The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 21, 2021 via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

https://msu.zoom.us/j/91471885298 Meeting ID: 914 7188 5298 Passcode: church

All Confirmed Members of Ascension Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend as we review our 2020 year in ministry and attend to any official business

Reports were due to the office by January 24th, if you haven't turned yours in, please do so immediately!

Send to: ascensionIc@sbcglobal.net

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"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

VISIT US ONLINE ascensionlc.org

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

SHARIN

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." ~Philippians 3:13-14

There is a song that I learned at youth events, but it is actually an older song- keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. (Live Sessions @ Rapture Recordings // Taimani & Minor Islands // "Keep

Your Eyes On The Prize" - YouTube is one of my favorite versions)

That song has been running through my brain in the midst of everything going on. There are the ongoing COVID issues, and now trying to figure ASEASout when vaccines will be available, the illnesses and deaths, the questions

like "when will we be able to meet in person", and on and on. And now as I write, our country is again at odds with each other. In conversation with members we are trying to have it make sense, wondering if we are on the right or wrong side, can we make a difference, and just wondering why? Then there are all the things we deal with in life on a normal basis: waiting for word from the doctor, grief, struggle with family relationships, angry words, etc. Those who know me are aware that I can get myself pretty worked up about all this stuff. I can say, January 6, it was a very hard on day as the church celebrated the manifestation of Jesus while unrest was occurring in our nation's capital.

cannot let fear and uncertainty rule our lives. I trust that God is present, just as God said they would be. I believe God is grieving with us, but is not absent. I am not ignoring what is going on. but I can't let it rule my life. My focus, my eyes must be set on Jesus. Prayer is becoming more and more important in my life these days, as well as reading scripture. Our Bible studies have been God moments for me as we together read and discuss God's Word.

> When I keep eyes on Jesus, my eves on the prize. I hold on. I remember that this, no matter what it is, this is not the end of the story, not the end of my story, not the end of America's story, and not the end of the world's story.

I am not advocating just waiting and doing nothing. I advocate for prayer. for peaceful demonstrations no matter what the cause is, for listening with the goal to understand those from differing opinions. Sometimes we can't affect change far from us, but what change can we affect in our own corner of the world? If we all did that in our own corners, all would be covered. I know I want to be part of the solution, not the problem. I pray with our focus on Jesus, we will hold on, and manifest Jesus in a world that is in need.

Pastor Julie

Pastor Julie Bailey

STAFF

We

Julie Bailey, Pastor Bob Aldrich, Education Coordinator Jennifer Salowitz, Musician Lisa Whelton, Parish Administrator Dawn Dalton, Custodian Ruth Schomaker, Custodian

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gus Hendrickson, President Melissa Albosta, Vice President Connie Dutcher, Treasurer Dawn Earnesty, Secretary Judi Minster, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Glen Mack, Congregational Care Mike Clifford, Finance/Resources Karen DeLaRosa, Outreach Lynda Goward, Spiritual Health

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday's 8:00 a.m. Online Only

CONTACT INFORMATION

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: (989) 781-2170

Email: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net Website: www.ascensionlc.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/ groups/220876594969678



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten season, culminating in Easter. During this service, we traditionally have our foreheads marked with dust, or ashes, acknowledging that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ashes trace the life-paying cross marked on our foreheads in baptism. This Lenten journey marks a return to God, a journey to return to God, while we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. Returning to our baptismal call, our journey of faith, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR LENT:

February 17th (Ash Wednesday)

Worship will be an online video posted on our Website,
YouTube, and Facebook pages by 10 a.m. for participation at your convenience.

Imposition of Ashes will take place under the portico (please stay in your vehicle) from 12-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

Wednesdays during Lent (Feb 24th, Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th)—worship will be live on Facebook at 7 p.m. and will be posted on our Facebook page and Website for later viewing. This year our reflection will be "Created for Community".

BULLETINS

If you would like to follow along while participating online with a worship bulletin—They are on our website:

www.ascensionlc.org

In the "Worship with Ascension" section

WEEKLY ONLINE WORSHIP

Worship will be live on Facebook at 8 a.m. on Sundays. Our Group is called "Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw (ELCA) Group" If you cannot attend live at 8 a.m. there are the following options for later viewing:

- 1. The service will be saved and a link posted on our webpage www.ascensionlc.org (look for the date you wish to participate in under Online Worship Service)
- 2. Participate on Facebook anytime after the service is complete.
- 3. Participate on our YouTube Channel named "Ascension Lutheran Church"



Drive-in Communion will be offered on Sundays from 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Each car will pull under the portico.

Please stay in your car. Communion and a Blessing will be distributed to you through the car window.

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



Youth Sunday School is meeting via Zoom each week at 9 a.m. for about 30 minutes. We sing songs, create projects, have virtual scavenger hunts, and much much more. It is a lot of fun while teaching God's Word to our Youth Preschool thru 5th grade. Please send Bob an email at trammlou@sbcglobal.net for the Zoom link.

Looking for a way to stay connected with Ascension, consider leading the Youth Sunday School Zoom class. Classes are 30 minutes on Sunday Morning from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and are a lot of fun, you learn as much as you teach. Class lessons are provided, but original ideas are highly encouraged. Please email Bob Aldrich at trammlou@sbcglobal.net if you are interested or have questions.

Adult Sunday School Online—9 a.m.

Adult Sunday School is discovering in a study called "Dwelling in the Word" via zoom online. All are Welcome!



February 7th—no class (coffee hour) February 14th—Praise February 21st—Lament February 28th—Mission

Monday Evening Bible Study—7 p.m.

We will continue the Bible Study that started on January 18th called "Making Sense of the Christian Faith." We are discussing the major theological doctrines of our faith (Don't let that scare you!). There are 2 additional books available and you are welcome to join us even if you missed the first couple of sessions.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study—11 a.m.

You are invited to join us for our Tuesday morning Bible study that is currently meeting on Zoom. We meet at 11 a.m. and are reading the Gospel of John.

If you are interested in attending any or all of the Online Bible Studies, please call or send an email to Pastor Julie at pr_julie@sbcglobal.net.



Chase Hamilton

28th

Anniversaries

5th	Bruce and Traci Collier
14th	Mike and Elaine Clifford
	Amy and Russell Kolb
15th	Ronald and Marie Leonard
	Rusty and Barb Van Marte
18th	John and Julie Stroebel
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



FEBRUARY Spotlight! - The Trustees

Each month we plan to spotlight a ministry in the church to educate the membership and to hopefully inspire members and youth to find an interest they can participate in.

The trustees are the caretakers of the church and all church property. They are part of our Finance and Resources team and our Minister is Mike Clifford.

Annually the trustees:

- Maintain lighting
- Conduct the annual spring cleanup
- Repair plumbing
- Maintain door and window seals and locks
- Strip and wax tiled floors
- Schedule carpet cleaning
- Maintain the grass, shrubbery, trees,
- Maintain 9 furnaces including filter changes
- Program numerous building thermostats
- Change smoke alarm batteries
- Maintain lawn mowers and other outdoor equipment
- Schedule inspections of fire extinguishers and the Thomas Township Fire Department
- Perform minor building repairs
- Arrange for major projects include getting bids
- Set up fellowship hall for funeral dinners, classes and special events
- Set the portable sign
- Prepare and submit Consumers Energy's ENERGY STAR certification for approval

Special projects in 2020:

- Set up & tore down the "Back to School Fair"
- Monitored the impact/savings of LED lighting
- Planted and harvested the garden watermelons
- Monitored water damage insurance claim
- Scheduled and oversaw the roof replacement
- Obtained estimates and supervised replacement of damaged asphalt
- Window repairs
- ▼ ENERGY STAR certification was approved for 2020



If you have any skills in construction, plumbing, electrical, home repair, can climb a ladder, use a drill or screwdriver, can organize people/projects, or simply need something to do, the trustees are <u>always</u> looking for help. Much of the work can be done after work, evenings or weekends, some items are scheduled, some are sporadic and you don't need to be at everything. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the church office or any of the following trustees; Ron Fries, Tom Bailey, Marv Lentner, Jim Stuart, Tim Wilson, Dan Roth; they will be more than willing to find out your skillset as well as let you know where you can be of help.





1st Sunday of the Month

Sunday, February 7th 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Do you miss "Coffee Hour" when we would sit in those comfortable chairs and just talk and catch up? I do! You are invited to virtual coffee hour on the first Sunday of each month. Grab your favorite coffee, tea, etc, get a snack you might not normally eat in the morning at home, and let's just get together on Zoom.

Join by going to Zoom.com, click "Join a Meeting" and enter the following Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted

Meeting ID: 856 9358 9421

Passcode: 749918

OR Send Pastor Julie and email at pr_julie@sbcglobal.net and the email invite can be provided to you.

Let's see how everyone is doing.



Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2021 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, 2021. If there are any questions, please contact Andy Friend, Endowment Fund Committee Chairperson, at 798-6059.

SCHOLARSHIPS

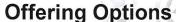
Attention all high school students and parents. There is a scholarship grant available for graduating seniors that are members of Ascension Lutheran Church. The scholarship packets, which include the guidelines and application form, are available in the Church Office. Application deadline is **March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



Offering Envelopes

2021 giving envelopes can still be picked up at the church during the office hours; Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Please contact the office to make other arrangements, if needed.





Thank you to all the families who have continued to give and support the congregation during this difficult time.

Please note the giving options that are available:

- You may mail your giving check/envelope to the church.
- You may drop your giving at the church during office hours.
- You can set up online giving through Vanco, the link is on our website. If you would like more information about this option, please contact Mike Clifford or the church office.



The Prayers and Sympathy of our congregation are extended to the families of

Bettie Lyle who passed on January 4th
Rich Gerard who passed on January 12th

We'd like to welcome our newest members
Tim Grueber
Carole Soule

May God bless Tim and Carole with His gift of grace.



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.

Leslee Arnst - 2815 N. Orr Rd., Hemlock, MI 48626

Delila Colpean - 302 Fulton Street, Room 103, St. Charles, MI 48655

Jack Colpean - 302 Fulton Street, St. Charles, MI 48655

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

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



Helping Children Cope with Covid-19 By: Sharon Boyd COVID-19 ommunication

Children and peers react in part on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with Covid-19 calmly they can provide the best support for their children. Here are some ways to help support your child.

- Talk with your child about Covid-19
- Answer questions and share facts about Covid-19 in a way that your child can understand
- Reassure your child that they are safe. Let them know its okay to feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress, so that they can learn from you how to cope with stress
- Limit your family's exposure to news coverage of the event, including social media.
- Try to keep up with regular routines. If schools are closed, create a schedule for learning activities and for fun, relaxing activities.
- Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well.
- Spend time with your child in meaningful activities, like reading together or playing a game.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" -Psalm 46:1

2021 Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers for 2021 are needed. If you would like to purchase please call the office or send ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net to select a date. You can choose a specific date and 2 arrangements are permitted each week. These arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week for worship and may be picked up after service on Sunday morning. The cost is \$30.00. A payment envelope can be mailed to you, you can send a check to the office, or drop off payment during office hours (Monday-Thursdays 9am-2pm).



Altar Flowers for February

February 7th Flowers Needed

February 14th Flowers Needed

February 21st Given in Honor of her Baptism

by Julie Bailey

February 28th Given in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary

by Dick and Ruth Schomaker



SUMMER CAMP

Please see the following announcement from Living Waters Ministries about camp at Stony Lake in 2021. https://elcalivingwater.com/2021/01/15/2021-summer-announcement/

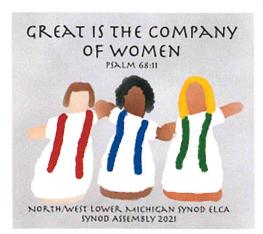


SCRIP ORDERS—Due the 3rd Sunday of the month

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 on our website or by calling the church office. A form can be emailed to you. Orders for this month must be submitted by Sunday, February 21st. Please contact Pastor Julie with questions.

Do you shop with Amazon? If so, go to smile.amazon.com and register Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw as your charity to support. When you order through this site, all orders eligible will benefit Ascension at 0.05% what you paid. You don't pay anymore!!! It may not seem like much, but for the number of us that do use Amazon, it can really add up!

North/West Lower Michigan Synod 2021 Synod Assembly



As 2020 comes to a close, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod is looking ahead to our 2021 events. Given the ongoing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, many events will continue to be held differently than in past years. This includes our biggest event, Synod Assembly. For the 2021 Synod Assembly, Synod Council has approved a virtual assembly, which will be held May 14-15, 2021.

While next year's assembly will be different than past years' assemblies, we are looking forward to using this opportunity to engage members in new and exciting ways. The Synod Staff is already at work planning and more information will be available in the coming months.

Due to the nature of a virtual assembly, we are expecting to need volunteers to help with technology. If you have

experience in filming, video and/or audio editing, production, technology support or any related fields and are interested in volunteering, please complete the interest form linked here: https://bit.ly/2WdBOWf

If you have additional questions, please contact communications@mittensynod.org

Subscribe and Connect

Ascension Lutheran Church is doing everything it can to try and connect with members while we are unable to gather in person. Please consider exploring the following resources:

Our Website—Please check this out to participate The Messenger—Our monthly newsletter. Would in recorded worship services, obtain bulletins, our you like to get the "color version" of The Messenger newsletter, Pastor's Blog, Forms, Online Giving, the via email? Did you know that you can receive a Staff—there is a lot here, if you haven't visited it paper version in addition to the email? Feel free to lately, stop by! (ascensionlc.org)

Facebook—We post current information (announcements, articles. music, prayers needed, worship services, etc) that may come up during the week between worship services and the monthly Messenger. If you are not part 🚳 of the group, request to join. **Ascension Lutheran Church**



We gain additional YouTube. resources as we gain more subscribers. Subscribe today! We have 56 subscribers, let's see if we can get to 100 by March 1st.

send Lisa a message at ascesionlc@sbcglobal.net, she can add you to the email list AND you will

continue on the paper list. Why would we continue TOGETHER IN sending the paper version? We mail our newsletter via bulk mail which is a significant savings versus 1st class mail.

STAYING CONNECTED

Phone, Mail, Email, Text—We can do this anytime, not just during a pandemic, pick up the phone and call someone just to say hi, put a note or card in the YouTube—Our worship services are also posted to mail, or even send an email or text. If you need a benefits and member's address or phone #, call the church Click office.

QR Codes

Do you know what a QR Code is? You've probably seen one similar to the ones below. A QR code is a "shortcut" of sorts that can take you directly to a website. If you have a smartphone, you can scan the QR code (which is basically a bar code, like on your groceries) and you will be directed to a site without having to type in (or remember) the website address.

We are worshiping and communicating virtually right now, so I created a couple of QR codes in case you'd like a "shortcut" to the various websites we are using.

Ascension's Website

Ascension's YouTube

Ascension's Facebook









What you need:

- · Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- · Plastic knife
- · Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- · A plate
- String

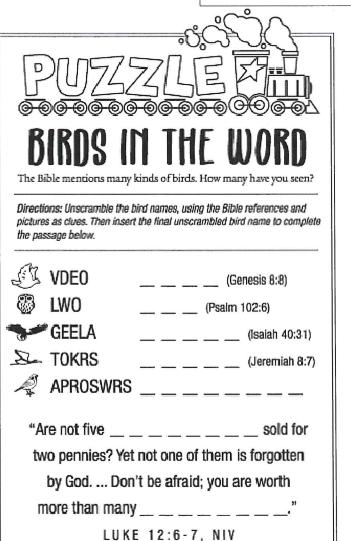
What you do:

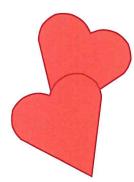
- 1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
- 2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the
- 3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a
- 4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



Pull Out Your Bibles and Go To Numbers 11:4-6 For This Bible Quiz







Serving in February

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

- 7 Not Needed / No Service
- 14 Not Needed / No Service
- 21 Not Needed / No Service
- 28 Not Needed / No Service

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

- 7 Kris Friend / No Service
- 14 Charleen Boland / No Service
- **21** Joscelyn Whelton / No Service
- 28 Joscelyn Whelton / No Service

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

- 7 Kris Friend / No Service
- 14 Charleen Boland / No Service
- 21 Mackenzie Morgan / No Service
- 28 Melissa Albosta / No Service

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

- 7 Dan Roth / No Service
- 14 Tom Bailey / No Service
- 21 Madison Morgan / No Service
- 28 Makena Whelton / No Service

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

- 7 Kris Friend / No Service
- 14 Charleen Boland / No Service
- 21 Lisa Whelton / No Service
- 28 Lisa Whelton / No Service



WEDNESDAYS

Head Ushers Readers Sound Board/Video Screen Prayers

Volunteers are not needed at this time.

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 March 2021 issue is **Monday, February 15th at 12:00 noon.**

Articles may be emailed to ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net.

Ascension Lutheran Church - February 2021 8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609 (989) 781-2170

Email: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Website: ascensionlc.org

Church Office hours: Mondays—Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Sat	9	13	20	27	
Fri	5 Office Closed	12 Office Closed	19 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	
Thu	4	II	18	25	
Wed	67	10	<i>17 Ash Wednesday</i> 12-1pm Distribution of Ashes 6-7pm Distribution of Ashes	24 7pm-Lenten Worship via Facebook live	10/0
Tue	2 11am-Bible Study via Zoom	9 11am-Bible Study via Zoom	16 11am-Bible Study via Zoom 6:30pm-Council Mtg-FH	23 11am-Bible Study via Zoom	
Mon	<i>I</i> 7pm-Bible Study via Zoom	8 7pm-Bible Study via Zoom	15 12pm-Messenger Deadline 7pm-Bible Study via Zoom	22 7pm-Bible Study via Zoom	
Sun		7 8am-Worship via Facebook live 9am-Coffee Hour via Zoom 10-10:45am-Drive Up Communion	14 Valentine's Day 8am-Worship via Facebook live 9am-Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study via Zoom 10-10:45am-Drive Up Communion	# C Z E B E	28 8am-Worship via Facebook live 9am-Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study via Zoom 10-10:45am-Drive Up Communion

Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 781-7803.

Ascension Lutheran Church

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 Phone: (989) 781-2170 www.ascensionlc.org

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