



Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 41, No. 4

April 2020

MISSION

"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
 Nicki Crump, Nursery Attendant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Dear disciples,

Fluid and nimble—my words of the time. We are facing a time which few of us were prepared. This first week of social distancing and suspension of worship in our church building has been hard to digest, and has taught me I have a lot to learn about technology.



As of today, March 23rd, we have received notification of a “stay-at-home order”. In response, we understand the need for flexibility and change. As you will see, this is an abbreviated Messenger. When we are able to gather in-person, we will arrange for worship leaders, an updated calendar, and anything else we will need. Until further notice, we will worship together on Facebook. As of now, regular office hours have been suspended. Everything is fluid, and we must be nimble.

I am aware that technology is not everyone’s comfort zone or friend, but it is the best I have to offer right now. I encourage you if you have the means to do so, join Facebook and the Ascension group so you can worship together with us. Our group is called Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw, MI (ELCA) or type <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220876594969678/>. We will not be celebrating communion together, but we will be church together.

What about Easter? I can assure you, Christ is risen! The pandemic nor anything else can change that blessed fact! We are planning to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday we return as an in-person worship community. We may not have all the Easter flowers, but we will do our best to have some celebration with flowers. We will alleluia like we never have before.

I can assure you that the Congregation Council and staff of Ascension are showing their leadership skills in tremendous ways. We are navigating this together, fluid and nimble, and in all things trusting God.

So be safe, care for one another, reach out, and in all things, trust God.

We are in this together!

OTHER

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

During this time, we are asking that the church, the people of Ascension pull together. We are still a community reaching out to each other and the community, just through different means.



So what can you do?

Worship! We are using the Facebook platform and our Ascension group to post our worship services. I am asking for people who are willing to record themselves doing the readings—we still want to see each other. I know it isn't ideal—but if you have the means, and need help—see if a family member or neighbor could assist you. Now is not the time to “suspend” worship.

Pray! Pray, pray, pray. We have so many things we can pray. Give thanks for what we do have—remember in previous epidemics and challenges, they did not have the resources we have to stay in communication. Pray for our health care workers who are going above and beyond right now. Pray for those who are ill, in facilities or hospitalized, and their families during a time of limited visitation. Pray for the staff, who are experiencing ways of doing ministry that we honestly were not prepared.

Study! Make this a time to prioritize reading scripture and make it a habit. I am beginning to find ways in which we can hold studies and small groups together on line. We started with our Sunday morning adult study and it went well.

Give and Serve! We are still in need of resources to be the church in this community. In addition to helping with worship by reading or prayers, what other ways might you be able to give? Consider making phone calls to church members to check in, sending notes, some have said they could pick up groceries or items needed. Be creative. And yes, financial gifts are important as well.

Encourage! This is not a time to look at everything through a negative eye. Let's be honest, people will let you down! Your government will let you down! Your congregation will let you down! Your pastor will let you down! But I believe all of us are doing our best! We are moving through waters we didn't prepare for and we are not giving up. Exercise love!

Invite! Call someone not part of the congregation and invite them to join us in our virtual worship together. We are church together, and more are always welcome. We got this! God's got this!

FINANCIAL GIVING

The church will still need financial resources to minister to the community. Even though we are not having worship in person, you can still provide your gifts so that we can continue to serve as we are called.



Online giving—the advantage to online giving is that your gift is deposited directly into our congregation account. It does not need to be counted, and held for deposit. We receive from the provider the information and this is included in your giving statement. You can give monthly, weekly, or as a one-time gift. You can sign up for this on our website (www.ascensionlc.org). If you need any help, let us know and we can walk you through this.

Direct from the bank—since many of us do our banking online, you can add Ascension to your list of payees and send a check. Send in your offering—you can as always mail your giving to the church.

Thank you in advance for what you can do.

MEMBER NEWS

April Birthdays

1st	Thomas Deaton	18th	Courtney Wardlow
2nd	Rhys Awad	19th	Judy Carr
5th	Margie Fruk		Pam Mackel
9th	Greyston Hendrickson	20th	Frances Edie
	Hannah Waters		Ryann Kittle
10th	Chelsea Houthoofd	23rd	Steve Haupt
11th	Joel Richardson		Kathy McNally
12th	Dawn Dalton	24th	Jack Goschke
13th	Glen Mack		Sara Gregor
14th	Brent Fleissner	25th	Breana Mack
	Carlie Kolb	28th	Susie Mackel
	Carrie Nielsen	29th	Sophia Milbrandt
15th	Jayson Hoffmann		

Anniversaries this Month



3rd	John and Carol Schroeder
15th	Michael and Elizabeth Clark
17th	Ben and Chris Crump
22nd	Eric and Linda Lentner
	John and Marisa Richardson
28th	Ron and Lori Schultz
29th	Larry and Maija Preston

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.

- Frances Edie** - 4850 Gratiot Rd., Apt. D2, Saginaw, MI 48638
- Peggy Lockhart** - 6143 Longmeadow Blvd. North, Saginaw, MI 48603
- 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 101, St. Charles, MI 48655
- Kay Ballien** - Healthsource, 3340 Hospital Road, Room 371, Saginaw, MI 48603

