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Church office Hours are Monday thru Thursday 9am—2pm.

Office will be closed: July 4th & 5th (Independence Day)





Everyone is invited to complete the coloring page on page 8. Bring them in and we will hang them up at church. MISSION: "As an open and progressive congregation, we boldly make Christ's vision known."

Prayers of the Week

As we have continued with visual announcements on our screen at the beginning of worship and on Facebook each week, one of the items that had not yet returned were our prayer partner prayers. They will now be included in The Messenger each month.

As Jesus calls us to be one even as he and the Father are one, please remember these congregations, leaders and families in your prayers.

July 3rd

Leer Lutheran Church in Posen, MI and Supply Pastors Ascension Families: Joseph, Melissa, Matthew Albosta; Todd and Alisha Albrecht; Bob, Tracy, Brittany Aldrich

July 10th

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Reed City, MI and Rev. Kara Shaw Ascension Families: James and Cheryl Andrus; Mitchell Andrus; Nancy Armstrong



July 17th

Hope Lutheran Church in Rhodes, MI and Rev. Roger Bauer Ascension Families: Leslee Arnst; Brian, Wendy, Ahren, Rylan, Rhys Awad; Julie Bailey

July 24th

Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford, MI and Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas Ascension Families: Tom and Sue Bailey; Carolyn Ballien; Phil Ballien

July 31st

St. James Lutheran Church in Rogers City, MI and Rev. Mary Hughes Ascension Families: Edna Bell; Joyce and Kayla Berg; Robert and Debbie Beyerlein

Prayer Chain



A prayer chain is a list of people who agree

to pray for others during a troubled time. Our prayer chain is led by Barb Van Marter. If you would be interested in being a part of the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact Barb directly at 989-781-7803.

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 *vacant*, 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

Our Facebook Page



A Message From Pastor Julie

Prayer: Prioritizing God

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."—Luke 11:1

Prayer—easier said than done! Talking to God, spending time with God—not hard in concept, but difficult in practice. There is no instant gratification or reward from praying; you don't get a "read" message like you might with texts. We talk about prayer, but is it really that important? We pray and are asked to pray when there is a crisis, a struggle, when we don't know what else to do.

In the "7 Basics of Belonging-The Meaning of Church Membership," Sam Rainer reminds us that prayer is a spiritual discipline. Prayer is what we do with and for each other as a church. Prayer is an expectation of belonging and it is critical to your spiritual health. Prayer is our demonstration of faith in God's Word and trusting in God's will. We cannot prioritize God's will without praying!

In Luke 11, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. Notice the beginning—our Father. It starts with God, not with us, not with me. Prayer is about God, prayer is all about God.

We don't pray for praying sake. A cell phone doesn't exist for itself—it is used to communicate with others. Prayer is the way we communicate with God, it is the way we relate to and with God. In prayer we connect two major concepts: God is infinite (awesome, beyond us) and God is near us (here and now). Prayer is the way finite people communicate with an infinite God. Prioritizing prayer makes God's will your priority.

We make time for what is important to us. Though we will want to dedicate time for prayer, there isn't only one way to pray. You can talk with God as you walk through your neighborhood, maybe including your neighbors in your prayer. You can pray when you are stuck in traffic, taking a shower, driving to and from work. We pray as individuals and as a church body-in worship, meetings, study and any time we gather. Like any other discipline-exercise, study, or other priority, we must make time to practice the *spiritual discipline* of prayer.

For the last few months we have been posting prayers online (Facebook) that include prayers from the ELCA, as well as individuals celebrating birthdays, baptisms, and anniversaries. If you haven't already, consider including these in your prayers. Pray regularly for the congregation staff and leadership. And don't forget to listen in your prayers—see how God might be answering!

Pastor Julie

Pastor Julie Bailey



Pastor Julie will be traveling during the dates listed below. During that time, our Congregational President, Gus Hendrickson and Vice President, Melissa Albosta, will be available for emergencies as noted below. Phone numbers will be listed on our voicemail during non-business hours.

June 26th—July 1st—At Stony Lake with our Campers Contact: Melissa Albosta

July 21st—25th—In Chicago with our High School Youth Contact: Gus Hendrickson



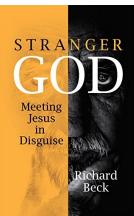
Book Study Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." --John 12:34-35

Love, this is how the world is to know who we are as Christians. It's great to say they will know we are Christians by our love (by our love) but another thing

to actually love people who we find offensive or wrong, or just plain different.

Richard Beck, the author explores how we engage in welcoming, embracing, showing hospitality and love in a world that is constantly dividing itself by various labels and objections. Beck calls us to welcome Jesus, who comes to us in the guise of the other; remembered and forgotten, known and unknown, friend and stranger.



We will be reading and studying this book over the summer on Sunday mornings in person at 9:15 a.m. and Monday evenings via zoom at 7:00 p.m.

You can purchase the book through Augsburg Fortress Publishing or smile.amazon.com. It is also available via Kindle. I have ordered a few books that will be first come first serve at \$11.50.

-Pr. Julie Bailey

Zoom Info for Monday Evenings: Meeting ID: 830 1756 2424 **Passcode:** 369918

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

They are studying Philippians.

All are welcome, even if you cannot attend every week. Contact Pastor Julie for the Zoom link.





Bishop's Newsletter

Bishop Craig Satterlee's newsletters can be found at:

https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/

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11th	Jim and Wanda Dankert
16th	Matthew and Susan Trumble
18th	Bob and Gina Dillenbeck
20th	Ken and Laura Schian
21st	Cole and Ashley Stadler
22nd	Tony and Melanie Dancer
23rd	Rick and Allison Hamilton
25th	Steve and Sheila Elvin
28th	Brian and Sue Denman
	Darcy and Diane Lobsiger-Brader
29th	Jeff and Lisa Whelton

Steve and Jennifer Salowitz

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'ight

100+ Women Who Care: Courtney Elisabeth (York) Favazza Memorial

In memory of Courtney, her mother, Kathy York, is beginning a Memorial to provide donations to Saginaw, Hemlock, St. Charles, Merrill and Freeland charities or non-profits.

Any woman is welcome to join other women in making a difference in our community. Each member will commit to \$100/meeting. The group will meet quarterly to determine what charity/program/non-profit will receive the donations that quarter. Ascension is providing a location for the meetings. Ascension will not be handling any of the donations. The charity/program/non-profit that receives a donation must agree not to use the names of members for future solicitations or give information to the public. (Ascension's Weekend Food Bag Program is an example of a program that could be considered).

The first organizational meeting and introduction to Courtney will be July 14th at 5:30 p.m. in Ascension's Fellowship Hall. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Courtney's daughter Amaya and learn more about the impact this group will make within our community. This first meeting will simply be an introduction and will not have a collection for a charity. Additional information can be found at www.100womencourtelis.com

Ascension has a congregational goal of participating with at least six other organizations in our community. We welcome the 100+ Women Who with open hearts Care and hospitality.

School Kit Bags 🌿

Financial Audit Report Received

A huge shout out to Tracy Aldrich, Mike Clifford and Ron Fries Annual Audit who completed a thorough audit of our financial records and operations. They presented the report at our June council meeting. Their report came with some recommendations which included additional work needed in some of our reporting and in the SCRIP account policies and practices.



Please take some time to thank them. They spent hours looking over reports, talking with people involved in our financial process, and completing their report. Thank you also to the counters, financial officers, team leaders, and all others who follow the financial policies and procedures.



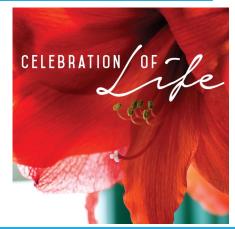
Sharing of the Peace

Throughout this time of COVID, we have continued to share the peace in ways which we were more comfortable. At the end of June, we began offering the sharing of peace as you are comfortable, and so if you wish to move about, shake hands, or however you would prefer to share the peace, please do so. Also be aware that some are still uncomfortable so be respectful of others boundaries.

Reminder: The sharing of peace in worship is not just the time to say hello. This sharing of peace is a dramatic illustration of "as we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us." It is a sign of the intentional reconciliation of relationship prior to gathering at the table for the meal or Holy Communion.

Many sincere thanks for thoughts and prayers when Ron passed away in January. Due to Covid-19 restrictions then, the family will be hosting a Celebration of Life picnic on Saturday, July 16th at 1:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church's outdoor pavilion. Bring a dish to pass and stories/ memories of Ron's life experiences to share. Church members who remember Ron are invited.

-Lori Schultz



School Kit Bags and the slips containing the needed items will be located on the table in the Gathering Area beginning July 3rd. Be sure to only include the items listed. The bags must be returned by Sunday, September 18th so they can be sent out. Thank you for your support!!

Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Mail Slot

Did you know that we have a mail slot? The slot is on the brick wall to the left of the front doors. It is available for dropping off items outside of office hours. Lisa checks the slot Mondays through Thursdays when she arrives. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Blood Pressure Screening

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee on the 3rd Sunday each month. The next one will be held on Sunday, July 17th.



Blood Drives

September 8th December 8th



RaiseRight Orders—formerly SCRIP



Orders Due July 17th

How Does It Work? Buy a gift card from the church and the church earns a percentage of the value.

Order forms are on the kiosk and the church's website. Payment to Ascension Lutheran Church is due with the order.

AmazonSmile

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% of 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!

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 as the youth cannot access them there)

Thank you for your support!!

8th thru 12th Grade Youth <u>Instructions:</u>

- 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
- 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*

*<u>Please provide the cash to the</u> church no later than the next week





Congratulations to Ali Denman and Michael Krzyzaniak who were married on June 25th.

Emma Rae Hoffmann, daughter of Nicholas and Jessica Hoffman, was baptized on Sunday, June 5th. Emma's sponsors are Sarah Hoffmann, Mitchell Hoffmann, Marissa Jackson, and Casey Janczewski.

May God bless Emma with His gift of grace



Food Pantry Freezer

The Freezer at the former location of the food pantry needs to be disassembled and moved. They need lifters and also a few people to ensure that panels get labeled and bolts get put in Ziploc bags and labeled. If you can help out, please meet at the former St. John's Lutheran Church, 915 Federal, Saginaw, MI 48607 at 7am on July 11th. Many hands make light work!

Ascension's Food Pantry Dates

The food pantry operates on Wednesdays. The following are the dates that Ascension is providing workers. Volunteers should arrive by 8:45 a.m. at the Center of HOPE 723 Food Pantry, Emerson. Saginaw, MI 48607.

> August 10th October 12th December 14th February 8th (2023) April 12th (2023)



If you have questions about volunteering, Amanda Doerr, is our "in church" contact person. Please give her a call at 989-798-3241



Wellness Warriors-Tuesdays 6:15 p.m.

We will continue to meet every Tuesday at 6:15 p.m. We may try to walk the neighborhood, weather permitting and if safe. We can split the group if people can't or don't wish to walk. We are flexible and the goal is to move, and support each other! Come check us out!

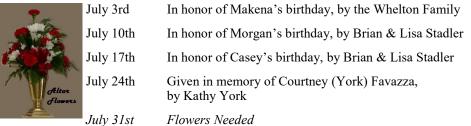


Questions? Contact Kris Friend (989) 245-6446 or Rita Hendrickson (989) 482-0271.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers, please sign up on the flower chart located the Acolyte room, call the office, or send an email to on ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net to select a date. These arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week for worship and may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. 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-Thursdays 9am-2pm).

Remaining Dates Available: July 31st, August 28th, September 11th & 18th, October 2nd & 30th, November 27th, December 25th.



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

Bob Bolger-Edgewood Assisted Living, 4850 Gratiot Rd., Room B12, Saginaw, MI 48638

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

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

Marie Myers-11145 Morningstar Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609 thinking of you

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

Joyce Storm-181 Evelyn, Saginaw, MI 48609

Lee Turner-6371 Birchview Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609

Barb Yancer-Great Lakes Rehab, 4180 Tittabawassee Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604

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





Ascension Lutheran Church Summer Camp

The summer program has been REFRESHED. We are looking for volunteers to teach Children's Church, to provide snacks and assist workshops. Please contact Dawn Earnesty at 989-506-2962 or wilcoxd4@msu.edu to sign up or with questions. Register campers at https://bit.ly/Ascensioncamp





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This summer our youth nights will be held on **Sunday's from 6 p.m. 9 p.m.** Join other youth (6th-12th grade) to play games, chat, eat s'mores, do crafts or anything else we decide to do. <u>Bring friends</u>.

Upcoming Dates: July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st

Ascension requires 2 adults be present to chaperone at youth events. Pastor Julie will need another adult each week to volunteer. Contact her to make arrangements for a date to volunteer and enjoy an evening with our Youth!

Movie in the Park

Thomas Township is continuing their **FREE** Movies in the Park series. Ascension would like to gather a group to watch a movie together. Located at Robert's Park, 455 S. Miller Rd., the movies are played on the soccer field behind the main soccer complex pavilion. **Movies begin at dusk**. Bring your blankets, chairs, bug spray, and friends for a fun evening. Concessions of soft drinks, candy, chips and popcorn will be sold.

MOVIE

July 22nd—The Croods: A New Age





We will be going to Michigan's Adventure on **Thursday, July 14th** from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. This event is open to <u>all members</u> of the congregation. Elementary aged children must have an adult accompany them. Middle School and High School Youth must complete a permission slip. The cost is \$65.00 and money is needed ASAP, if you and he made nearble to Accompany Lutherry Church

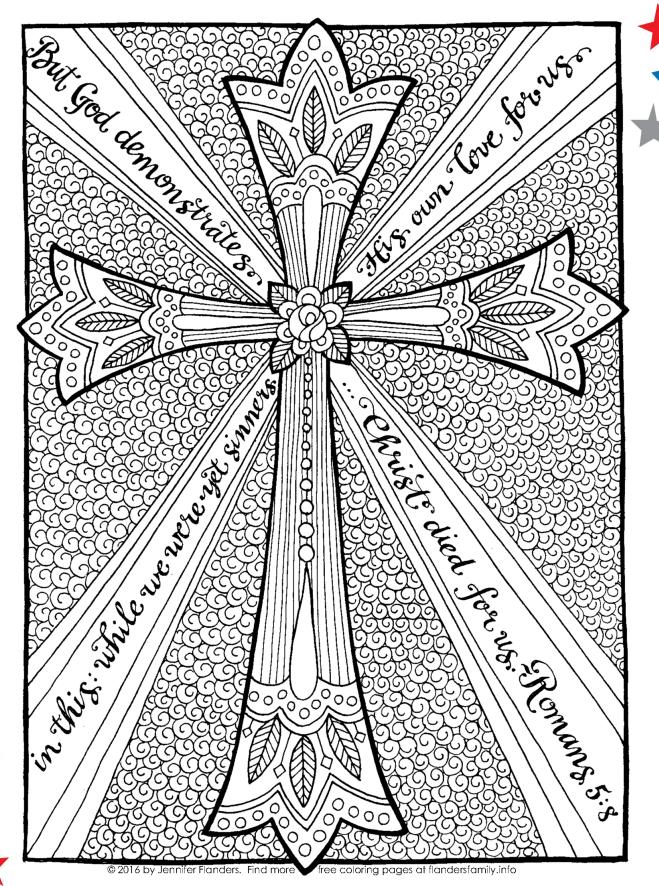
haven't paid. Checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Friends are welcome!!! Bring sunscreen, snacks for the bus, and money for food at the park. Please arrive at the church at 7:45 a.m.

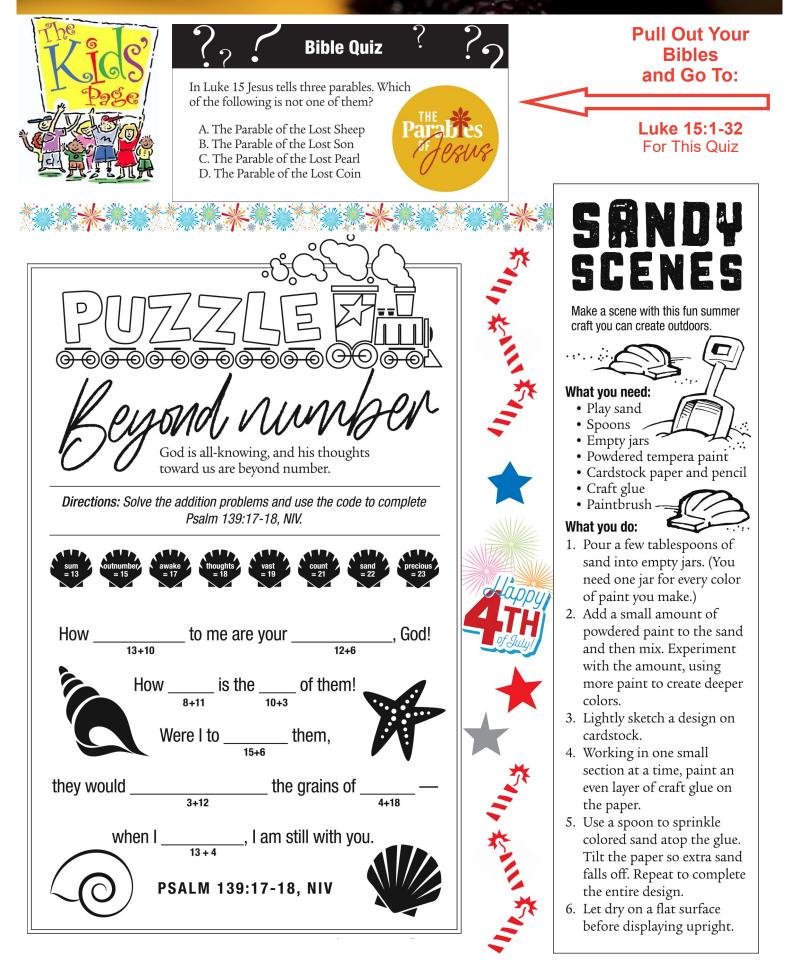
Sign up on the Kiosk in the gathering area and grab a permission slip, they are also on our website.



Coloring Page Fun For All Ages!



www.ascensionlc.org 8



Serving in July

Readers	8am	10:30am
3	Dick Schomaker	Lisa/Joscelyn Whelton
10	Marty Debozy	Linda Lentner
17	Edna Bell	Linda Luplow
24	Charleen Boland	Barb Van Marter
31	Tom Erskine	John Whelton
		*

Sound Board Operators

3	Ť	Makena Whelton
10	Ť	Makena Whelton
17	Ť	Will Salowitz
24	Ť	Makena Whelton
31	Madison Morgan	Will Salowitz

Head Ushers

3	Roth	Dalton/Wizner
10	Schomaker	Dawson/Hendrickson
17	Kelly	Friend/Beyerlein
24	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
31	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner

Altar Guild

Lawn	Mow	ing /	Wee	ds
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3	Sue Bailey	W. Earnesty-G. Hendrickson
10	Susan Kelley	C. Howe-S. Blehm
17	Sue Bailey	D. Roth-J.C. Whelton
24	Kris Friend	J.H. Whelton-G. Whelton/Lentner
31	Donna Fries	B. Crump-G. Mack

July Librarians: Joyce and Kayla Berg

WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
6	Glen Mack	Glen Mack	Ť	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher
13	Mike Clifford	Joyce Richardson	Ť	Glen Mack	Donna Malburg
20	Glen Mack	John Schroeder	Ť	Kelly Phillion	Connie Dutcher
27	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	Ť	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford
Aug	3 Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher	Ť	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher

Prayers	8am	10:30am
3	Lynn Schomaker	Sara Gregor
10	Charleen Boland	Dawn Dalton
17	Susan Kelley	Lisa Whelton
24	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
31	Ruth Schomaker	Chris Crump

Video Screen Operators

3	Ť	Will Salowitz
10	Kris Friend	Tim Grueber
17	Charleen Boland	Tim Grueber
24	Kris Friend	Tim Grueber
31	Mackenzie Morgan	Tim Grueber

Acolyte

Children's Church

Until September

3	Ethan Earnesty
10	Greyston Hendrickson
17	Ella Frollo
24	Gabby Dalton
31	Hannah Wizner

Summer Break—No Children's Church

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.



indicates a volunteer is needed

www.ascensionlc.org 10 **Ascension Lutheran Church - July 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 <u>in the</u> <u>church</u>, please let the church office know.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					l Office Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6pm-9pm-Youth Night	Independence Day Office Closed	<i>Office Closed</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	7pm-Worship/Communion	6pm-Pavilion Use 6pm-STEAM Camp Mtg 7pm-Trustee Mtg	Office Closed	
10 8am-Worship/Communion/Baptism 9:15am-Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6pm-9pm-Youth Night	11 7am-Disassemble Food Pantry Freezer @ former St. Johns 12pm-Staff Meeting 7pm-Book Study-Zoom	12 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	13 12pm-Council Reports Due 7pm-Worship/Communion	14 7:45am-11:45pm-MI Adventure Trip 5:30pm-FH Rental	15 Office Closed	16 Pavilion Use Memorial Service
17 RaiseRight Due BP Screening 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion	18 12pm-Staff Meeting 12pm-Messenger Articles Due 7pm-Book Study-Zoom	19 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	20 7pm-Worship/Communion	21	22 Office Closed ~9:45pm-Movie Night at Robert's Park	23
		•		Pastor Julie in Chicago v		
24 Pr. Dan Stoneback here 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion	25	26 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5:30pm-8pm ALC STEAM Camp 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	27 5:30pm-8pm ALC STEAM Camp 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	28 5:30pm-8pm ALC STEAM Camp	29 Office Closed	30
<i>31</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6pm-9pm-Youth Night						

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

TEACH US TO PRAY.



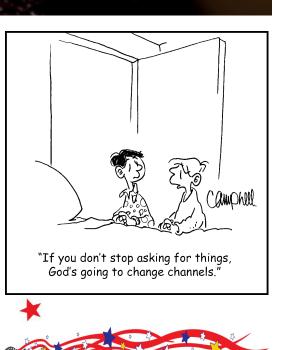
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Deadline for the August 2022 issue is:

Monday, July 18th at 12:00 (noon).

Articles may be emailed to:

ascensionlc @sbcglobal.net



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