



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 10

October 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

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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

Grateful Giving 2020

One of the most precious gifts God offers us is the opportunity to share in the work of building a peaceful, just and loving world. Our participation in the care of the world and all that it holds requires the sharing of our resources so that the fruitfulness of good works can shape the world into the kind of place we all want to live, and bring about the kingdom God intends for all God's people. As disciples of Jesus we are much more than members of the church or a congregation. Disciples have a relationship with Jesus, and it is in the community of the congregation that we are nurtured and grow in faith, so that we can go out into the world and share the Good News with those we meet each day. We have much to be grateful for here at Ascension. We have disciples who are working in the congregation and in their daily lives to bring the mission of Jesus Christ to their community.

Research shows that being grateful has many positive impacts on our lives as individuals and a community. Expressing genuine gratitude on a daily basis can improve physical health, as well as improve quality of sleep, cardiovascular (heart) health and immune function. **Gratitude** promotes optimism and helps us to develop a more positive outlook. Too often we focus on what is wrong, but gratitude reminds us there is reason to be grateful.

During this month, you will receive the 2020 Stewardship information, and we are asking you to pray and determine what you are able to offer in gratitude for the work of this congregation and church.

As people of faith, I encourage you to stretch yourself a little further trusting that God will provide all you need. As people of gratitude, we will be thankful for what God has provided us and allows us to share. As people of generosity, we know we are called to make a difference in this world by sharing our resources.

(Continued on page 2)



On November 17th and November 20th, we will host Grateful Giving Worship. We invite you to bring your commitment giving card to worship to offer it to God, along with the offering. If you are unable to be present that day, mailing in your card or bringing it at another time is just fine. Your commitment will be for the calendar year of January 1, 2020—December 31, 2020. We all know that things will change in our lives and our giving may have to decrease or increase. But without a plan, nothing happens.

God asks us to give beyond our finances, so included will be a Time and Talent sheet to complete. If you need more copies, you can get them from the church.

God has plans for us at Ascension. As pastor with you, I am grateful for the work you all put into our mission. God is good, all the time!!!

OUTREACH

WEEKEND FOOD BACKPACK PROGRAM

An important part of our Outreach Program is providing weekend food backpacks to elementary-aged kids in need in three of our local school districts: Swan Valley, Hemlock and St. Charles.

Too many children are going home from school on Friday knowing that their next meal may not come again until they return to school on Monday. Every Wednesday our team of volunteers fill bags and deliver them to the schools. Each backpack includes two breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals along with healthy snacks, juice and milk. These bags ensure that the children in and around our community are being provided with nutritious food to eat.



Since starting this program in April 2018, the number of children we provide meals to has more than doubled and we expect that trend to continue. At this time, we provide 58 bags every Friday to kids in need. The cost of filling each bag is around \$5.50. Our funding so far has come from various endowments, congregational donations and support from the community at large. We have been fortunate to maintain this program and hope to be able to continue this important ministry.

We are following the command of Jesus to go to the people and teach what we have learned. Matthew 25:35-36 states in part, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”. These children will see God’s Promise that they are important in His eyes and will benefit from those disciples who are following His command.

We are committed to the promise that NO child goes hungry! If you would like to donate food for our backpacks, we are in need of the following items in individual sizes:

Cereal cups/boxes	Instant oatmeal packets	Applesauce cups
Pudding cups (non-refrigerated)	Peanut butter/cheese cracker packs	Jif “to go” cups
Granola bars	Juice/Kool-Aid pouches	Fruit snacks
Fruit cups	Goldfish crackers	Pretzel packs
Mac & Cheese cups	Chef Boyardee pasta cups	Cup of noodles
Organic milk boxes (non-refrigerated)		

For additional information, please e-mail Kathy York at kyork@svsd.us or contact the Church Office.

OUTREACH



THANK YOU

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. They have made our Weekend Food Backpack Program one of their three-month outreach ministries. They delivered carloads of food for the backpacks along with a cash donation to our program. In addition, Reverend Paul Biber and members of their outreach team stayed and helped us pack the backpacks.

OTHER

HELP WANTED

We are currently looking for a hard-working, dedicated, and responsible person to fill the part-time custodial position here at the church. Please see the Kiosk in the Gathering Area for a copy of the job description. If you are interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to the Church Office. Thank you!!



LIBRARY UPDATE

The display shelves outside the Library are accenting a number of fiction series available inside. The first few books in each series are on display for you to view and check out if they interest you. Three of the series are published by Guideposts which is the same company that supplies daily devotionals. The stories have mysteries to solve while told with Christian values.

The Amish series follows two young women friends in various adventures. The Tearoom series features two widowed cousins who run a tearoom in a small, tourist town in Maine. The Martha's Vineyard series follows a Kansas-born widow who inherits a cottage and lighthouse near cousins who are also close friends. The Florist series is not a Guidepost series, but is a similar type of literature. The basic character is a college botany professor who was downsized and now owns and runs the family flower shop on Orcas Island in Puget Sound outside of Seattle. She often acts as a forensic botanist for the local police. The other series is historical fiction instead of mysteries. It follows the Winslow family who are involved in major historical events from arriving on the Mayflower to World War I.

Each of these series is easy reading, some also in larger print. Look them over and check out those that may interest you.

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 so far we have a total of \$11,143.* 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



OTHER

SEWING GROUP

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, October 2nd and Wednesday, October 16th 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.

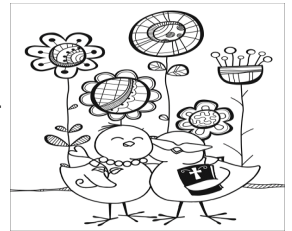


ANIMAL BLESSING

Join us on Saturday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m. for a Pet Blessing in the Pavilion. In the Scriptures, the act of blessing means 'the imparting of power or life.' The person performing the blessing is mediating that power from God or Christ to the person performing or the animal involved. To bless is more than an expression of goodwill and caring. To bless is to impart God's power and well-being. The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. We are going to bless the pets, and the human creatures that live with them. This is a great opportunity to invite friends—human and other creaturely friends.

BLESSING OF THE BIBLES

On Sunday, October 27th and Wednesday, October 30th we will bless Bibles. All are invited to bring their personal Bible to worship to receive a blessing.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Some people have been asking about Trunk or Treat. As of now, no one has come forward to coordinate the event. Pastor Julie will be out of town, so she will not be available to help. If you are interested in taking on this event, please contact the Church Office at 781-2170.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

The Altar Guild is offering you the opportunity to remember your deceased loved ones with white carnations. The carnations will be placed in the Sanctuary for worship on Sunday, November 3rd, and can be taken home after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The cost is \$1.50 per memorial. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. Sign up deadline is Sunday, October 27th. Please place payment in the basket located in the Church Office. Flowers must be paid for before they will be ordered.



The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the November 2019 issue is
Monday, October 14th at 12:00 noon.

Articles may be emailed to ascensionmessenger@yahoo.com.

OTHER



SCRIP ORDERS

Christmas is coming!!! Don't forget that you can order gift cards through our SCRIP program and a portion of what you spend comes back to the church, at no extra cost to you!!!

Orders will be placed on the third Monday of each month—so plan accordingly! Orders will be placed on the following dates: October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th (if there are a lot of orders, we may place an order on December 9th as well). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Julie. Order forms are available on the table outside of the Church Office. You can also find them online at <https://www.ascensionlc.org/forms-communications/>. Payments by cash or check are accepted. More information will be available about how you can place your order online.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

October 6th	Given in Celebration of their Anniversary by Bob and Dawn Dalton Given in Celebration of their Anniversary by Andy and Kris Friend
October 13th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
October 20th	Given to the Glory of God by Tom and Sue Bailey
October 27th	<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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY

All youth 6th—12th grades are invited to come have some Halloween fun and fellowship. We will have snacks, drinks, games and a hay ride through Kluck's Nursery. Bring a snack to share and feel free to come in a costume or your favorite fall attire.

When: October 20th
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: Ascension Lutheran Church

Contact Bob Aldrich at 781-4714 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to chaperone the event.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LEARNING THE BIBLE STORIES

On Sunday, October 27th we will be presenting a book of 365 Bible story readings to our three to five-year-old children. The idea is that as a parent, you will read a story to the child each day; and as they learn to read, they will read the story to you. The book also contains some prayers you may wish to teach.



2019 YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The ELCA Youth Leadership Summit is an annual gathering for high school youth identified as leaders and an adult representative from each synod. The 2019 Summit will equip the youth leaders through Peer Ministry Leadership. They will learn to welcome and include others in all situations promoting diversity and acceptance. They will learn to share God's love and grace through their daily connections, becoming aware of the hurts and needs of those around them and living out the Good Samaritan story. Through the peer ministry training the participants will learn how to be careful listeners, to guide healthy and purposeful conversations, to clarify concerns and values, to ask open-ended questions, make observations, and know when a task is too large and how to ask for help.

This year the summit is being held at Lutheridge Conference and Retreat in Arden, North Carolina. Makenna Dawson will be attending as she continues to serve on the Youth Leadership Core Team. Also attending will be Ben Salowitz, who was chosen to be one of the youth leaders from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Pastor Julie will be attending as the adult representative of our synod.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS—GREAT LAKES GATHERING

Registration for Great Lakes Gathering is open!! The event will be held February 7th—9th in Kalamazoo. You will have the opportunity to choose one of the following tracts for focus during your 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.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

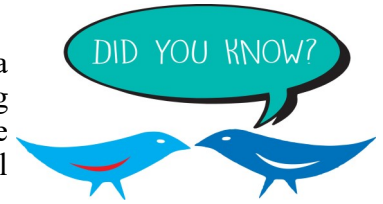
Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, October 13th after each worship service.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Kris Friend

MEDICARE FRAUD

Medicare fraud is the general term for knowingly billing the Medicare system for a service or supply that a beneficiary didn't receive; this includes a simple billing error, but more and more recently elaborate and deliberate schemes. Medicare fraud usually involves rogue health care providers or medical suppliers who bill the program for services, equipment or medication that they don't actually provide, or else inflate the cost of those items. Some will even falsify patients' diagnoses to justify unnecessary tests, surgeries and other procedures or write prescriptions for patients they've never examined. Others use genuine patient information, sometimes obtained through identity theft, to create fake claims.



Medicare and its more than 60 million beneficiaries are under attack from scammers eager to pillage the program. Their primary aim is defrauding Medicare itself—the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimated that the program lost about \$52 billion to fraud, abuse and improper billing in fiscal year 2017. Beneficiaries (you and I) bear some of the cost of rampant Medicare fraud, as the program's losses translate into higher deductibles and copayments. These scams can also be harmful to your health, as once you receive a particular test or piece of medical equipment (even if you didn't actually receive it), you may not qualify for it in the future, even if you now need it. The latest scam involves DNA testing for risk of cancer.

Beware of.....

- Use of telemarketing (calling you at home) and door-to-door sales.
- Gifts as incentives to use their services.
- Claims that Medicare endorses their products or services.
- Claims that they know how to get Medicare to pay for something that's not covered under your plan.
- A facility that advertises free services/consultations, specifically for Medicare patients.

Be safe and.....

- Don't give personal information to anyone who calls out of the blue and claims to be from Medicare, even if your caller ID shows an actual Medicare phone number. Scammers use caller ID spoofing to mask their location.
- Don't talk to anyone who knocks on your door or approaches you in person and claims to represent Medicare or to be selling Medicare-covered supplies.
- Don't accept money or gifts to use the services of a medical provider or device supplier.
- Don't be swayed by high-pressure tactics, such as a telemarketer's threat that Medicare will declare you ineligible unless you accept the offer of a "free" brace quickly.
- Don't consent if someone asks to bill you for a DNA test or other service if Medicare declines to pay for it.

Do the following to protect yourself.....

- Note the dates of medical appointments and the services received on a calendar, and save all receipts and statements from providers. A nice folder or manila envelope for each year works great.
- Do scrutinize your MSNs (Medicare Summary Notices) as soon as possible after receiving them. Make sure the dates/services listed are correct. If something does not look right, be sure to call your medical provider's office. Scrutinize your statements from physicians/hospitals before paying the bill.
- Consider signing up for electronic MSNs (eMSNs) to keep closer tabs on your account.
- Report fraud immediately! Call the Medicare fraud tip line at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). The TTY number is 1-800-377-4950. Email: HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."~Matthew 7:15

References: 1. aarp- MC fraud. June 17,2019. 2. eHealth Medicare.

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

MEMBER NEWS

October Birthdays

1st	Larry Preston	16th	Darcy Lobsiger-Braden
2nd	Paul Lopez	17th	Travis Lopez
4th	Sawyer Gottlieb		Will Salowitz
5th	Abigail Kolb	18th	Seraphim Darabos
	Peggy Lockhart		Mary Ecker
	Sue Wiggins		Halie Turner
6th	Tammy Haupt	20th	Sue Bailey
	Laura Mancini		Ella Bostwick
7th	Joshua Lopez		Madison Morgan
8th	Shelly Dawson	21st	Tom Bailey
10th	George Osterloh		Dwayne Hostetler
11th	Mike Faerber	23rd	John Nelson
12th	Jim Hayes	24th	Patricia Joyce
	Lori Latty	25th	Lucas Dreyfus
	Dietrich Mackel		Laraine Paquette
	Susie Nielsen	28th	Michael Clark
	Olivia Wagner	29th	Mitchell Andrus
13th	Bonnie Cavendish		Rylan Awad
	Tom Page	30th	Traci Collier
	Debi Pretzer	31st	Renae Dickie
	Lee Turner		Jaina Kittle
	Jeff Wenzel		Noel Wagner
15th	Brian Denman		
	Norm Hamilton, Jr.		

Anniversaries this Month



1st	Bob and Ellen Foley
2nd	Joe and Michelle Wardlow
7th	Bob and Dawn Dalton
8th	Jenny and Lisa Maier
10th	Andy and Kris Friend
	Leonard and Ruth Howell
	Tom and Lori Page
11th	Dwayne and Melissa Hostetler
13th	Jordan and Lauren Honeysett
	Hayes and Esther Mack
20th	John and Barb Robishaw
22nd	Gene and Nancy Burchfield
	Bob and Peggy Darling
23rd	Darren and Kami Milbrandt
29th	Nicholas and Jessica Hoffmann

MEMBER NEWS

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

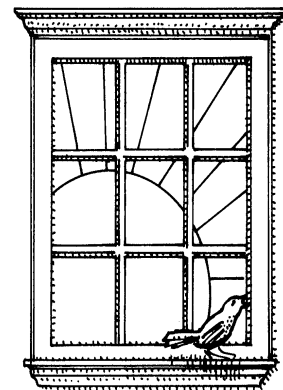
Marcy Schafer - 8049 Area Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Autumn is here and therefore, change is in the air. I personally love the change of the season, some more than others, fall being at the top of the list. The church is preparing for some changes that will occur over the next few months. Read on, as I highlight some of the changes that are on the horizon.

Spiritual Health: New microphones are coming! This is important to make worship a great experience and will help eliminate the “feedback” that is often heard during worship.

Finance & Resource Management: We have raised just over half the amount of money needed for our “Raise the Roof” fundraiser. The roof over the Library continues to leak every time it rains; therefore we will be replacing this portion in an attempt to prevent further damage this winter. We still have a good portion that will require addressing next year, once the remainder of the funds is obtained; this section just cannot wait. We have an open custodial position and need your help to fill it. If you love our church and know of someone who would too, please reach out to them.

Outreach: We continue to support students from three of our surrounding school districts with weekly nourishment.

Congregational Care: December is the Annual Budget Meeting and the Council will be presenting an updated constitution. The majority of the changes are required by the Synod, but there will also be changes that reflect our current organizational structure. We hope to post the constitution a month prior to the meeting. The Nominating Committee is forming...anyone interested?? Would you like to help slate our newest council members? Would you like to serve as one of the following on the 2020 Ascension Church Council: President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Minister of Finance & Resources or Minister of Spiritual Health? We are also in need of two (2) Synod Assembly representatives. If any of this sounds exciting to you, please reach out to me so I can answer your questions or connect you with the appropriate person.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

SERVING IN OCTOBER

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

6 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
 13 *Volunteer Needed*/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
 20 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton
 27 David Witker/Jim Stuart & Gus Hendrickson

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

6 Patty Hamilton/Linda Lentner
 13 Susan Kelley/Linda Luplow
 20 Larry Nuechterlein/Barb Van Marter
 27 David Witker/John Whelton

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

6 *No Acolyte*/Katiana Milbrandt & Olivia Wagner
 13 *No Acolyte*/Brooke Richardson
 20 *No Acolyte*/Ella Frollo & Makena Whelton
 27 *No Acolyte*/Sabrina Wagner

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

6 Melissa Czubaj/Bob Aldrich
 13 Melissa Czubaj/*Volunteer Needed*
 20 Larry Nuechterlein/*Volunteer Needed*
 27 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich

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

6 Lynn Schomaker/Shelly Dawson
 13 Ruth Schomaker/Chris Crump
 20 Ruth Schomaker/Lisa Espinoza
 27 David Witker/Karen DeLaRosa

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

6 Madison Morgan/Rusty Van Marter
 13 *Volunteer Needed*/*Volunteer Needed*
 20 Marty Debozy/Steve Salowitz
 27 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter

Friendly Callers

6 Bonnie Cavendish
 13 David Witker
 20 Sue Bailey
 27 Bonnie Cavendish



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

2 Mike Clifford
 9 Glen Mack
 16 Bill Gottlieb
 23 Mike Clifford
 30 Glen Mack

Readers

2 Larry Nuechterlein
 9 John Schroeder
 16 Joyce Richardson
 23 Mike Clifford
 30 Ben Salowitz

Sound Board/Video Screen

2 John Schroeder/Ben Salowitz
 9 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher
 16 John Schroeder/Glen Mack
 23 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher
 30 John Schroeder/Connie Dutcher

Prayers

2 Mike Clifford
 9 Connie Dutcher
 16 Connie Dutcher
 23 Mike Clifford
 30 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.*