



The Messenger



Ascension Lutheran Church

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

THANK YOU FROM THE CAN COUNCIL

March 2023

Volume 44, Number 3

"There are children in our community that need to be seen, heard, believed—and saved from abuse. **And, because of you, there is hope for these survivors.**

Thank you so much for your generous donation of (15) **bags of new socks and underwear** to the CAN Council!. Your kind contribution ensures our caring professionals are here to support and protect our children. You strengthen our efforts to prevent child abuse in our communities and help us provide advocates to children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect. **You make a difference.**

You'll stay up to date on the impact of your contribution by signing up for our e-newsletter through cancouncil.org and by following us on Facebook. Additionally, please reach me at eyeager@cancouncil.org or 989.752.7226 should you have questions or an idea to discuss.

All of us here at the CAN Council really appreciate your support. Thank you again for giving our community's most vulnerable children a place to turn for help, hope, and a safer future!.

Emily Yeager
President/CEO"

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STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor
vacant, Musician
Lisa Whelton, Parish Administrator
Jeff Whelton, Custodian
Rita Hendrickson, Parish Nurse

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gus Hendrickson, President
Tim Grueber, Vice President
Connie Dutcher, Treasurer
Susan Kelley, Secretary
Kris Yackel-Friend, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Glen Mack, Congregational Care
Linda Lentner, Finance/Resources
Joyce Berg, Outreach
Celina Gottlieb, Spiritual Health

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday's: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9a.m.-2p.m. The church will be closed if Swan Valley Schools are closed due to inclement weather.



A Message From Pastor Julie



The season of Lent is often a confusing time for us in the church. Throughout our worship together there is contrasting imagery—wilderness and parched deserts alongside lush living water.

We began with Ash Wednesday, hearing those jarring words, “remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It is a reminder not only of our inevitable mortality; it is also a recognition of what is burned out, charred, and used up in our lives. In conversation with people in and outside of the church, there is a sense of exhaustion, dried up emotions, and sometimes a loss of hope.

Contrast this to the living water that is offered to us in Jesus the Christ. It is in the baptismal waters that we can draw hope. In our thirsting and longing for life, Jesus offers it to us as Jesus offers himself to us in the water and in the meal that we celebrate together. The image of water, the sound, taste and coolness is powerful in contrast to the dry patches and wildernesses of our life.

During our season of Lent, worship is paired down, simplified. Our Wednesday worships will focus on Jesus meeting us at the table. Much of the liturgy will be spoken. This offers a time for us to focus on the words, on the hope, on the confession that in our dry and barren lives, we thirst for God in the waters of baptism.

I encourage us all to engage in this season, not as one more thing to do, but just to be! Join us on Wednesday for a little soup and then for an evening of worship and prayer. Welcome Jesus in the waters of life and meet Jesus at the table.

Meeting Jesus at the Table



Stories of food and drink are all through the Bible. Jesus calls himself the bread of life. Jesus feeds the multitudes. Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus offers himself at the Last supper as bread and wine are shared.

Eating sustains our body and eating with others creates community.

During this season of Lent, we will focus on Meeting Jesus at the Table, exploring and meditating on the Bible stories that feature eating and food. You are invited to join us as we eat together with a simple soup supper before worship, share in the Lord's supper where we will use different kinds of bread each week, and hear the message of Jesus in new ways.

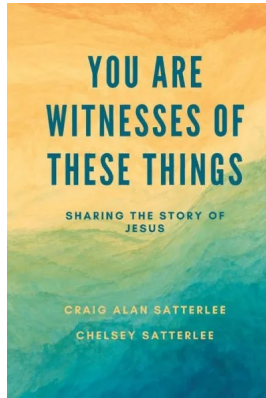
3/1-The Welcome Table: He Eats with Tax Collectors and Sinners
3/8-Surprised by Grace: Dinner Interrupted
3/15-Relationship and Reciprocity: Making Room at the Table
3/22-Excuses and Invitations: Empty Chairs at the Empty Table
3/29-Hospitality and Discipleship: A Meal with Chosen Family
Maundy Thursday, 4/6-A Meal of Memories: Not the Last Supper



Soup Supper Workers

Ascension's Youth are hosting meals before our Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m. A free will offering will be collected and split between the Youth accounts of those who volunteer. The Youth will set up, serve, and cleanup. They need to arrive by 5:30 p.m. and should be finished about 7:00 p.m. We will need an adult to oversee each week as well. Sign up on the kiosk in the gathering area or contact the church office.

Sunday Morning Book Discussion



On Sunday mornings, we are reading together the book “You Are Witnesses of These Things” by Bishop Craig and Chelsey Satterlee. If you need a book, you can purchase on Amazon and there is also a Kindle version, if you would prefer. Join us for a good discussion as we learn and grow more confident in boldly making Christ known in our lives and in our community.

Class will meet in the Digging Dunes meeting room **Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

Monday Women’s Bible Study

Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. In this video Bible study, Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at his crucifixion. The *He Chose the Nails* Study includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, personal study and reflection materials.

Our author, Max Lucado, has served many churches in his 45 years of ministry. He currently serves as Senior Minister of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. He is a bestselling author with more than 130 million books in print.

Our Mary to Martha Women’s Bible Study is a five-week study that will begin on **Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM** in the Digging Dunes room. Participant books are **\$9.00 due the first day of class**. This is a shorter class but, it is a good one! Come and join us!

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!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We meet via Zoom **every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon** to read and discuss scripture. All are welcome to join us as you are available. We are currently reading through the prophet Isaiah. Following is the code entry for the zoom meeting, or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite.



www.zoom.com
Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561
Passcode: 099583

No Class: March 21st



PRAYING
FOR YOU

Please Remember Those on Ascension’s Care List

Leslee Arnst—5935 Shattuck Ave #3,
Saginaw, MI 48603

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

Esther Mack—285 S. Miller Rd.,
Saginaw, MI 48609

Marie Myers—11145 Morningstar Dr.,
Saginaw, MI 48609

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

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

Joyce Storm—181 Evelyn, Saginaw, MI
48609

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

Rusty Van Marter—Saginaw Senior
Care & Rehab, 4322 Mackinaw Rd.,
Room 105, Saginaw, MI 48603

Barb Yancer—8936 N. Brookshire
Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

Prayers of the Week



Our prayer partner prayers are 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.

March 5th

St. John's Lutheran Church, Baroda, MI and Rev. Kenneth Babcock

Ascension Families: Ali & Mike Krzyzaniak; Carol Lange; Alicia, Jon, Samantha Leffler & Erin Peters.

March 12th

Trinity Lutheran Church, Barton City, MI and Rev. Chrisy Bright

Ascension Families: Linda Lentner; Marv Lentner; Ronald & Marie Leonard

March 19th

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, MI and Rev. Edward Ruble

Ascension Families: Dorothy Leppert; Jon List; Darcy & Diane Lobsiger-Braden

March 26th

Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, MI and Rev. Kjersten Sullivan

Ascension Families: Peggy Lockhardt; Josh, Malory, Joshua Lopez; Travis Lopez



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.

Altar Flowers



Altar arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week to help decorate for worship. They can be given "To the Glory of God", in memory of someone, or in honor of an event, such as birthday or anniversary. The arrangement 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.** ****NEW** Payment envelopes are available on the Acolyte Room Door,** you can mail a check, or drop off payment when you are at church or during office hours (Monday-Thursdays 9am-2pm). The flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and many dates are available.



March 5th	Sponsor Needed
March 12th	Sponsor Needed
March 19th	Sponsor Needed
March 26th	Given to the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley

Bishop Craig Satterlee's newsletters can be found at:

**[https://www.mittensynod.org/
resources/publications/](https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/)**

Noisy Offering For The Food Pantry



The Center of Hope Food Pantry (formerly SMM Food Pantry) will participate in the annual March for Hunger Drive. All money donated between **March 1st and April 30th** will be eligible to receive a 10% matching amount. Flyers are available on line and on the kiosk if you wish to donate directly. Please be sure your check indicates **Center of Hope FP/Saginaw**

and P-981 in the memo line.

Fundraising is vital this year. We are able to serve about 140 families through two pantry days. As we know, groceries are more expensive and even though we get a good discount through the Food Bank, our costs have increased to about \$34/family—but that varies with market prices.

Ascension will have a "Noisy Offering" **March 19th through 22nd** if you wish to donate through this method, or send your donation directly to the FBEM. We will collect both "Noisy & Quiet Paper Donations".





Center of Hope Food Pantry Annual Fund Drive
March Against Hunger
March 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023
723 Emerson St.
Saginaw, MI 48607

Saginaw County continues to face challenges related to Food Insecurity:

Some Facts: (according to Stacker.com)

Food Insecurity rate: 14.4 % (27,570 total)

—32% higher than the national average!

Child Food Insecurity rate: 17.9% (7,410 total)

—22.6% higher than the national average



The Center of Hope Food Pantry currently serves about 140 families/month, serving on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

You can help with your Financial Support! We need help all year!—

HOWEVER

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is sponsoring a fund drive, March Against Hunger.

During this Drive, all donations will be matched at 10%. Mail donations to:

FBEM

2300 Lapeer Road

Flint, MI 48503

Checks must be dated/received by April 30, 2023

March Against Hunger-2023

March 1st- April 30th

Date: _____ Donation Amt: _____ ☐ Check enclosed

Please accept this donation on behalf of

Agency: Center of Hope Food Pantry/Saginaw Agency Account #: **P-981**

Complete a separate deposit form for each individual in need of a personal acknowledgement letter.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Checks must be made payable to FBEM and dated between March 1, 2023 and April 30, 2023.

Please note Center of Hope Food Pantry/Saginaw and P-981 in the memo line.

All donations must include this March Against Hunger Donation Form and be received by the Food Bank no later than Monday, April 30, 2023

Only agencies in good standing & current on reporting are eligible for the 10% account match

WALK TO JERUSALEM



Wellness Warriors invites everyone in the congregation to get moving during Lent. Join us on our *Walk to Jerusalem*. We need to collect a total of 3,177 miles to make our imagined trek from Ascension Lutheran Church to Jerusalem.

Did you know walking is mentioned 366 times in the Bible? Our bodies were created for walking. Regular walking can help prevent depression, lengthen our lifespan, lower our stress levels, improve range of motion in our joints, relieve arthritis and back pain, strengthen our muscles and bones, and improve our sleep. This *Walk to Jerusalem* is a great way not only to improve our physical health through exercise but also improve our spiritual health through prayer, fellowship, and studying of God's Word during this journey together.

What counts? **It's not just about walking.** There are other opportunities to accumulate mileage towards our journey.

One Mile is equivalent to:

- ✓ **20 minutes of active household chores**
Examples: vacuuming, yard work, washing dishes, laundry, preparing meals, cleaning bathrooms, etc. You can combine 5- or 10-minute segments of these activities to contribute to the total.
- ✓ **15 minutes of devotion, prayer and Bible reading**
- ✓ **20 minutes of any physical indoor or outdoor activity**
Examples: swimming, playing soccer, playing basketball, exercise class, etc.
- ✓ **Attendance of Sunday Services or a mid-week Lenten service**
- ✓ **20 minutes of community service with a recognized non-profit group**
- ✓ **Attendance at a meeting at church**
Examples: bible study, council meeting, ministry team meeting, etc.

Two Miles is equivalent to:

- ✓ **Attendance at Ash Wednesday service on February 22, 2023**
- ✓ **Serving as a Children's Church teacher**
- ✓ **Helping clean-up after Wednesday's Lenten supper or Sunday coffee**

Three Miles is equivalent to:

- ✓ **Preparing and/or serving Wednesday's Lenten supper**

Walk to Jerusalem packets will be available for pickup starting Sunday, February 19, 2023. **What's in this packet?**

- A personal calendar for you and your family to track daily activities Ash Wednesday thru Palm Sunday.
- Mileage slips to complete weekly.
Please clip and stuff in the "mileage envelope" located on the Parish Health office door. Alternatively, you may submit your name and weekly miles by Sunday of each participating week to the parish health committee email at ALCParishHealth@gmail.com.

The Parish Health Committee will tally these miles and mark our progress as a congregation on a world map located within the narthex. Our projected route begins here at Ascension Lutheran Church across Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York to JFK Airport where we "board a plane" to cross the Atlantic Ocean to Amsterdam. From there we journey across the European continent to the Middle East until reaching Jerusalem. This journey as planned is approximately **3,177 miles** (not counting our flying miles and a ferry ride). Don't be intimidated by the total mileage. Remember, we are traveling as a congregation and all participant miles are accumulated and tracked weekly to help us reach our destination by Palm Sunday.

Questions? Please contact Rita Hendrickson

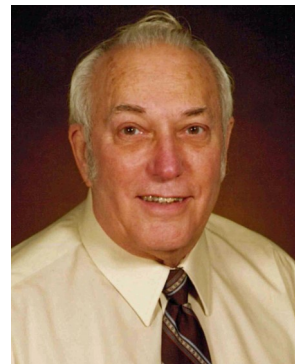
March Birthdays



1st	Edna Bell	19th	Daxton Briggs
	Rae Stoddard		Rebecca Enright
	Chris Trier		Gregory Wortley
	John G. Whelton	20th	Darren Dancer
2nd	Erika Collier		Jacob Faerber
	Jamie VanOchten	21st	Dave Marceills
3rd	Nikki Herren		Ella Wardlow
	Steve Salowitz	22nd	Jeff Maeder
7th	Debra Beyerlein	23rd	Andy Friend
	Alayna Dalton		Heidi Mackel
	Dana McClure		Brett Phillion
	Connor McRae	24th	Jacob Crook
	Joyce Richardson	27th	Robert Bolger
11th	Brooks Druelle		Lillian Hendrick
12th	Ella Frollo		Amy Kolb
15th	Diane Kolinski		Mitchell Turner
16th	Bob Mancini	29th	Tracy Aldrich
18th	Cole Stadler		

In Loving Memory

The Prayers and Sympathy of our congregation are extended to the families of Patricia Owen, who passed on February 6th and Hayes Mack who passed on February 14th.



March Anniversaries

29th Andrew & Stephanie Dunn



**Sunday, March 12th-
Daylight Saving Time**

Move your clocks
forward 1 hour—Don't
be late for worship!

Food Pantry



Ascension is providing workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **April 12th**. Volunteers should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** at the pantry at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

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

They are collecting clean plastic & cloth grocery bags & manual can openers.

Blood Drive



Mark your calendars for our next blood drive on **March 23rd** from **2:30 PM until 7:00 PM** in our Fellowship Hall. Go online and make your appointment by visiting the website below or contact Lisa in the church office to fill your spot.

As an added bonus, Pastor Julie has graciously re-gifted the \$50.00 gift card she won in December's blood drive drawing. This gift card, along with a \$50.00 match from Gus Hendrickson will be up for grabs for one lucky participant this March. All attempts to donate will qualify.

https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/151813



Did You Know?



Someone needs blood every 2 seconds.



Blood transfusions are often given to NICU babies, cancer fighters, sickle cell warriors, transplant patients, trauma survivors and more

Generosity of Time and Talent



Their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ~ 2 Corinthians 8:2

Generosity—liberal in giving, marked by abundance.

Being a good steward of the abundance God has given us is not just about giving money. In many ways, money is easier to give; and yes, it is still needed for ministry. Carrying out the gospel with our time and talent can be just as challenging with the demands of everyday life. It is a challenge to be available or commit to something at the church when you don't have time, or you already feel overworked and overcommitted to everything else.



We may wonder how much time is going to be needed. What can I offer? Will I be stuck doing this forever? The reality is when each one of us pitches in, the work is not that difficult. And the time it takes depends on what it is you want to do. Some teams are short lived, sometimes it is just performing a service when needed, some leadership roles are necessary to commit to for a period.

We can't be the church we believe God is calling us to without resources. Even if we had all the money in the world, it would probably not be faithful stewardship to hire someone to do all our ministry. Some people are serving in ways that save us money so it can be used in other ways. Imagine if we paid people to do the lawn care? Imagine if only two people said they would mow? Instead, we have had 10 people who rotate and only mow every 5 weeks and do a great job because they take pride in maintaining our grounds for the community. We have teachers for children's church because they feel it is an important ministry. We can offer three services for worship because people use their time and learn the talent of using the sound board or video operation. When we choose not to give of our time and talent, we can't offer what we already do, and we are stuck not being able to offer new ministries.

For instance, we want to do a directory. Are you able to do some photography, with a phone?

Will you serve in one of the many ways we need worship leaders? Children's church? Counting money? Serve on a leadership or financial team? Work with youth? Offer special music? Visit people in their homes? What special skills do you have to offer?

We have developed a new time and talent sheet. Each of us are requested to complete—not with just what we are already doing but with those things we might be interested in doing. This information will be inputted into our database for leaders to use when we are looking for someone to serve in a special way.

Those who complete Time and Talent Forms prior to March 31st, will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card.

Time and Talent Sheets will be printed for you to complete at worship, they are also available on our website for you to complete and return.

Easter Flowers

If you desire to purchase flowers to decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday, please fill out an envelope (complete with name and flower choice) and place with payment in the basket in the church office.



All plants are \$10.00 and include Lily, Tulip, and Daffodil. Payment must be made before orders are placed; make checks payable to **Ascension Lutheran Church**.

Order Deadline March 19th



2023 Giving Envelopes



2023 envelopes have arrived, please pick up your envelopes at the church. Contact the church if other arrangements need to be made. **THANK YOU** for your patience and continuing to give while we awaited their arrival!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Members—Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars before **March 31st**.

If you are a partner with Thrivent (a fraternal organization that helps with financial management), you may 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

The Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2023 to fund projects which may support any of the following activities:

Christian Education
Mission Opportunities
Evangelism

Youth Programs
Scholarships
Technology

Music Ministry
Family Outreach
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 are available on our website and in the Church Office and must be submitted by **March 31, 2023**. If there are any questions, please contact the Endowment Committee chair 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, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 989-781-2170 or via email at ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net.

St. John's Grants & Scholarships

Upon closing St. John ELCA in downtown Saginaw as a worship center in 11-01-2020, the process began to complete the transformation of the trust into a foundation. They strive to continue the programs that were established by the church and develop and offer support to programs and organizations that further the Gospel of Christ in the Saginaw Area. They are doing this in two ways:

- Scholarships for applicants age 16+, who are a confirmed member/employee of one of the ELCA churches in the Saginaw area and attending K-12, Jr College or University, or payment on their student loan.
- Grants for programs such as Christian education, community health and welfare, social welfare, feeding and supporting the needy, supporting and assisting troubled youth, and aiding the poor in the Saginaw Area.

The applications for both are posted on the Kiosk at church and available on our website.

RaiseRight Orders



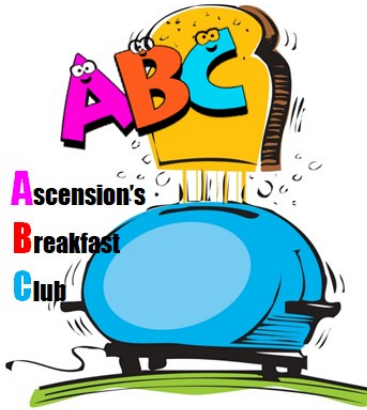
How Does It Work? Buy a gift card from the church and the church earns a percentage of the value. Order forms are on the kiosk and the church's website. Payment to Ascension Lutheran Church is due with the order.

Orders Due March 19th

Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC)

All who are available for breakfast are invited to join others from Ascension for a time of fellowship and food. We meet at **9 a.m.** at **Sullivan's Restaurant** on Gratiot, on the second Monday of each month. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don't need to prepare anything or clean up. Just show up!

Next Date: **March 13, 2023**



**Join Us For
BREAKFAST**

Sewing Group

Ascension's Sewing Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on the **Wednesdays** noted below from **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Bring your sewing machine, and join us for fun and fellowship. Contact Sandy Graham with any questions, 989-781-1619.

March 1st & 15th • April 5th & 19th



Wellness Warriors

We will continue to meet every **Tuesday at 6:15 p.m.** We are flexible with the exercise based on the abilities of those who attend each week. 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.

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, March 19th.

Lamb of God

Experience the Easter story through music by attending an oratorio on the last days, death, and resurrection of Christ as told through soloists, a choir, narration, and full orchestra. Featuring 150 performers from over 40 area churches. **Friday and Saturday March 3rd and 4th, 7:30 p.m.**, at the Midland Center for the Arts. Tickets available at midlandcenter.org. For more information visit LambofGodMidland.org or "Lamb of God Midland" on Facebook.



Recycling At Church



When you are at church remember to put your cardboard, plastic, rinsed clean glass, rinsed clean cans, and paper in the Recycle Bin near the drinking fountain in the Education Hallway. There are also signs posted above the bin that state which items can be recycled. **Thank you** for your support in this initiative!

Office Closed

Lisa will be out of the office and the office will be closed on the following dates:

March 27th–30th

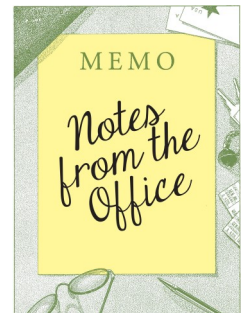
June 5th

June 19th–22nd



Pastor Vacation

Pastor Julie will be on vacation April 17th–29th



Second Year Confirmation



The Second Year Confirmation classes are held on Sunday's from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. The focus this year will be on the Lord's Prayer and Holy Conversations.

Schedule—Holy Conversations

March 5—Church Membership

March 19—Worship

April 2—No Class Spring Break

April 16—Worship

April 30—Vocation

Confirmation is May 21st

Baptismal Banner Volunteer

We are looking for a Youth Volunteer who would be interested in earning volunteer hours making baptismal banners. This is an option to volunteer "at church" without actually being present "in church", which with school activities can sometimes pose a challenge. We are looking for someone who can step in now. Ideal age is 13-18. Contact Lisa at the office either by phone or email (ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested and additional information will be provided.



Volunteer Needed



Pop Can Fundraiser



The youth of all ages continue to collect bottles and cans as a fundraising event. Cans and bottles are dropped off at the vestibule near the fellowship hall. Youth sign up for a week at a time to return the cans, and return the money to the church.



Half of what is returned goes into their own

personal account to be used for youth events. The other half goes into the Youth Savings account to be used for overhead and help pay for events as well.

The money raised can be used to help subsidize camp fees, youth events like Charge, or the ELCA Gathering in 2024. It is never too early to start saving for these events.

Youth Instructions:

1. Sign up on the kiosk to return cans for an open week
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.

Youth Accomplishments

We want to show our appreciation for your youth of all ages. Has your youth excelled at their sport, did they make the Honor or Merit roll, did they get "in the news" for an event they participated in such as an art show, robotics, or a play, did they run a 5k or raise money for a family in need?

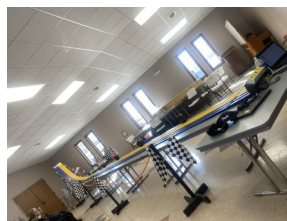
Please send the church office your child's accomplishments. We'd like to post them on our bulletin board.



Scout News



The Scout's Pinewood Derby took place at Ascension on Saturday, February 18th.



Their next event is the Blue & Gold Banquet, March 18th. If more information is received it will be posted in the weekly announcements.

Summer Camp—2023




Welcome to All Pricing
Come as you are. Pay what you will.
Summer 2023

Full Price | Half Price | No Price

Camp returns this summer at Stony Lake Camp in New Era, Michigan. We plan to attend as a group the week of **July 9th**. Camps available are:

Explorers: This camp is for youth grades 1-3. This camp gives the young campers a “test-drive” to the camp experience. They return home on Wednesday.

Discoverers: This camp is for youth grades 3-5. This camp is designed primarily for elementary youth.

Challengers: This camp is for confirmation students and Middle School students. It provides an opportunity to bond as a group as well as experience the camp.

Servant Hearts: This camp is for grades 8-12 and is for High School Students.

Camp is offering a three tiered payment of full price, half price, and free. Families are welcome and encouraged to pay at what level they are able to pay for.

Confirmation Youth—the congregation commits to paying ½ of your payment for one year of camp. Please check out elcalivingwater.com for more information.

Registration began **January 15th** and is only open until the camp week is full! Parents must register their children, so please do so ASAP!

Contact Pastor Julie with any questions.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

High School ELCA Youth Gathering
July 16-20, 2024
New Orleans
CREATED TO BE



We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. Since the last time the ELCA came together for an ELCA Youth Gathering, our young people have experienced several major life events. Still today, we are experiencing an ongoing public health crisis mixed with an economic and political crisis. However, we can rest assured that we are created to be in relationship with one another.

Youth that will be entering high school in the fall of 2024 are welcome to join us for this trip. We need to start fundraising (get to those pop cans to start) and think of other ways we can begin to raise the money needed to attend. Check out elca.org/gathering for updates and information.

Check out the YouTube video: [Created to Be | 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering](#)



**Pull Out Your Bibles and Go To:
Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11**

**For This Puzzle
Go To Psalm 46:10**

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message
and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
1		2		3		4		5	
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	Y

W
5 1 3 5 4 4

4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

“ 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1”

Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of
these cute, healthy
treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY





Serving in March



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

Readers	8am	10:30am	Prayers	8am	10:30am
5	Edna Bell	Lisa Whelton	5	Charleen Boland	Lisa Espinoza
12	Marty Debozy	Chris Crump	12	Susan Kelley	Chris Crump
19	Charleen Boland	Dawn Dalton	19	Lynn Schomaker	Dawn Dalton
26	Tom Erskine	Shelly Dawson	26	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Whelton

Sound Board Operators

5	†	Makena Whelton
12	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
19	†	Makena Whelton
26	†	Makena Whelton

Video Screen Operators

5	†	Tim Grueber
12	Kris Friend	Tim Grueber
19	†	Jeff Whelton
26	†	†

Head Ushers

5	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
12	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
19	Wilson	Dawson/Hendrickson
26	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

5	Gabby Dalton
12	Ethan Earnesty
19	Greyston Hendrickson
26	Harrison Salowitz



Altar Guild

5	Kris Friend
12	Susan Kelley
19	Kris Friend
26	Susan Kelley

Children's Church

5	Joscelyn Whelton & Louise Roby
12	Rita Hendrickson & Tony Dancer
19	Madison & Mackenzie Morgan
26	No Class—Spring Break

March Librarian—Tracy Aldrich



WEDNESDAYS 7pm



	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
1	Glen Mack	Joyce Richardson	†	Kelly Phillion	Celina Gottlieb
8	Mike Clifford	John Schroeder	†	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher
15	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	Mike Clifford
22	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher	†	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
29	Mike Clifford	Glen Mack		Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher

Ascension Lutheran Church - March 2023

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
Remember to submit your Walk To Jerusalem miles each week **March Against Hunger—Donations in March & April matched at 10%**			1 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	2 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	3  Office Closed FH Rental 4p-9p 7:30pm-Lamb of God	4 FH Rental 12p-5p 7:30pm-Lamb of God
						
5 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 5pm-Confirmation-2nd yr	6 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	7 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	8 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	9	10 Office Closed	11  <i>Spring Forward</i>
12 Daylight Saving Time 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	13 9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Sullivan's 12pm-Messenger Articles Due 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	14 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Library Committee	15 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	16	17 Office Closed Scouts (FH)	18 Scouts-Blue & Gold Banquet (FH)
19 RaiseRight Due BP Screening Easter Flower \$ Due 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 5pm-Confirmation-2nd yr	20 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	21 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	22 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	23 2:30pm-7pm Blood Drive (FH) Messenger Mailed	24 Office Closed	25
NOISY OFFERING						
26 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Book Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church Lisa Out of the Office	27 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	28 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	29 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	30	31 Office Closed Time & Talent Due Scholarship Apps Due Grant Apps Due	

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

Ascension Lutheran Church

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www.ascensionlc.org

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4/2/23—8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.—Palm Sunday

4/5/23—No Wednesday Night Worship

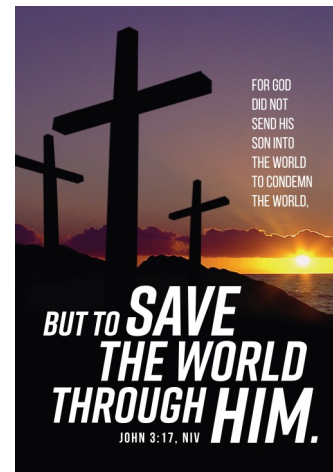
4/6/23—7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday (Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.)

4/7/23—7:00 p.m.—Good Friday

4/9/23—8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.—Easter Day (The service will also be the same on 4/12/23 at 7:00 p.m.)



*These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"



The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the April 2023 issue is: **Monday, March 13th at 12:00 (noon).**
Articles may be emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net