



# The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 41, No. 2

February 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  
Nickie Crump, Nursery Attendant

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gus Hendrickson, President  
Kris Friend, Vice President  
Charleen Boland, Treasurer  
Dawn Earnesty, Secretary

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Message .....	1
Other .....	2-4
Youth .....	5
President's Message .....	5
Member News .....	6
Health Highlights .....	7
Serving This Month .....	8
Calendar .....	9

## 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 PASTOR JULIE

### The Jarringness of Lent

That's the way we have always done it! Said it? Heard it? Most of us are creatures of habit, resistant to change.



And yet, I think part of the purpose of Lent is to jar us out of our complacency, to do things just a little different. We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) with the imposition of ashes on our forehead. We hear the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." These words always shake me up a bit, remembering that I am not immortal.

Throughout the season of Lent, we are invited to enter into certain ritual practices.

No Alleluias—we don't use the word "Alleluia" in our song or speech in worship. We are sort of "stripped down" to the basics, focusing on simplicity.

We are invited into a time of fasting. For some of us, this might be literally fasting, not eating certain foods or not eating on certain days. For others it may be to abstain from idols like television, video games, phone, etc. It is not meant for punishment or penance, but a means in which we can refocus ourselves in our relationship with God. It's a way of saying, "I want you, God, more than this!"

We are invited into intentional prayer. Lent is a great time to intentionally add some discipleship practices. Prayer is a great one to start. You may want to experience different ways of praying—with a candle, journaling or art. You may want to choose something or someone you find it hard to pray for—for we are instructed to pray for friends and enemies. Sometimes I watch the news and as segments of news are shown, I pray for whatever and whoever the segment is about.

We are invited into community and worship. For some of us, this means to make worship a priority in life, especially if your idol is sleeping in. Come to worship with the intention of giving all you have to God, giving praise—not so much with what you will get out of it. This is a time of focusing on God and not on ourselves.

During the season of Lent, our Wednesday night services will be separate from our Sunday services, so why not try both? I know...a little jarring!

---

## OTHER

---



### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study meets every Tuesday 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, February 5th and Wednesday, February 19th 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.



### 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 and 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, February 16th. Please contact Pastor Julie with questions.

### WEARING OF THE GREEN FELLOWSHIP

Join us on Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m. at Gabby's for Ascension's Wearing of the Green Fellowship. The traditional Irish corn beef dinner will be available along with all of Gabby's favorites. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all high school students and parents. There is a scholarship grant available for graduating seniors that are members of Ascension Lutheran Church. The scholarship packets, which include the guidelines and application form, are available in the Church Office. **Application deadline is March 31st.** If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 781-2170.

### RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISER

So far we have raised \$16,554 of the \$28,000 needed to repair our roof. **Please note our goal has increased!!** 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.



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

Deadline for the March 2020 issue is  
**Monday, February 17th at 12:00 noon.**

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

---

## OTHER

---



### 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
- Mission Opportunities
- Evangelism
- Special Capital Improvement Opportunities
- Youth Programs
- Scholarships
- Technology
- Music Ministry
- Family Outreach

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 application forms are 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. Special thanks to Bob Dillenbeck and Ruth Jakes for their service these past three years. Welcome to Melissa Albosta and Waylon Earnesty who have accepted a three-year appointment.

### ARE WE HAVING A RUMMAGE SALE???

This is the question! Are we? At this time, no group has come forward stating they would like to host the Rummage Sale as a fund raiser for their ministry. There are some ministries that might want to consider this, but as of now it has not been claimed. Ideas might be:



- Youth: In preparation for the ELCA gathering in Houston in 2021.
- Building: Help with mortgage or parking lot fund (hopefully roof will be taken care of).

If interested, please contact a member of council so that it can be approved.



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 2nd	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
February 9th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
February 16th	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
February 23rd	Given to the Glory of God by Dick and Ruth Schomaker



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.

---

## OTHER

---

### FUNERAL PLANNING

One of the most difficult conversations to have with family seems to center around funeral preparation. We don't want to think about that; it isn't a happy conversation. From experience, this is one of the most loving things you can do for your family when the time comes that this information is needed.



To help with planning, Ascension has developed a small booklet entitled Funeral Planning which includes various things to consider. It addresses some of the preferences you may have for the service and also information that will be helpful when arrangements are being made with the funeral home.

These booklets are available at church, and I would be happy to sit down with anyone who might like someone to go through the information with them. Be sure to place this information in the same place other important documents are, so that your loved ones will have this available when they are called upon to make these plans.



### STEWARDSHIP TO THINK ABOUT—JUVENILE LIFE INSURANCE

When my brother and I were born, my grandparents took out a small life insurance policy for us. It always seemed strange to me, because no one wants to think about or prepare for the possibility this life insurance will be needed for a child. However, what I have come to find out is how beneficial this gift really was. For me, I cashed it in when I started working and was setting up my own household. My brother, however, was able to keep his, and was able to increase the coverage periodically. This was important because my brother was diagnosed with a chronic illness at age 10 and getting life insurance would have been difficult, if not impossible. In conversation with other parents who have done this, it has proved to be a benefit.

Since taking the Financial Peace University course, and being intentional about financial health and stewardship, I have come to appreciate and learn about ways we can be faithful stewards. I believe one of these ways is through life insurance that begins when our children are children. Why start a juvenile life insurance plan?

- Premiums can be low! One policy I saw was \$12/month, and that premium could be locked in for life.
- The child maintains insurability throughout life, even if they experience health issues later in life.
- If the unthinkable happens, the life insurance could help supplement medical bills/time off work.
- The policy holds cash values as long as premiums are paid.

This is something to consider as your family grows—a great gift to the child from a parent or grandparent.



**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.*

---

## YOUTH

---

### YES—YOUTH ENCOUNTER SERVICE

Once again the youth of the ELCA and the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw will partner in a local mission and learning event called YES. Last year the group worked on two homes in the Houghton Jones neighborhood, learned about agencies in our community that make differences in people's lives, and learned to walk with people who live in poverty and low-income communities.



YES will take place Sunday, June 21st through Friday, June 26th. All high school students are invited and encouraged to attend. Those who participated last year found it hard but rewarding work. We learned about the other's faith, mostly in what we hold in common.

Some things will be different this year, so it won't be exactly like last year for those who participated. Registrations will be available in March.

Help is needed!! On Tuesday, June 23rd Ascension will host a meal for the YES participants and then we will stay to listen to some community people who will witness and share their experiences. I am in need of some people who would be willing to prepare and serve the meal for our group. If interested, please contact Pastor Julie. Thank you in advance.



Church Camp

### STONY LAKE SUMMER CAMP

Mark your calendars and get ready for a fun week of camp at Living Water Ministries Camp Stony Lake. We will be going to camp Sunday, June 21st through Friday, June 26th. This camp is open to elementary youth in grades 3-6, middle school youth entering 6th grade through 8th grades, and high school youth. If you are interested in attending one of the camps or have any questions, please contact Bob Aldrich at 860-4356 or [trammlou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trammlou@sbcglobal.net). Bob will provide you with the details you need to ensure you are registered with Ascension. If you register by February 28th you will save \$35.00. For those attending Confirmation Camp for the first time...Ascension will pay for half of the cost of camp.

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

Welcome to 2020! I am honored to have been nominated and subsequently elected as the new President of Ascension Lutheran Church and humbled by your trust in me! It is a great opportunity and I look forward to serving with all of the excellent people that served on Council last year, and will be serving this year, as well as the dedicated members that make our church the community that it is. This is a new position for me so I ask that you offer our new council prayers, patience and positivity as we prepare Ascension for the new decade. If we have not yet had the chance to meet, please introduce yourself. Our (Council) minds are open to new and exciting ideas to serve the Lord, our communities, our synod and our world.



In His Service,

Gus Hendrickson

---



---

## MEMBER NEWS

---



---

### February Birthdays

1st	Esther Mack	14th	Olivia Bostwick
	Josh Whelton	16th	Jacob DeLaRosa
2nd	Sheila Dambro	18th	Anni Mackel
	Brad Phillion	20th	Aaron Gottlieb
4th	Nelson Staples		Harris Salowitz
5th	Bill Gregor	21st	Kathy Kaul
	Jeannie Hamilton	22nd	Zachary Maddox
	Maliyah Johnson		Scarlett Naples
9th	Brooke Richardson	24th	Roland Denman
10th	Todd Albrecht	25th	Max Dreyfus
	Pat Marceills		Paul Nielsen
	David Maeder	26th	Dori Dalton
11th	Holly Bostwick	27th	Natalie Fleissner
12th	Chuck Latty		Ken Schian
13th	Patrick Dalton		Layne Wakeman
	Carol Schroeder	28th	Chase Hamilton

### Anniversaries this Month

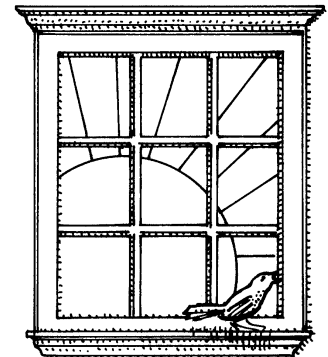


5th	Bruce and Traci Collier
14th	Mike and Elaine Clifford
	Amy and Russell Kolb
15th	Ronald and Marie Leonard
	Rusty and Barb Van Marter
18th	John and Julie Stroebe
19th	John and Ginny Whelton
23rd	Don and Lorna Arndt
24th	Dick and Ruth Schomaker
25th	Todd and Alisha Albrecht
	Jim and Marie Stuart
26th	Marv and Barb Yancer
27th	Gilbert and Edna Bell

### 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  
**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  
**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





---

# HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

---

Health Highlights by Traci A. Collier, D.C.



## OPIOID ADDICTION IN TEENS

Opioids are increasingly abused throughout the United States, a situation known as the Opioid Epidemic. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death among Americans. Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a growing crisis among the young. Teenagers who have suffered major injuries, such as car accidents, are often prescribed opioids to help with the pain. As the user takes more and more of the drug, they may eventually develop a tolerance, and possibly a full-blown addiction. Once addicted, users often make increasingly risky choices. Statistics from 2017 indicate that every day 900 teens began misusing opioids. This leads to heroin and other illegal opioid use as well. In 2016, 276,000 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 used pain relievers (including opioids) for non-medical reasons, and often become addicted to prescription drugs. Teenage opioid addiction rates increased by 19 percent between 2014 and 2015. When asked, 12th-grade students identified the ease of availability of heroin as a factor in their use. Heroin is a cheaper substitute for prescription opioids like Oxycodone, Percocet, Oxycontin, and Hydrocodone.

Determining whether or not a teenager is experiencing a substance use disorder like opioid addiction can be a challenge. Some signs can be obvious, while others are subtle. Signs of teenage opioid addiction can include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in sleep patterns
- Agitation
- Mood swings
- Poor academic performance
- Missing classes
- Getting in trouble in school or with the law
- Withdrawing from family or friends

Teenage opioid addiction can follow them into adulthood; and the longer an addiction progresses, the more difficult it is to treat. That's why early treatment is so important. Rehab facilities provide medically-supervised detox to create a more comfortable and safer way to get through withdrawal. Teens can speak with therapists to uncover deep challenges which fuel their dependence. Support groups encourage teens to practice vulnerability and connection with others.

<https://www.americanursetoday.com/treating-teenage-opioid-addiction>  
<https://www.rehabspot.com/opioids/who-addiction-affects/teenage-opioid-addiction>

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. ~ James 4:10*

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee. The next one will be held on Sunday, February 9th 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 FEBRUARY

---

---

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

- 2 Ken Schian/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein  
9 Edna Bell/Dawn Dalton & Jeff Whelton  
16 David Witker/Gus Hendrickson & Jim Stuart  
23 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston

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

- 2 Susan Kelley/Shelly Dawson  
9 Dick Schomaker/Lynda Goward  
16 David Witker/Linda Lentner  
23 Larry Nuechterlein/Linda Luplow

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

- 2 *No Acolyte*/Gabby Dalton & Alexis Richardson  
9 *No Acolyte*/Diedre Haupt  
16 *No Acolyte*/Makena Whelton & Grey Hendrickson  
23 *No Acolyte*/Ella Frolo

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

- 2 Melissa Albosta/Steve Salowitz  
9 Kris Friend/*Volunteer Needed*  
16 Charleen Boland/Bob Aldrich  
23 Larry Nuechterlein/*Volunteer Needed*

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

- 2 Ruth Schomaker/Chris Crump  
9 Charleen Boland/Shelly Dawson  
16 David Witker/Lisa Espinoza  
23 Lynn Schomaker/Karen DeLaRosa

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

- 2 Dan Roth/Rusty Van Marter  
9 Marty Debozy/*Volunteer Needed*  
16 Tom Bailey/Rusty Van Marter  
23 Tom Bailey/*Volunteer Needed*

**Hospitality/Security--8:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.**

- 2 *Volunteer Needed*/Waylon Earnesty  
9 *Volunteer Needed*/Kathy York  
16 *Volunteer Needed*/Ron Fries  
23 *Volunteer Needed*/Karen DeLaRosa

**Friendly Callers**

- 2 Sue Bailey  
9 Bonnie Cavendish  
16 David Witker  
23 Sue Bailey

### WEDNESDAYS

**Head Ushers**

- 5 Bill Gottlieb  
12 Mike Clifford  
19 Glen Mack  
26 Bill Gottlieb

**Readers**

- 5 John Schroeder  
12 Mike Clifford  
19 Joyce Richardson  
26 Ben Salowitz

**Sound Board/Video Screen**

- 5 Rusty Van Marter/Ben Salowitz  
12 John Schroeder/Glen Mack  
19 Rusty Van Marter/Connie Dutcher  
26 John Schroeder/Glen Mack

**Prayers**

- 5 Connie Dutcher  
12 Mike Clifford  
19 Connie Dutcher  
26 Mike Clifford

**\*\*\*Volunteers are needed for the 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service on February 26th. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to volunteer.**

*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.*