

The MESSENGER

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- Church office Hours are Monday thru Thursday 9am—2pm.
- The church office will be closed this winter if Swan Valley Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Our Website



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

Annual Meeting

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held
Sunday, February 13th at 11:30 a.m.
(after the 10:30 a.m. worship service)



All Confirmed Members of Ascension Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend as we review our 2021 year in ministry and attend to any official business

The Annual Report is available for pickup at the church when you are present for worship service or during office hours.

You may also have the report emailed to you, contact Lisa at ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net.



Thank You

We are the church! It is clear that much of the work that happens in and through Ascension is by faithful disciples who utilize their Spirit gifts for the good of the whole. This month we celebrate two of those people who have given years of time and energy to the work of the Trustees.



Ron Fries has resigned from serving on the Trustee team after 15 years. He has been essential in the scheduling and organization of the committee, as well as an advocate for the Energy Star Award we have received these last years. Ron will continue to share his gifts in other ways, and is happy to share information he has gained throughout these years.

Mike Clifford has also taken leave from the Trustee team, however he will continue to serve on special projects and will trim the shrubs and bushes. He also has gifts in other areas that he will share for the good of all. Mike recently completed a term serving on the council as the Minister of Resource and Finance.

Thank you to Ron and Mike, and all those who work to make our congregation secure, safe, and efficient. And beautiful!

STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor
 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
 Susan Kelley, Secretary
 Kris Yackel-Friend, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Glen Mack, Congregational Care
 Tim Grueber, Finance/Resources
 Karen DeLaRosa, Outreach
 Celina Gottlieb, Spiritual Health
 Rita Hendrickson, Parish Nurse

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday's: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday's 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

8695 Gratiot Road
 Saginaw, MI 48609
 Phone: (989) 781-2170
 Pastoral Emergency:(989) 574-5663

Email: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.ascensionlc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/220876594969678
 (Group Name: Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw (ELCA) Group)

YouTube: Ascension Lutheran Church



The Prayers and Sympathy of our congregation are extended to the family of Ron Schultz, who passed on January 19th.

A celebration of his life will take place in July.

A Message From Pastor Julie

Why join a church?

That is a question I get asked all the time. As someone who has been active in the church her whole life, my first response can be flippant—why not? I have lifelong friends from my confirmation class, my “home congregation” in Lincoln, and congregations where I have served hold a special place in my heart. But mostly I belong to a congregation in response to the reality that God loves me unconditionally and Jesus is here.

The church is made up of imperfect people, all of whom are loved unconditionally by our God. We are imperfect people who worship the perfect creator and Lord. Some people say the church is full of hypocrites, but I don't see it that way. None of us are claiming we have all the answers, or that we are perfect. We are imperfect people loved by a perfect God. Together we commit to follow God.

We are not only loved unconditionally, but God also has some expectations for us. Any relationship has expectations. What are the expectations in your marriage—those that are said and those that are unspoken? What about expectations between parent and child? Relationships bring with them a set of expectations and boundaries for the sake of a healthy relationship.

The church is not just a social organization, like a country club or other group where you pay your dues and then you are privy to certain rights and services. Being part of a church is a COMMITMENT to be part of God's community through the church, the body of Christ. When you commit to being part of a church, what we would call a member, there are expectations in that relationship as well, with God and with the other people who are part of that church. As a congregation, we are also connected to the larger group of believers throughout the church.

Some questions to consider:

What first drew you to Ascension?

What is your understanding of church and your role in the church?

Why is commitment important for church membership?



Pastor Julie

Pastor Julie Bailey

Wellness Warriors

Join the Wellness Warriors on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. We are continuing to exercise (with masks).

Dress comfortably. Bring your water bottle and hand held weights if you have them.

Bring a friend; this is not limited to Ascension members only. Our goal is to move!

Questions? Contact Kris Friend 989-245-6446 or Rita Hendrickson 989-482-0271

Below is our schedule, class and description. We will help modify for anyone who needs it.

***Feb 1 - Grow Young** - chair/standing, arms & legs, balance activities

***Feb 8 - Walk away pounds-** walking in place, low impact step video; could adapt to chair

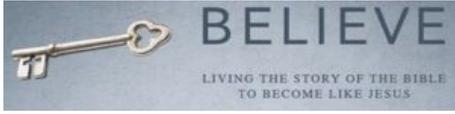
***Feb 15 - Shaped by Faith-** chair/ standing, arms & legs

***Feb 22 - Grow Young** - chair/standing, arms & legs, balance activities

(The church is closed for inclement weather when Swan Valley Schools are closed. Check Facebook for updates or contact Kris.)

Bible Studies

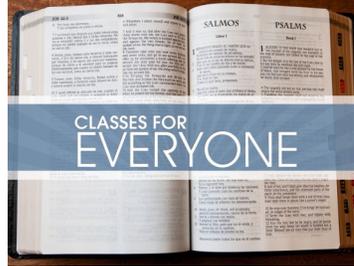
Sunday Mornings—9:15 a.m.



Studying the book “Believe”, Living the story of the Bible to become like Jesus. Adults and youth not in our children’s Sunday School, are welcome. Each week in preparation for class you will be encouraged to read one chapter of the book. We will watch a brief video to prepare us for discussion. See Pastor Julie if you are interested.

Tuesday Mornings—11:00 a.m.

This Bible Study meets via Zoom. 1 Corinthians is currently being studied and a new book will begin soon. All are welcome, even if you cannot attend every week. Contact Pastor Julie for the Zoom link.



Women’s Bible Study

Due to the rise in Covid exposures, this Bible Study was temporarily postponed until March. Spiritual disciplines are essential to a more vibrant spiritual life and knowing God more intimately. Our next Bible Study written by Kelly Minter unpacks the Biblical foundation for these sacred habits along with approachable ways to practice disciplines like prayer, study, worship, rest, simplicity, generosity, celebration, and many more. Instead of being just one more thing on your to-do list, you’ll find that these habits of faith can actually create more margins to your life – providing peace and rest as you walk closer with Jesus.

Kelly is a Bible teacher, author, and singer/songwriter with a desire to serve women of all ages. She also partners with Justice & Mercy International, an organization that cares for the vulnerable and forgotten in the Amazon and Moldova.

Our Mary to Martha Women’s Bible Study is a seven week study that will begin on **Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Digging Dunes room. Please let Joyce Richardson know if you are participating in the class so we may order enough books. Sign up by calling or texting Joyce at 989-274-6787. **All women are welcome!**



- 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
Harrison Salowitz
- 22nd Zachary Maddox
Scarlett Naples
- 24th Roland Denman
- 25th Max Dreyfus
Paul Nielsen
- 26th Dori Dalton
- 27th Natalie Fleissner
Ken Schian
Layne Wakeman
- 28th Chase Hamilton



- 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 Stroeel
- 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



Blood Pressure Screening

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee on the 3rd Sunday of every month. The next one will be held on **Sunday, February 20th.**



Online Giving (VANCO)

It has been a while since we provided information on our direct online giving program. Ascension utilizes VANCO. Members can use VANCO to give on a regular schedule or for single donations. VANCO now offers a mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement) from the App or Play store. Whether you login on your computer or through the app (or both), you will have 1 login. You can choose to give to either the General Fund or the Building Fund (Mortgage) or both.

To sign up today via your computer—go to our website (ascensionlc.org), scroll to the bottom, click on “Online Tithing”, then click on “Sign Up” and follow the online directions.

To sign up via the Mobile App—download the app, when prompted add the invite code MRDSGS, Choose Ascension, click “Sign Up” and follow the directions.

If you already have a login, but haven’t logged in within 90 days, you may need to reset your password, click on “Log In”, type in your email address, click “Next”, then click on “Forgot password?” - this will take you through the steps to reset your password.

If you have any trouble with logging in or the giving, please contact Lisa at the office for assistance.

Our YouTube Channel



Offering Envelopes

2022 giving envelopes can be picked up at the church during Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays or during office hours; Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Please contact the office to make other arrangements, if needed.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Members—Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a partner with Thrivent (a fraternal organization that helps with financial management), you likely have what they call Thrivent Choice Dollars you can direct to help the ministry of Ascension and other worthwhile ministries. It doesn’t cost you any money, or affect any of your investments. If you don’t direct your money, nothing happens to it. Please consider directing your choice dollars. If you need help signing into your account don’t hesitate to ask for help. Pastor Julie or your Thrivent representative would be happy to help you. The deadline to direct your Choice dollars is **March 31, 2022**.

Endowment Fund

The Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2022 to fund projects which may support any of the following activities:



Christian Education
Music Ministry
Scholarships
Evangelism
Special Capital Improvement Opportunities

Youth Programs
Mission Opportunities
Family Outreach
Technology

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 are available on our website and in the Church Office and must be submitted by **March 31, 2022**. If there are any questions, please contact a member of the Endowment Committee: Waylon Earnesty, Melissa Albosta, Dori Dalton, Sara Gregor, or Tracy Aldrich.

Scholarship



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 and on our website. Application deadline is **March 31, 2022**. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 989-781-2170 or via email at ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net.



Please Remember Those on Ascension's Care List Lawn Mowers

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

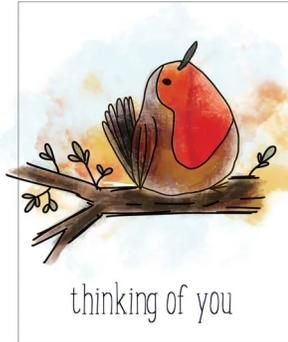
Leslee Arnst - 2815 N. Orr Rd.,
Hemlock, MI 48626

John Kaul—5935 Shattuck Apt #13,
Saginaw, MI 48603

Peggy Lockhart - 6143 Longmeadow Blvd.
North, Saginaw, MI 48603

Jackie O'Dell—302 Fulton Street, Room
108, St. Charles, MI 48655

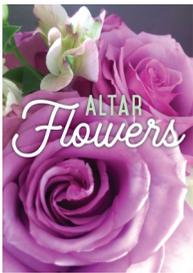
Marv Yancer - 8936 N. Brookshire Drive,
Saginaw, MI 48609



The Trustees are in need of 2 individuals who would like to assist with lawn mowing this year. We can pair individuals together or you can join as a 2-person team. Cutting takes place from April—October (weather permitting) and is done weekly. Each team cuts either 5 or 6 times during the season. The church has 2 riding lawnmowers and cutting takes approximately 2 hours. If you are interested in becoming part of the lawn mowing team or have any questions, please contact Tom Bailey, 989-239-3928.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers, please sign up on the flower chart located on the Acolyte room, call the office, or send an email to ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net to select a date. These arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week for worship and may be picked up after service on Sunday morning. You can choose a specific date and 2 arrangements are permitted each week. **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 when you are at church or during office hours (Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm).



<i>February 6th</i>	<i>Flowers Needed</i>
February 13th	For the anniversary of her baptism, by Pastor Julie Bailey
February 20th	In honor of their anniversary, Dick & Ruth Schomaker
<i>February 27th</i>	<i>Flowers Needed</i>



Our Facebook Page



Pop Can Fundraiser

We are continuing to collect returnable pop cans and bottles. Our Youth are returning the cans for a fundraising activity. Half will go to the Youth returning the cans, half will go to the Youth general fund. You can drop your cans off in the vestibule near the Fellowship Hall, during office hours or when you are at the church. *(Please do not put them in the garage any longer as the youth cannot access them there)*

Thank you for your support!!

8th thru 12th Grade Youth Instructions:

1. Sign up on the kiosk to return cans
2. Grab the cans when you are at church that week
3. Return the cans at a local store
4. Put the cash in an envelope marked Youth Pop Cans with your name on it and give to Pastor Julie or leave in the church office*



***Please provide the cash to the church no later than the next week**



Children's Church takes place weekly during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The youth, 4 years old through 5th grade, will begin worship with their families, and after the Children's Message, be dismissed with their teachers to experience the Word, or message of worship in a more age appropriate way. They will then return to worship as an entire congregation during the peace, so that our youth will still receive Communion or a blessing.

If you did not register in the fall, registration forms are available on our website or from the Children's Church Teachers in the classroom.

1st Year Confirmation Students

Confirmation Classes for 1st Year Students are generally the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 5:00 p.m.

February 13th & 27th
 March 6th
 March 27th – No Class – Spring Break
 April 10th & 24th
 May 1st & 15th



2nd Year Confirmation Students

Confirmation Classes for 2nd Year Students are weekly on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.

8th—12th Grade Youth

The next group meeting will be **February 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** Your homework is to think of items we need to include in our covenant, consider any sites we wish to visit in Minneapolis as we have time.

Continue to collect cans/bottles and contemplate anything else we need to consider. We will continue to work on fundraising!



Acolyte Training

Acolytes are generally elementary age through 6th grade and can participate once a parent feels they are responsible to carry the flame into and out of the service. They also assist with offering, communion, baptisms, and extinguish the candles. A specific service can be selected and participation ranges from monthly to bi-monthly depending on the number of Acolytes. One or two acolytes are needed at each service. This is one of the first ministries that our youth participate in and is essential in engaging them in volunteering in the future.

We are looking at either Sunday, February 20th or 27th after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for the training (Watch the announcements for confirmation of final date).

Joscelyn Whelton will be training new Acolytes. It can likely be completed in about 30-40 mins. The kids will practice acolyting as part of the training and will be paired up with an experienced acolyte during their first time (and 2nd time, if you think it would be helpful or they are still unsure). Once they are confident that they can Acolyte on their own, they can also Acolyte at the 8am service or 7pm on Wednesdays (if they or you desire).

They will learn:

- about the Acolyte Room (the robes & ties, signing in, the candle lighter)
- when to enter service to light the candles
- the order the candles are lit
- when to snuff the candles
- the order the candles are snuffed & carrying the light out of service
- how to assist during the service (offering and communion)

A parent or an adult needs to stay for the training.

Please let Lisa in the office know if you have a student interested in becoming an Acolyte.



Serving in February

Readers	8am	10:30am
6	Kris Friend	Linda Lentner
13	Patty Hamilton	Linda Luplow
20	Susan Kelley	Joyce Richardson
27	Dick Schomaker	Dawn Dalton

Prayers	8am	10:30am
6	Charleen Boland	Tim Grueber
13	Ruth Schomaker	Karen DeLaRosa
20	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Whelton
27	Susan Kelley	Dawn Dalton

Sound Board Operators

6	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Steve Salowitz
13	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Will Salowitz
20	Madison Morgan	Ben Salowitz
27	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Henry Salowitz

Video Screen Operators

6	Charleen Boland	Tim Grueber
13	Kris Friend	Tim Grueber
20	Mackenzie Morgan	Henry Salowitz
27	Charleen Boland	Tim Grueber

Head Ushers

6	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
13	Roth	Hendrickson/Earnesty
20	Wilson	Dawson
27	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein

Acolyte

6	Gabby Dalton
13	Ethan Earnesty
20	Greyston Hendrickson
27	Ella Frollo



Altar Guild

6	Kris Friend
13	Sue Bailey
20	Donna Fries
27	Susan Kelley

February Librarian

Tracy Aldrich



Children's Church

6	Madison & Mackenzie Morgan
13	Dawn Earnesty & Stephanie Wizner
20	Rita Hendrickson
27	Joscelyn Whelton & Louise Roby

WEDNESDAYS

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
2	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher	Henry Salowitz	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher
9	Glen Mack	Joyce Richardson	Henry Salowitz	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
16	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	Henry Salowitz	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford
23	Mike Clifford	Connie Dutcher	Henry Salowitz	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher
2	Glen Mack	Joyce Richardson	Henry Salowitz	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg

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.

Ascension Lutheran Church - February 2022

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.

If you plan to meet for one of our Ministries in the church, please let the church office know.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>2 Groundhog Day</p> <p>9am-Sewing Group-FH 11am-Weekend School Bags 7pm-Worship/Communion</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>2:30pm-Confirmation2</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FH Rental</p>
						
<p>6</p> <p>8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Children's Church</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12pm-Staff Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11am-Weekend School Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:30pm-Confirmation2</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>FH Rental</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Children's Church 11:30am-Annual Meeting 5pm-Confirmation-1st yr</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>12pm-Staff Meeting 12pm-Messenger Articles Due</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am-Sewing Group-FH 11am-Weekend School Bags 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:30pm-Confirmation2</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Scrip Orders Due BP Screening</p> <p>8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Children's Church 5:30pm-Youth Mtg</p>	<p>21 President's Day</p> <p>12pm-Staff Meeting</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11am-Weekend School Bags 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2:30pm-Confirmation2</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Children's Church 5pm-Confirmation-1st yr</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12pm-Staff Meeting</p> 					

Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 989-781-7803

Ascension Lutheran Church

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

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The MESSENGER

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the March 2022 issue is
Monday, February 14th at 12:00 (noon).

Articles may be emailed to ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

