



# The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 41, No. 1

January 2020

## 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

Gus Hendrickson, President  
Vacant, Vice President  
Charleen Boland, Treasurer  
Dawn Earnesty, 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

Show Up! This seems to be a new tag phrase, life motto—but it isn't that new. Woody Allen said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up."



As We Start the New Year

Showing up refers to our ability to remain committed to and consistent in our actions. For some, this is pretty easy; for others quite difficult. Sometimes we might wonder whether showing up will make any difference because there seems to be no tangible results from showing up.

We have just celebrated Christmas, the time when God shows up in the form of a baby, God with us. Jesus will grow up and express God's love and commitment to us, ultimately in his death and resurrection. God continues to show up, consistently!

We tend to go to a lot of places we don't really want to go. Not going to work for most of us is not an option. We show up, because that is what we are supposed to do. But there are the places that are likely to present more of a personal challenge because not doing them is likely to *have limited impact in the short-term*.

Over the years, many of us have been showing up less and less to communal worship. It isn't so much that there are less people participating in the worship and work of the congregation; it is just that many of us just don't show up as often. Growing up, regular worship meant every Sunday. Jobs sometimes don't allow us to attend worship because we are doing what God has called us to in our vocations. And sometimes we just need a day to relax, because we have been "showing up" to everything else.

How has this affected the community of faith? In some ways it may go unnoticed. Because we all seem to have our own schedule of attendance, it is not uncommon for me to hear, "I don't know that person." We don't really know each other anymore; so when life gets tough and we look for people to rely on, our church family doesn't know us—because we haven't been there.

Failing to show up affects relationships. Sometimes we think we only need to put 50% effort into our relationships and the other party should put 50% effort in too; after all, that seems fair, right? If that's how you're showing up, how are your key relationships looking?

(Continued on page 2)

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How would your relationships improve if you put in 100% effort? And really, isn't this what we should be doing anyway? As humans, we automatically respond to the treatment we receive, whether that is positive or negative. Consequently, a 100% effort is likely to result in a reciprocal and much improved positive result.

In our relationship with God, God shows up 100% of the time. God has put all in on our relationship with God. God went so far as to die to conquer sin and death forever.

How much are you showing up for your relationship with God and with the people of God? How are you engaging in the relationship that has a **long-term** impact in life?

As we begin 2020, I encourage you to show up—in worship, prayer, study, service, giving and fellowship. Show up, because God shows up for you!

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## OTHER

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### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be closed through Wednesday, January 1st for the holiday season. 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.



### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study will resume on January 7th at 10:00 a.m. We are reading the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome—whether you are well-acquainted with scripture or not. Coffee will be on!

### SEWING GROUP

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 8th and Wednesday, January 22nd 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.



### ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please join the Altar Guild as they take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 11th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

### ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All summaries and financial statements need to be turned into the Church Office by Sunday, January 19th. Please have your reports turned in on time!! Thank you!



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## OTHER

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### SCRIP ORDERS

If you are planning on purchasing any gift cards, please consider purchasing them 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 any more than face value. Order forms are available in the Gathering Area and on our website. Orders for this month must be submitted by Sunday, January 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie.

### RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISER

So far we have raised \$15,530 of the \$20,000 needed to repair our roof. You can support this 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.



### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2020 to fund projects which may support any of the following activities:

- |  |                 |                  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| ◦Christian Education                       | ◦Youth Programs | ◦Music Ministry  |
| ◦Mission Opportunities                     | ◦Scholarships   | ◦Family Outreach |
| ◦Evangelism                                | ◦Technology     |                  |
| ◦Special Capital Improvement Opportunities |                 |                  |

Because of the limited amount of money the Endowment Fund Committee makes on its investments each year, the committee reviews each application and awards monies on how the request fits the mission and purpose of the church. The maximum amount that can be funded for any activity is \$1,000. The applications will be available in the Church Office and must be submitted by March 31, 2020. If there are any questions, please contact Andy Friend, Endowment Fund Committee Chairperson, at 798-6059.

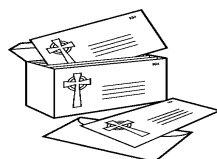
### COUNCIL UPDATE

The following members were elected to serve a two-year term on Council:

Gus Hendrickson—President  
Dawn Earnesty—Secretary  
Judi Minster—Financial Secretary  
Mike Clifford—Minister of Finance & Resources  
Lynda Goward—Minister of Spiritual Health



Installation of these new council members will be held on Sunday, January 12th and Wednesday, January 15th.



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the Gathering Area. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes today.

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## OTHER

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### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 5th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
January 12th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
January 19th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
January 26th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>



The Flower Chart is posted in the Gathering Area on the Usher/Acolyte Room door. ***The cost is now \$30.00.*** 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.



### ANNUAL MEETING

#### Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 9th  
in the Sanctuary at approximately 11:45 a.m.

***The Nursery will be staffed during the meeting.***

*All Confirmed Members of Ascension Lutheran Church  
are encouraged to attend as we review our year  
in ministry in 2019 and attend to any official business.*

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## WORSHIP

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### TEEN CHALLENGE

On Sunday, January 26th Ascension will receive the women of Teen Challenge as they share their witness during our worship services. Teen Challenge provides Christian faith-based residential care to young people and adults who struggle with life-controlling problems. If you have heard them speak before, I think you will agree that their proclamation of life-giving faith is contagious.

Following worship, we will host a luncheon for our guests and anyone else who would like to stay for some fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Kiosk so we know how much food we will need. Plus, we could use some donations of tossed salad, garlic bread and easy desserts. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie.

### NOISY OFFERING

We will be taking a Noisy Offering on Sunday, January 26th and Wednesday, January 29th for Teen Challenge. Please help support this great organization!!



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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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### THANK YOU

Thank you to Bob Aldrich and Jen Salowitz, along with the youth and families of our congregation, who shared the message of Christmas through the worship service on December 15th. It was a wonderful way to focus on the importance of Christmas and the rituals we use to celebrate.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just a reminder that Sunday School classes will resume on January 5th at 9:15 a.m.



### MARTHA TO MARY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our new Bible Study will begin on Monday, January 13th at 6:30 p.m. The study is "Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle", written by Barbara L. Roose. We will study the example of Joshua and the Israelites as we'll be equipped with Biblical wisdom, encouragement, and practical tools that will enable us to overcome our daily worries and struggles as well as the bigger battles that we face. 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. Cost for the six-week study is \$13.00 for the participant book. Please sign up on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area or call/text Joyce Richardson at 274-6787.

### 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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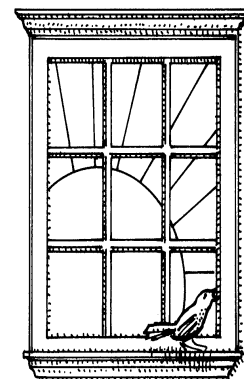
## MEMBER NEWS

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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 Sundeck** - 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  
**Julia Attridge** - 302 Fulton Street, Room 108, St. Charles, MI 48655





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## MEMBER NEWS

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### January Birthdays

1st	Andrea Kittle	19th	Ben Crump
2nd	Darren Milbrandt		Max Witker
3rd	Julia Attridge	20th	Larissa Crook
	Mary Erskine		Bob Darling
4th	Ruth Howell	22nd	Alisha Albrecht
	David Huston	23rd	Cheryl Andrus
5th	Taylor Hoffmann		Judy Goschke
	Jean Joslyn		Danielle Hendrick
	Hunter Turner	24th	Gina Dillenbeck
7th	Courtney Whelton	26th	Alice Doerr
9th	Malory Lopez		Nichole Whelton
10th	Phil Ballien	27th	Lisa Espinoza
	Mike Clifford	28th	Alicia Leffler
	Collene Kolinski		Karen DeLaRosa
12th	Isabella Milbrandt	29th	Lillian Edsall
13th	Melissa Morgan		Amaya Favazza
14th	Elizabeth Clark		Kathleen Kelly
	Jim Dankert		Pat Owen
	Zoey Kohnert-Pretzer	30th	Bob Aldrich
15th	Marty Debozy	31st	Dawn Earnesty
16th	Laura Schian		Maxwell Faerber
	David Witker		Leonard Howell
18th	Christopher Hoffmann		Rachel Joslyn
	Connor Webb		Ruth Schomaker

### Anniversaries this Month



2nd	Carl and Charleen Boland
9th	Phil & Kay Ballien



Welcome to Mark and Georgia Hickner who have transferred to Ascension from Faith Lutheran in Saginaw. Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourselves (although they spend most of the winter out of state).

Congratulations to Pat (Bruske) and Dave Marceills who were married on Friday, December 13th.



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## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

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Health Highlights by Steve Haupt, Ph.D.

### MAKING MARRIAGE WORK

One of the leading lights in the research and practice of marital therapy is Dr. John Gottman. His book “The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work” (with Nan Silver) lays out a variety of concepts to follow by which couples can have a healthy relationship.

Gottman speaks of the “love map”, which is essentially your store of information about your spouse’s life, such as who their friends are, what their interests are, what their values and passions are, what they are doing in their daily lives. Knowing your partner well helps you to respond to them in loving ways.



Gottman notes that certain attitudes and behaviors are detrimental to the health of a marriage. He distinguishes between complaints and criticism: complaining is about particular events that are happening at that time, while criticism is negativity about the other person’s character. While complaining may be justified at times, criticism is harmful to the marital bond. He warns against *contempt* of one’s partner, a kind of overwhelming negativity and dismissiveness, leading one to discount any concern for one’s partner. He also speaks about “stonewalling”: refusing to engage with one’s spouse to honestly discuss issues of disagreement.

Gottman believes that couples need to nurture a close connection and to listen to and support each other. This involves being attentive and being there for your spouse through good and bad, responding in a positive way when they seek attention and affection—or, when conflicts arise, listening without judgement and working to solve the problem together rather than simply arguing one’s own position.

Disagreements and arguments do happen in loving marriages. Gottman speaks of “repair attempts”: in the midst of conflict, gestures that are a show of love and affection or understanding. This may include saying you’re sorry for something that was hurtful to your spouse, or a humorous comment to defuse an angry conflict, or it can be a gesture of affection such as a touch, a hug, etc.

Gottman speaks of “the purpose of marriage.” He believes that husband and wife need to support each other in their hopes and dreams and to build a kind of shared meaning and purpose together.

Want to know more? Gottman’s book is an excellent guide for marital enrichment. It includes these ideas and more and is full of exercises couples can do together to enhance understanding and closeness.

Reference: *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*, John Gottman and Nan Silver.

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with each other in love. ~Ephesians 4:2-3*



### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, January 12th 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.

## SERVING IN JANUARY

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

5 Ken Schian/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein  
 12 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton  
 19 David Witker/Gus Hendrickson & Jim Stuart  
 26 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston

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

5 *No Acolyte*/Alexis & Brooke Richardson  
 12 *No Acolyte*/Gabby Dalton  
 19 *No Acolyte*/Ella Frollo/Makena Whelton  
 26 *No Acolyte*/*No Acolyte*

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

5 Ruth Schomaker/Shelly Dawson  
 12 Charleen Boland/Crump Family  
 19 David Witker/Lisa Espinoza  
 26 Lynn Schomaker/Karen DeLaRosa

### Friendly Callers

5 David Witker  
 12 Sue Bailey  
 19 Bonnie Cavendish  
 26 David Witker

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

5 Marty Debozy/John Whelton  
 12 Tom Erskine/Lisa Whelton  
 19 Joan Ford/Chris Crump  
 26 Patty Hamilton/Dawn Dalton

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

5 *Volunteer Needed*/Bob Aldrich  
 12 Kris Friend/*Volunteer Needed*  
 19 Charleen Boland/Bob Aldrich  
 26 *Volunteer Needed*/*Volunteer Needed*

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

5 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter  
 12 Madison Morgan/*Volunteer Needed*  
 19 Marty Debozy/Rusty Van Marter  
 26 Marty Debozy/*Volunteer Needed*



## WEDNESDAYS

### Head Ushers

1 *No Service*  
 8 Mike Clifford  
 15 Bill Gottlieb  
 22 Glen Mack  
 29 Mike Clifford

### Readers

1 *No Service*  
 8 Mike Clifford  
 15 Joyce Richardson  
 22 Larry Nuechterlein  
 29 Ben Salowitz

### Sound Board/Video Screen

1 *No Service*  
 8 Rusty Van Marter/Ben Salowitz  
 15 John Schroeder/Glen Mack  
 22 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher  
 29 John Schroeder/Connie Dutcher

### Prayers

1 *No service*  
 8 Mike Clifford  
 15 Connie Dutcher  
 22 Mike Clifford  
 29 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.***

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

*Deadline for the February 2020 issue is  
 Monday, January 20th at 12:00 noon.*

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