a.m. Come together to sing some awesome songs, meet your teaching team and enjoy some snacks. Parents will have the opportunity to talk with Bob and ask questions. |
| ◦September 15th: | First day of Sunday School—meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. for a large group opening. |
| ◦December 1st: | No Sunday School—Thanksgiving weekend. |
| ◦December 22nd/29th: | No Sunday School—Christmas break. |

Meet your teaching team:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ◦Pre-School/Young 5: | Nicki Crump and Chris Crump (long-term sub) |
| ◦Kindergarten—5th Grade: | Steve Salowitz, Dawn and Waylon Earnesty, Joscelyn Whelton, Makena Dawson, and Mackenzie and Madison Morgan. |



RALLY DAY

We will be kicking off Sunday School on September 8th at 9:15 a.m. with Rally Day. Come and find out what we have planned for an exciting year as we begin an all new program. We will sing some songs, meet our opening team and spend some time with the teachers. I cannot wait to see everyone there! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob at 781-4714.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ATTENTION PARENTS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

It is confirmation time again! Any youth in the 6th—8th grades are welcomed and encouraged to participate in our Confirmation Program. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning students and to invite any new students to join us. If you would like more information on the program or would like to join, please email Bob Aldrich at trammlou@sbcglobal.net.

Pastor Julie and I have revamped the program so I would like to highlight some of the key aspects:



- The scripture portion of the program will take place on Sunday mornings as a part of the Bible study Pastor Julie will be leading. She has sent a separate letter outlining the program, and you will be expected to attend the classes or complete the required make-up work for the classes.
- On Sunday evenings (see schedule below) I will lead various sessions on the Catechism, fun and fellowship, other religious facility visits and service projects. From time to time guest teachers will be invited to lead our study.
- New this year...we are adding a co-operative aspect to the program for parents. On our Rally Day Kickoff I will have a sign-up sheet with dates listed, and we are asking that you sign up to chaperone at least one of the Sunday evening sessions. You do not have to teach, but you would be there as an extra set of hands if needed and to provide adult coverage to meet the policy of the church.
- We will still be working off the point system, with required classes and other sessions to add up to the required points to be able to be confirmed.
- Rally Day Kick Off—September 8th at 6:30 p.m.: This is a mandatory evening class; all youth and parents who want to be a part of our Confirmation Program must plan on attending. I will present the program, we will have a question and answer session and then have some fun and fellowship.

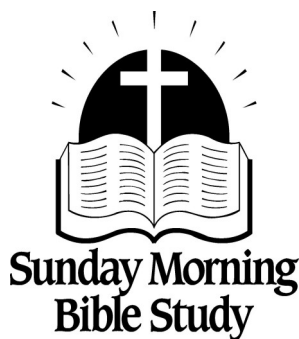
Confirmation Class Schedule

9/8/2019	6:30—7:30	Rally Day/Group Games	Ascension
9/22/2019	6:00—7:30	Intro to Catechism	Ascension
10/6/2019	6:00—7:30	Catechism Part 2	Ascension
10/20/2019	6:30—7:30	Halloween Party	TBD
11/3/2019	No Class		
11/17/2019	6:00—7:30	Justification	Ascension
12/1/2019	6:30—7:30	Christmas Caroling	TBD
12/15/2019	6:00—7:30	The Christmas Story	Ascension
1/12/2020	6:00—7:30	Tour another religious building	TBD
1/26/2020	No Class		
2/9/2020	6:00—7:30	Catechism Part 3	Ascension
2/23/2020	6:00—7:30	Fun Night	TBD
3/8/2020	6:00—7:30	Church Polity	Ascension
3/22/2020	No Class		
4/5/2020	6:00—7:30	TBD	
4/19/2020	6:00—7:30	Visit/work at a shelter	TBD
5/3/2020	6:30—7:30	End-of-year party	Ascension

I look forward to working with you to have a great year. Thanks!!

Bob

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



LEARNING THE STORY—THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.—Hebrews 12:1

This year during the Sunday School hour, we will be offering a 31-week course called “The Story” using a book by Max Lucado. This class is open to all 5th graders through adults. Each week, participants will have read the chapter assigned and then we will discuss in class. This is a great opportunity for young people and their parents, along with the young and mature members together in the Word.

Cost of the book is \$14.00. We will have some available for you to borrow and return. For those youth or adults who want to consider being confirmed, this would meet your requirements of the Biblical Story. The class will primarily be led by Pastor Julie.

- September 15th: Chapter 1—Creation
- September 22nd: Chapter 2—God Builds a Nation
- September 29th: Chapter 3—Joseph

Please join us at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings!!

MARTHA TO MARY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Martha to Mary Women’s Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 16th from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at Ascension. The study is based on the book, “*The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*”, written by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. We will journey through the Jewish roots of Jesus and the ancient paths of Israel. Cost for the six-week study is \$9.00 for the participant book. We’ll learn more about the Rock (Jesus), the Road (Israel), and the Rabbi (Jason Sobel) as we study the Land Where It All Began. 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 in the Gathering Area so we may order the appropriate number of participant books. For questions or more information, contact Joyce Richardson at 274-6787.



FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion preparation will be held on Saturday, September 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. During this class, youth will learn the history of communion, the understanding of communion, make bread and paint a communion chalice. The practice at Ascension is that children baptized may begin to commune on a regular basis following their First Communion instruction. This is determined through mutual conversation with the pastor, child and parents. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 6th. Please contact Pastor Julie if you have questions or you believe your child is ready to receive this instruction.

Please complete the following form and return it to the Church Office.

Child’s Name: _____ Parent Phone #: _____ Age: _____

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS—GREAT LAKES GATHERING

Registration for Great Lakes Gathering begins September 2nd and will be held February 7th—9th in Kalamazoo. The format will be a little different than in previous years. Youth have the opportunity to choose one of the following tracts for focus during their time at Gathering:

- Faith & Jesus
- Faith & Service
- Faith & Worship
- Faith & Peer Ministry
- Faith & Justice
- Faith & Science



Cost will be \$160. Registration forms are available on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area, on Facebook and on the church website.

For more information, check out www.elcalivingwater.com.

OTHER

NOISY OFFERING

We will be taking a Noisy Offering for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday, September 15th and Wednesday, September 18th. This noisy offering will help cover the cost to ship our school kits. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause.



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 \$10,735.*** 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.

LAST CHANCE—ENERGY EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS—SIGN UP TODAY

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 Tom Bailey at 239-3928 if you are interested in signing up for this free analysis program.



OTHER



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped us through this difficult time with your thoughts, prayers, cards and expressions of love. Special thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful luncheon following Courtney's Celebration of Life.

The family of Courtney (York) Favazza

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Back to School Fair, from the volunteers who worked and set up, to the sorting, donating, and praying! We couldn't do it without you.

This year we gave away about 400 backpacks and school supplies, met our goal of 22 (and more) units of blood donated, had over 70 volunteers working, and gave away almost all of our clothing.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m.



The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the October 2019 issue is
Monday, September 16th at 12:00 noon.

Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

OTHER

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 1st	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
September 8th	Given in Memory of Kristi Bujouves by Sheila Dambro and Dan Roth
September 15th	Given in Memory of Susan Lentner by Marv Lentner
September 22nd	Given in Memory of her Husband, Bruce by Carol Lange
September 29th	<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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Filling in for Kris this month, I respectfully submit my "best effort" version of the President's Message for September.



Outreach: We want to send out a huge THANK YOU to the many that volunteered and/or donated to the Back to School Fair!! This event continues to be a big success with nearly 400 bags being handed out this year! Ascension continues to shine and be recognized as a leader in our community and beyond with our outreach efforts! We can all be proud and thankful for "God's Work Our Hands" being displayed.

Finance & Resource Management: Thank you to all that have contributed to our "Raise the Roof Fundraiser". We continue to get closer to our goal of raising \$20,000. We now sit at \$10,735 (as of August 25th)!! If you haven't done so already, please stop by our "Raise the Roof" table in the Gathering Area and learn how you can help! If you have not picked up your financial statements, please do so ASAP. This helps us to save money on mailing costs. As 2020 draws near you will hear and read more about "Grateful Giving"! Please be reminded that all 2020 Budgets are due to the Council no later than Tuesday, September 17th.

Human Resources Update: Nikki Crump has been selected as our new full-time Nursery Attendant. The congregation and our littlest worshippers are excited to have Nikki on board! Chris Crump and Brittany Aldrich will serve as Supplemental Nursery Attendants. Ascension is looking for applicants to fill our open custodial position. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact myself or the Church Office. This position is so vital to our building and its operations and will need someone who takes great pride in work well done. If you have any questions or candidates, I am happy to discuss them with you.

In Christ's Service,

Gus Hendrickson, Vice President

MEMBER NEWS

September Birthdays

2nd	Alex McClure	18th	Melissa Hostetler
3rd	Ella Wagner	20th	Emily Hamilton
	Jayne York	21st	Samantha Beyerlein
4th	Betty Cliff		Diane Lobsiger-Braden
5th	Jennifer Dickie		Noah Ryder
	Jim Stuart		Rusty Van Marter
6th	Leslee Arnst	22nd	Emily Edsall
	Jack Colpean, Jr.	23rd	Jenny Maier
	Jenny Nielsen	24th	Brock Vasquez
10th	Marie Leonard	27th	Carl Boland
12th	Jamie Waters		Makenna Dawson
13th	Nancy Kozak		Max Dawson
14th	Annie Nielsen		Ethan Earnesty
16th	Kris Friend		John Schroeder
17th	Nathan McClure	28th	Ron Schultz
	Nathaniel Ryder	29th	Linda Lentner
	Lori Schultz	30th	Amanda Doerr
	Brandon Wardlow		Alicia Lopez

Anniversaries this Month

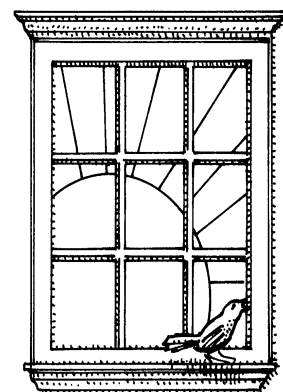


1st	Robert and Rita Bolger
18th	Scott and Kim Anderson
20th	Ed and Lisa Espinoza
24th	Jonathan and Amanda Doerr
26th	Jason and Rebecca Enright
27th	Russ and Melissa Morgan

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
Leslee Arnst - 2815 N. Orr Rd., Hemlock, MI 48626
Bev Daubert - Candlestone Assisted Living, 4124 Waldo, Midland MI 48642



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

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

DIVORCE IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

It was difficult for me to find a verse for this article that I felt comfortable sharing here; the Bible's words about divorce are, for the most part, very harsh (perhaps I need to be more accepting of the discomfort?). Yet, even Christian men and women face the reality of divorce all too frequently.

The American Psychological Association reports that 40 to 50% of marriages in the United States end in divorce; 11% of the adult population is currently divorced; 25% of adults have had at least one divorce in their lifetime.

Divorce rates for Christians as a group are lower. According to George Barna of the Barna Research Group, divorce rates for various Christian denominations range from 21% to 34%. Lutherans and Catholics are at the low end of that range.

So why do Christian couples divorce? For many of the same reasons that all couples might divorce: unwillingness to forgive a partner's mistakes and shortcomings, financial conflicts, infidelity, anger, verbal and physical abuse, substance abuse, "secret sins" (negative habits hidden from one's spouse), parenting differences, selfishness (looking out for one's own wants over the needs of the relationship), a sense of entitlement, greed (monetary and otherwise), dishonesty, disappointment (feeling as if one's spouse has not done enough to "make" one happy), and differing values or priorities. Note that most of these reasons have in common a focus on the self rather than on the marriage.

Practicing faith appears to be the key to maintaining a commitment to marriage. Bradley Wright of the University of Connecticut found that couples identifying as Christian and attending church regularly divorced at a much lower rate than couples identifying as Christian, but rarely attending. More to the point, Harvard University's School of Public Health found that couples attending church *together* divorced at a rate 47% lower than couples that did not. In other words, couples in which one partner attends church regularly, and the other does not, are far more likely to divorce than couples who attend church together.

It is not identified faith, but being practicing Christians, that aids marital commitment—and to practice that faith *together*. Shared faith activities, such as attending worship together, prayer, and sharing the Word all give strength to the marital bond. Faith should lead us to patience, kindness, forgiveness, honesty, faithfulness, and putting the needs of the relationship above the desires of the self—all ingredients for a healthier marital relationship.

References: focusonthefamily.com; christianitytoday.com; religioustolerance.com; apa.org; thepublicdiscourse.com; crosswalk.com.

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not that way from the beginning."—Matthew 19:8



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, September 8th 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 SEPTEMBER

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

- 1 David Witker/Jim Stuart & Gus Hendrickson
- 8 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
- 15 *Volunteer Needed*/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
- 22 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
- 29 David Witker/Jim Stuart & Gus Hendrickson

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

- 1 Charleen Boland/Chris Crump
- 8 Marty Debozy/Shelly Dawson
- 15 Tom Erskine/Barb Van Marter
- 22 Joan Ford/Lynda Goward
- 29 Dick Schomaker/Steve Haupt

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

- 1 *No Acolyte*/Sophia Milbrandt
- 8 *No Acolyte*/Makena Whelton
- 15 *No Acolyte*/Sabrina Wagner & Elizabeth Kolb
- 22 *No Acolyte*/Gabby Dalton
- 29 *No Acolyte*/Alexis Richardson

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

- 1 Charleen Boland/Bob Aldrich
- 8 Larry Nuechterlein/Steve Salowitz
- 15 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
- 22 Melissa Czubaj/Will Salowitz
- 29 Charleen Boland/Bob Aldrich

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

- 1 David Witker/Karen DeLaRosa
- 8 Lynn Schomaker/Shelly Dawson
- 15 Ruth Schomaker/Chris Crump
- 22 Charleen Boland/Lisa Espinoza
- 29 David Witker/Karen DeLaRosa

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

- 1 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter
- 8 Madison Morgan/Josh Crump
- 15 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter
- 22 Marty Debozy/Ashley Blehm
- 29 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter

Friendly Callers

- 1 David Witker
- 8 Sue Bailey
- 15 Bonnie Cavendish
- 22 David Witker
- 29 Sue Bailey



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

- 4 Bill Gottlieb
- 11 Glen Mack
- 18 Mike Clifford
- 25 Bill Gottlieb

Readers

- 4 Joyce Richardson
- 11 Steve Salowitz
- 18 Mike Clifford
- 25 Ben Salowitz

Sound Board/Video Screen

- 4 John Schroeder/Ben Salowitz
- 11 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher
- 18 John Schroeder/Glen Mack
- 25 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher

Prayers

- 4 Mike Clifford
- 11 Connie Dutcher
- 18 Mike Clifford
- 25 Connie Dutcher

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.*