



# The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 40, No. 12

December 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  
Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse  
Cheryl Huebner, Secretary  
Dawn Dalton, Custodian  
Ruth Schomaker, 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](http://www.ascensionlc.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Dr. Dennis O'Grady once said, "Change has a bad reputation in our society. But it isn't all bad—not by any means. In fact, change is necessary in life—to keep us moving, to keep us growing, to keep us interested. Imagine life without change. It would be static, boring, and dull."



Serving as your Council President has been anything but static, boring, or dull. It has truly been inspiring, faith building, at times challenging, but mostly an honor. I have had the honor to serve with individuals who were willing to take risks (new structure), who were visionary (developed a strategic plan/started new programs), who were critical thinkers (developed finance policies/moved us toward zero-based budgets), had faith (began first fruits giving), who were eager (to make sure we had the right staff/resources; to give up things so Ascension could succeed), but most of all those who put Ascension and our Lord before themselves—gave of their time and talents, and sometimes gave up their sacred cows for the good of Ascension!

Thank you to those who have served on the Council, the Finance Committee, the Trustees, and, of course, the staff during my tenure. I am sure I am missing someone or even a group of people, truly not by intent, but because I turned a certain age while in service to Ascension and cannot always remember what I did last week, let alone what happened over the last several years.

Change will occur in 2020; there will be new challenges to overcome, and some challenges that will still need to be addressed. We will WELCOME new Council members with new ideas and a new Constitution and Bylaws. I hope all of you will help me welcome these new leaders and support them as they help us discern what God is calling all of us at Ascension to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and Ascension.

In Christ's Service,

Kris Yackel-Friend

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## OTHER

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### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Come join our confirmation youth and others as we share the Christmas Message through song on Sunday, December 1st. Please arrive at Ascension by 5:45 p.m. to carpool, or you can meet us at Swan Haven Manor at 6:00 p.m. Just bring yourself and a willingness to sing along to those wonderful Christmas hymns. All are welcome!!!

### SEWING GROUP

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 4th and Wednesday, December 18th 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.



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Congregational Meeting to approve the budget, elect Council members and approve the constitution will be held on **Sunday, December 8th** at approximately 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in serving on the Congregation Council, please contact Gus Hendrickson. Copies of the budget and constitution are available for you to take home and review prior to the meeting.

\*C8.02c: Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation.

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Everyone is invited to help put together Christmas Baskets for our shut-ins on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The baskets will be filled with homemade baked goods, jellies, hand cream or a little gift. We are looking for donations of baked goods or whatever you wish for each basket. This will be a fun evening and a wonderful way to remember our members that can't worship with us on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please contact Edna Bell at 642-8130.



### HOUSEHOLD/PERSONAL ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

We are participating with Swan Valley High School to collect household and personal products for Christmas packages for families in need. Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, laundry soap, dish soap, dryer sheets, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, lotion, body wash, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, deodorant, etc. Items may be placed in the Gathering Area and should be delivered to the church no later than Sunday, December 15th. Thank you for your support!!

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## OTHER

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### SCRIP ORDERS

If you are planning on giving gift cards for Christmas, or know where you want to shop, consider purchasing gift cards through our SCRIP program. Each time you order, a percentage of what you purchase is deposited into an account at Ascension. Again, it doesn't cost you anymore than face value. We will place the next order on December 16th, and if there are enough orders we will place one on December 9th.

### RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISER

So far we have raised \$13,378 of the \$20,000 needed to repair our roof. You can support the campaign by buying a "square of shingles" at \$100, or you can give any amount you like. Envelopes are available in the pews and on the Kiosk. Donations may be placed in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Fries or Tom Bailey.



A big thank you to Holy Cross Lutheran School!!! The 7th graders at Holy Cross organized a school-wide competition to collect food for our Weekend Backpack Food Program. In all, they delivered 2,200 individual food items to our church. The 1st grade class won the competition collecting 400 items!! What a WONDERFUL way to show how churches can join together to support one another.

THANK YOU to our congregational members, as well, who are providing food and financial support to this program! We really appreciate it!!!

### FROM THE TREASURER

Any donation that you want recorded for 2019 must be given to the church by Sunday, December 29th. Also, if you have any bills that you need to be reimbursed for, please turn those in by Sunday, December 29th as well. Thank you!!!



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be closed Tuesday, December 24th—Wednesday, January 1st for the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2nd.

The Church Office will also be closed this winter if Swan Valley Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

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

Deadline for the January 2020 issue is  
**Monday, December 16th at 12:00 noon.**

Please email articles to [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net).

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## OTHER

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### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

December 1st	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
December 8th	Given to the Glory of God by Scott and Tanya Blehm
December 15th	Given in Memory of John Cavendish by Bonnie Cavendish
December 22nd	Given for All of God's Children by Jim and Marie Stuart
December 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.

**\*\*\*Beginning in January, the cost of flowers will increase to \$30.00!!\*\*\***

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## WORSHIP

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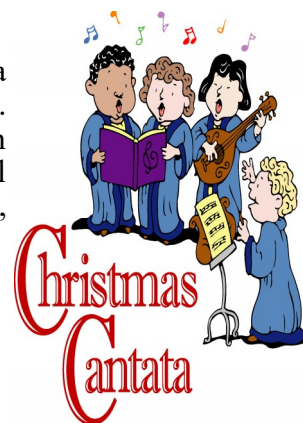
### ADVENT SERVICES

We will begin our Advent worship services on Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. Our theme this year is *All I want for Christmas*. Please make these upcoming services a part of your Christmas preparation: December 4th—Hope, December 11th—Peace, and December 18th—A Savior.

### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

This year we will be having a Christmas Cantata to celebrate the birth of our Lord as a part of our Annual Family Christmas Worship on Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 a.m. This is a Family Christmas Cantata so parents and older siblings are encouraged to join the celebration. We will be practicing songs with the children during the Sunday School hour. Practice dates and times are listed below. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jen Salowitz or Bob Aldrich.

- Sunday, December 1st: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.—Music/Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 8th: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.—Music/Sanctuary
- Saturday, December 14th: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—Dress rehearsal
- Sunday, December 15th: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.—Final walk through



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Nursery will be staffed during the 4:30 p.m. worship service.

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

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, or Faith & Science. Early registration is \$160 if registered by Monday, December 2nd. After that, registration cost will increase to \$185. 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](http://www.elcalivingwater.com).



### CHARGE 2020—MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT

The annual event at Great Wolf Lodge will be held March 20th—22nd. Cost is \$170 if registered by January 17th. Cost is \$195 after that date if space is available. Registration forms are available on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area, on Facebook, and on the church website.

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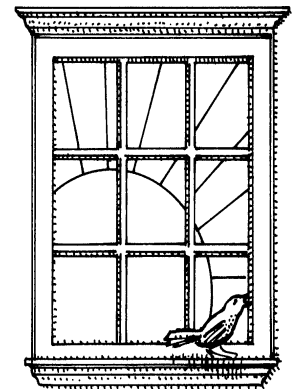
## MEMBER NEWS

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### 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** - 11826 Ridge View Drive, Rapid City, MI 49676  
**Helen Nothelfer** - 302 Fulton Street, Room 108, St. Charles, MI 48655  
**Heidi Osterloh** - 9345 Geddes Road, Saginaw, MI 48609  
**Ray Sundek** - Stone Crest Assisted Living, 255 N. Main 8-A, Freeland, MI 48623  
**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



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## MEMBER NEWS

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### December Birthdays

2nd	Josh Crump	18th	Sue Denman
	Sarah Wagner		Bryce Druelle
	Ginny Whelton		Jacob Moore
3rd	Melissa Albosta	19th	Gene Burchfield
4th	Bari Clauss		Hannah Webb
	Emmett Dalton		Joscelyn Whelton
	Jacob Dawson	20th	Megan Wakeman
	Adam Robishaw	22nd	Judi Minster
5th	Charleen Boland	23rd	Melissa Briggs
	Chris Crump		Amora Dreyfus
	Carol Lange		Nicholas Hoffmann
6th	Brayten Mack	24th	Pastor Julie Bailey
7th	Bruce Collier	25th	Alexandria Randall
	Steve Elvin	26th	Jacob Hostetler
	Jon Leffler	27th	Rita Bolger
8th	Don Arndt		Melanie Dancer
	Donna Hayes		Colton Kittle
10th	Elaine Clifford		Helen Nothelfer
13th	Scott Blehm		Lisa Randall
	Wayne Mayou	28th	Robert Beyerlein
	Dan Roth		Joan Ford
	Michelle Wardlow		Lori Page
14th	Lynn Schomaker	31st	Jack Richardson
15th	Barry Wiggins		Louise Roby
16th	Braxten Mack		Melissa Turner
	Alexis Richardson		

### Anniversaries this Month



9th	Bob & Cathy Watz
12th	Tom & Mary Erskine
13th	William & Emily Edsall
27th	Roger Koppenhofer & Vicki Lundstrom
28th	Paul & Susie Nielsen
	Jack & Joyce Richardson
31st	John & Sue Nelson



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## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

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Health Highlights by Sara Gregor, R.N., Parish Nurse

### **PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS!**

At Christmas we find joy in our Savior's birthday! How should we celebrate?

Spend time with Him. Come to worship and Advent services. Perhaps an Advent Christmas calendar would help your children and teens (and you as well) focus on the Reason for the Season. Make time for spiritual growth for you and your family.

Celebrate your values. What is most important or worth your time? Rethink ways you spend your time and energy. How do you value your faith, family, friends, activities, food and decorations?



Holidays are stressful. Family Life Radio mentioned a survey where 87% of the respondents felt the holidays were stressful. Guess the #1 stressor? Spending too much money! How can we be good stewards of God's blessings of money and our time?

- Buy fewer gifts. Remember the people who truly need your gifts. For those who seem to “have everything”, giving an alternative gift through ELCA World Hunger Gifts—provide clean water, food for AIDS orphans, vaccinations for a child, a goat or other animal to support a family could be an option. Do we need more “stuff”?
- Instead of spending a lot of shopping time, replace it with family time—a movie or reading a favorite story. Be a blessing by visiting someone in a nursing home or veteran's hospital.
- For younger children, too many gifts can be overwhelming. Carefully choose gifts that they will enjoy and appreciate. Often games or toys that they can play or work together with others will encourage camaraderie and create fun memories.
- If you are giving your children money, help them to be good stewards by earmarking some for sharing, some for saving and some for spending.
- Encourage your child/children to share Christ's love and give during the holiday by acts of kindness—support a food pantry or serve a meal at a soup kitchen. At Ascension, bring items for the Weekend Food Backpack Program, or household and personal products for family Christmas packages for those in need in our community.

Reduce stress by shopping during off-peak hours when there will be fewer customers in the checkout lines. Shopping on-line can certainly be an option but use only secure sites. Also, with the cold/flu season here, avoiding holiday crowds may mean staying healthy.

Birthdays are for celebrating. The first Christmas was simple—the baby Jesus arriving in the usual way and later sleeping in His mother's arms. A father concerned about his new wife and baby. An innkeeper pondering a miracle of new life in his stable. People from diverse cultures (shepherds, astrologers) came to worship and honor the birth of our King, Jesus. Take some time to worship, honor and celebrate Jesus' birthday today!

We wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas!

Sources: Focus on the Family 2003; AAA Living 2019; ELCA Good Gifts Catalog 2019

“A Child is born to us! A Son is given to us! And He will be our ruler. He will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”~ Isaiah 9:6



### **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, December 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, Dr. Steve Haupt, Marie Stuart, Joan Ford, Kris Friend and Traci Collier, DC.

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## SERVING IN DECEMBER

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

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

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

- 1 *No Acolyte*/Alexis Richardson & Makena Whelton
- 8 *No Acolyte*/Ella Frollo
- 15 *No Acolyte/No Acolyte*
- 22 *No Acolyte*/Brooke Richardson
- 29 *No Acolyte/Volunteer Needed*

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

- 1 Lynn Schomaker/Chris Crump
- 8 Ruth Schomaker/Lisa Espinoza
- 15 Charleen Boland/*No Reader*
- 22 David Witker/Chris Crump
- 29 Pastor Julie/Pastor Julie

**Friendly Callers**

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

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

- 1 Marty Debozy/Lynda Goward
- 8 Joan Ford/Steve Haupt
- 15 Dick Schomaker/*No Reader*
- 22 David Witker/Linda Lentner
- 29 *Lessons and Carols*

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

- 1 Larry Nuechterlein/Bob Aldrich
- 8 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
- 15 Charleen Boland/*No Video*
- 22 Melissa Albosta/*Volunteer Needed*
- 29 Larry Nuechterlein/*Volunteer Needed*

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

- 1 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter
- 8 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter
- 15 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter
- 22 Marty Debozy/*Volunteer Needed*
- 29 Marty Debozy/Ashley Blehm



### WEDNESDAYS

**Head Ushers**

- 4 Mike Clifford
- 11 Bill Gottlieb
- 18 Glen Mack
- 25 *No Service*

**Readers**

- 4 *No Reader*
- 11 *No Reader*
- 18 *No Reader*
- 25 *No Service*

**Sound Board/Video Screen**

- 4 John Schroeder/Ben Salowitz
- 11 Rusty Van Marter/Glen Mack
- 18 John Schroeder/Connie Dutcher
- 25 *No Service*

**Prayers**

- 4 Mike Clifford
- 11 Connie Dutcher
- 18 Connie Dutcher
- 25 *No Service*

*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.*