



The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 41, No. 10

October 2020

MISSION

"As an open and progressive congregation, we boldly make Christ's vision known."

STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor
Bob Aldrich, Education Coordinator
Jennifer Salowitz, Musician
Sara Gregor, Parish Nurse
Dawn Dalton, Custodian
Ruth Schomaker, Custodian

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

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SAY THE MAGIC WORDS

The problem with a "bishop's stick," of course, is that it is too long to function as a magic wand. If I had a magic wand, I could, for example, conjure up a 35-year-old pastor, married with two kids, with 30 years' experience, who is independently wealthy, and so does not require a salary, and attracts young families without changing a thing in the church. "*Parochus perfectus!*" More importantly, I could make COVID-19 disappear, banish the powers of violence and racism, and heal the divisions in our country.



Obviously, the danger of my having a magic wand is that I might do something crazy with it. I might, for example, make all church services—indoor, parking lot, and online—disappear for four Sundays. "*Destruunt cultum!*" Church doors would spontaneously seal shut. Church parking lots would have perpetual thunderstorms. Congregations' online platforms would only display puppies and kitties playing. It would be kind of like when God told Jeremiah to stop praying for the people (7:16).

For I hear more grumbling about worship than gratitude for worship. Now the Bible attests that grumbling or murmuring is a characteristic of God's people. We miss singing, hugging, sitting together in our pews, and coffee hour. Some of us are still missing the Sacrament. Yet, Scripture also attests that eventually people like Moses, Elijah, and even God reach their limit and get fed up. I learned very young that, when something gets taken away, we miss it, cherish it, and appreciate what we have rather than complain about what we don't. "*Destruunt cultum!*"

I also hear that pastors, deacons, musicians, and technicians are just plain tuckered out and don't know how they can take vacation or a break. A spirit of competition and the fear that people will go elsewhere keep congregations from working together so that everyone gets a break. Shutting worship down would give everyone a chance to rest. "*Destruunt cultum!*"

So it's probably good that I don't have a magic wand. All I have are some magic words, words that, if we say them every day and try a little harder to live by them, are bound to produce magic. "*Como os he amado, también os améis los unos á los otros.*" "Even as I have loved you, you also love one another," Jesus said (John 13:34). Taking these magic words to heart turns grumbling into gratitude and frees us to put others' needs ahead of our own, as Jesus did for us on the cross.

“Améis los unos á los otros.” Perhaps these magic words will quiet our complaining. We might even worship as a congregation with another congregation one Sunday—something easily done virtually—and promise to come back as a way of insisting our leaders take a break.

Like Israel in the wilderness, we still have a long way—and a long while—to go before this pandemic is over. The University of Washington projects the virus will kill 410,450 Americans by January 1, 2021. We can quibble about the exact number, but the trend is alarming. We can save lives by wearing masks, social distancing, and minimizing gatherings. In my own prayers, I hear Jesus bidding us to embrace these practices as ways we love one another as Jesus loves us. We also need to begin to tell ourselves that celebrating Advent and Christmas differently is preferable to celebrating Advent and Christmas by attending funerals that could’ve been avoided.

Magic won’t do it. Loving one another as Jesus loves us will. *“Améis los unos á los otros.”*

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop



GOODBYE TO OUR PARISH SECRETARY

Ascension says goodbye and blessings to Cheryl Huebner as she leaves Ascension Lutheran Church to begin a full-time job with Ascension Health Care. She has been serving as secretary since December 2008 and has been integral as the parish transitions and moves forward. We are certainly going to miss her, but also know that she is still a part of our Ascension community.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you all for your love and support as I served as the Parish Secretary for the past eleven years. I feel so blessed to have had a job that I loved coming to everyday and so thankful to have worked with such wonderful people. I will cherish all of the kind words and fond memories I have exchanged with all of you during this time.



WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

ALL SAINTS' CELEBRATION—NOVEMBER 1ST AND NOVEMBER 4TH

During the past year, we have experienced the death of many members of our congregation. In the last months, the pandemic of the coronavirus has limited us on how we grieve and publically recognize that person, and come together in faith reassured of the promise of God. This year, during our All Saints' worship services, we will gather together as the people of God to remember and celebrate the promise of life everlasting, and giving thanks for those who left the earthly kingdom in the past year. We will use some liturgy from a funeral service as we remember and worship. We give thanks to the promise of everlasting life in Jesus Christ.



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER—IT IS UP TO US ALL!

In the past couple months we have returned to worshipping together in the same place. The 8:00 a.m. Sunday service and the 7:00 p.m. Wednesday service have been meeting in the Sanctuary all along, and the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service just recently started worshipping in the Sanctuary. The overwhelming comment is that it is good to be together. It is not the same as it was, but we know that coming together, we can praise God in a way that pleases God as we open our hearts to love God and love our neighbor. Every week or more I hear of how other congregations are managing. Some have returned to all online, some are going to still worship outdoors, some are doing similar to what we have done, and yes, some have returned to worshipping as if all the threat of Covid-19 had passed.

As a council, and as pastor, we are committed to providing opportunities for us all to worship in a way that we can praise God and at the same time show our love for one another by being cautious and safe in how we worship. We are wearing masks and are physically distancing. Research has shown that masks help decrease the spread of the virus. We have placed sanitizer in various places throughout the building and configured worship to decrease the congregating of people in close quarters inside, including the removal of hymnals and bulletins to decrease risk of sharing the virus. We will not be hosting events which limit the ability to physically distance, including the renting of the building for events or hosting events such as meals. The nurse for the time being will not be offered. We are asking that we refrain from singing—one of the hardest challenges for many of us as this can spread the virus and also the moisture can decrease the effectiveness of the mask. As we receive communion, please keep your mask on until you have passed the communion assistants and are at the baskets located several feet from the pastor and assistants.

I recognize there are many differing opinions about what is and is not necessary. As a council, and as pastor, we have opted to keep the risk as low as we can and still worship in person. I believe we have planned the service to allow the lowest risk, but it still contains some risk. Do I like it? No, but I do not believe it is about what I, or even you like. As people of God we are called to worship and praise God, in love for God and one another. I wear a mask and abstain from singing as a group out of my care for you and for all people.

As always, if you have had exposure or are concerned of the risks, we still offer online worship. It is posted later in the days on Sunday now, but it is there for you! Know that we are the body of Christ in this building and outside this building, and they will know us by our love! Let us love, not only in word, but in action and how we show our care and concern for one another.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We are continuing to meet at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom for our Bible Study. We are studying the book of Joshua. If you haven't attended before and are interested, let Pastor Julie know so that she can email you the invitation.



OTHER

TEMPORARY PARISH SECRETARY

Ascension is seeking a secretary to serve temporarily as we define a job description for a Parish Administrator.

Job duties would include:

- Answering phone
- Answering emails/phone messages
- Word processing (Microsoft Word)
- Database entry
- Copying items for worship/meetings
- Handling mail/correspondence
- Communication with pastor, staff and leadership



Qualifications:

- People skills, as this is the first person/voice one contacts with the congregation
- Communication skills
- Maintain confidentiality
- Experience with Microsoft Word (preferred)
- Willingness to learn new programs
- Flexibility with work assignments
- Ability to manage time independently

Possible skills for Parish Administrator:

- Bookkeeping
- Web management

Candidates must successfully pass a background check. This temporary position will expand responsibilities as the new job description is developed. The temporary employee is eligible to be considered when a permanent position is available. Please mail your resume and cover letter to Ascension Lutheran Church, attention Kris Friend, or you may email them to Pastor Julie at pr_julie@sbcglobal.net.

Ways you can SERVE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO STEP OUT IN FAITH TO SERVE IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION?

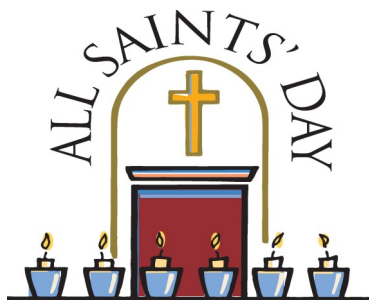
It is time again that we will be asking people to serve in ministry with Ascension as members of the Congregation Council. Do you have a desire to prayerfully move our congregation forward? Do you feel that nudge that God could be doing something new in this community? Do you want to work with a team that works together for the good of the Church and world? Then this might be the opportunity to step up. It is a two-year commitment—so you aren't committing a lifetime to this ministry.

Positions available for election are:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Minister of Congregational Care
- Minister of Outreach

Please see a member of council if interested in knowing more. And keep our congregation in prayer as God identifies those called to serve for a time such as this!

OTHER



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 1st, 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 25th. Please place payment in the basket located in the Church Office. Flowers must be paid for before they will be ordered.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

October 4th	Given in Celebration of Paul, Josh and Travis's Birthday by Lynda Goward
October 11th	Given in Memory of John's Birthday by Janet Nelson
October 18th	Given to the Glory of God by Tom and Sue Bailey
October 25th	Given in Memory of her Anniversary by Nancy Armstrong



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

The MESSENGER is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the November 2020 issue is
Monday, October 19th at 12:00 noon.

Articles may be emailed to ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights by Steven G. Haupt, Ph.D.

EARLY SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia that typically progresses at a slow rate. It is estimated that 5.5 million Americans, most over the age of 65, suffer from this disease. However, American Psychological Association data indicate that less than 20% of those aged 65 and above suffer from Alzheimer's, and less than half of those over the age of 85. So while it is common, it is not the norm. Early signs of Alzheimer's disease include:



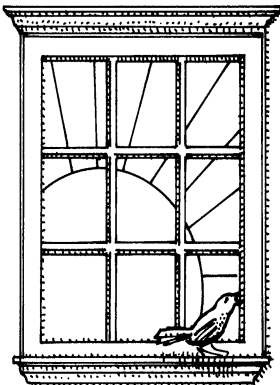
- Memory loss that disrupts daily life; forgetting recently learned information, without later recall; forgetting important dates or events; repeating the same questions frequently.
- Difficulty concentrating, difficulty working with numbers (such as financial records and budgeting), or difficulty following a routine plan one has been able to do before (such as a recipe or the steps to follow to complete a household project).
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks.
- Confusion about the time or place that does not resolve quickly.
- Difficulty with visual-spatial perception and performance. This may include balance issues, difficulty reading, or difficulty judging distances.
- Difficulty maintaining a conversation; forgetting words of common items.
- Losing things and not being able to retrace one's steps to find them.
- New problems with poor judgement or decision-making.
- Withdrawal from work or social activities.
- Changes in mood or personality; more prominent negative emotions, such as anxiety, irritability, and depression.

Medications to treat Alzheimer's disease include Aricept, Razadyne, and Exelon, among others. These medications improve cognitive functioning, including memory and awareness. They will not cure Alzheimer's disease, but they may slow its progression. If you are concerned about symptoms that could indicate the onset of Alzheimer's disease in yourself or a loved one, or interested in learning more about treatments for this disease, please consult your family physician.

References: www.alz.org; www.nih.gov; www.apa.org; www.webmd.com; www.mayoclinic.org

"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"~Job 12:12

MEMBER NEWS



PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE ON ASCENSION'S CARE LIST

Mail a card, plan a visit, or say a prayer for these members of our church family.

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 - 3400 Hardwood Heights, Prescott, MI 48756

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 - Meridian Acres, 2905 Meridian Road, Sanford, MI 48657

Kay Ballien - Healthsource, 3340 Hospital Road, Room 525, Saginaw, MI 48603

MEMBER NEWS

October Birthdays

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

Anniversaries this Month



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	Hayes and Esther Mack
19th	Joe and Melissa Albosta
20th	John and Barb Robishaw
22nd	Bob and Peggy Darling
23rd	Darren and Kami Milbrandt
29th	Nicholas and Jessica Hoffmann

SERVING IN OCTOBER

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

4 Tim Wilson/Dave Dawson & Dave Huston
11 Ken Schian/Andy Friend & Bob Beyerlein
18 *Volunteer Needed*/Jeff Whelton
25 David Witker/Gus Hendrickson & Jim Stuart

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

4 Charleen Boland/Linda Lentner
11 Marty Debozy/Shelly Dawson
18 Tom Erskine/Linda Luplow
25 Kris Friend/John Whelton

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

4 Melissa Albosta/Kris Friend
11 Kris Friend/Bob Aldrich
18 Larry Nuechterlein/Gus Hendrickson
25 Melissa Albosta/Bob Aldrich

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

4 Tom Bailey/Gus Hendrickson
11 Dan Roth/Bob Aldrich
18 *Volunteer Needed*/Gus Hendrickson
25 Tom Bailey/Bob Aldrich

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

4 Charleen Boland/Lisa Espinoza
11 Lynn Schomaker/Shelly Dawson
18 Ruth Schomaker/Karen DeLaRosa
25 David Witker/Chris Crump



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers

7 Glen Mack
14 Mike Clifford
21 Glen Mack
28 Mike Clifford

Readers

7 Joyce Richardson
14 Mike Clifford
21 John Schroeder
28 Larry Nuechterlein

Sound Board/Video Screen

7 John Schroeder/Glen Mack
14 John Schroeder/Glen Mack
21 John Schroeder/Glen Mack
28 John Schroeder/Glen Mack

Prayers

7 Donna Malburg
14 Mike Clifford
21 Connie Dutcher
28 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.*