

# The Messenger

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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

# Baptism

June 2023

Volume 44, Number 6

The following young people received the Sacrament of Baptism on May 14th.

**Joshua Carson Lopez.** Joshua's sponsors are Alicia Spear and Nicholas Pilkington.

**Paisley Evelyn Pearl Lopez.** Paisley's sponsors are Alicia Spear and Nicholas Pilkington.

**Raylee Esperanza Darabos.** Raylee's sponsors are Edward and Lisa Espinoza.

**Ezra Joseph Lopez.** Ezra's Sponsors are Josh Lopez, Aaron Baker, Madison Jones, Martina Garcia.

May God bless them with His gift of grace.



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### STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor  
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/ascensionsaginaw

(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.

# A Message From Pastor Julie

We need to start with WHY!

We don't have enough money. We don't have enough people. We need to do more advertising. These are the reasons why we can't do anything, or so I'm often told—and it is said not just at Ascension, but in almost every congregation, at least by some, and probably in many businesses.

As I was doing some research, I came across a TED talk from 2016. It is a talk by Simon Sinek, who was explaining why he believed some innovations took off and why some didn't. One of his examples was Samuel Pierpont Langley, one of the most esteemed scientists of the early 1900's and a rival to Orville and Wilbur Wright. He was the one to watch in building the great "flying machine." He received governmental funding, he had the best engineers ready to help, and the news media followed his every move. He had the funding, he had the people, and he was getting marketed. Imagine his success, the financial rewards, the fame, if succeeded.

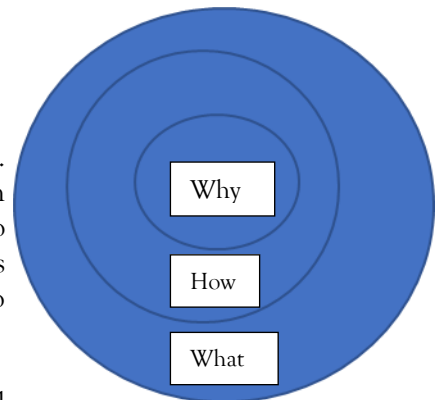
At the same time, Orville and Wilbur Wright were using money they earned from their bicycle business to try and invent a flying machine. They didn't have the financial resources, or the educated engineers, and no marketing strategy. Instead they saw something that might change the world.

We know who succeeded—the one without enough money, the one that didn't have the people, and the one with no advertising. Langley quit the day he heard of the success of the Wright brothers.

Sinek suggests that one of the reason the Wright brother's succeeded is they began with why. The why—they wanted to make a change in the world. How—by challenging and refusing to give up. The what—the beginning of air travel. Langley may have had the why, how, and what—but in a different order—what, make a flying machine; how, by assembling the best engineers; why, fame and money.

Some may wonder what this has to do with the church, with Ascension.

We are good at figuring out what to do? And we do some really great things. We are strong in outreach, we worship with three services, we offer youth programming, etc. How we do it is through the generosity of disciples, who give of their time, talent and possessions. Why do we do it? For some it is butts in the pews, we need more money, we want more people, we need to survive.



Let's flip it—why do we do what we do? Let's think about this. We could just reverse the direction and say to get butts in the pew and to survive. But is that really the case?

I believe the why is because of Jesus—we love Jesus and this is how Jesus invites us to be part of his life—to make disciples, to love God and love one another, to love because God first loves us. To feed the hungry, clothe the naked... Why—because we are disciples of Jesus Christ. We want others to know the joy of the love of Jesus. How do we do this? We boldly make Jesus known, we tell the story. We do this in worship, in service, in our daily lives. And what do we do, we share, we tell, we feed, we clothe, we love. I believe it is then that we will see the growth of ministry in people, in dollars and in serving. We need to be committed to the why, not the what. Let's start with why!

(Check out the TED talk on YouTube: [Start With Why Simon Sinek TED Talk](#))

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

We will continue a six-week study called "Spiritual Basics: Becoming a Christian."

**June 4**-How can I be sure?

**June 11**-What should I do now?

**June 18**-What does it cost?

All are welcome and each class can stand on it's own, so even if you can't commit for the whole six weeks, join us when you can.

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

## Monday Women's Bible Study

Our Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study is open to women of all ages, and stages of faith, members & non-members, as we seek a closer relationship with our Lord. We know that you'll be blessed by God's Word and fellowship with other women, and we'll be blessed by your presence.

We are finishing up our current study on June 5th. We take a break in the summer and will return on **September 11th.**

If you have any questions about the study or the group, contact Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 by calling or texting.

## 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](http://www.zoom.com)

Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561

Passcode: 099583

## Summer Bible Study Monday Evening—Via Zoom

### Connecting Sunday to Monday

You may have heard someone talk about being called into ministry and thought to yourself how nice it must be to know with certainty that you have been called. Many of us don't have that sense of God's calling on our lives. Consequently, we tend to divide life into what we can do to make a living and what we do to make a difference. Problem is, that kind of compartmentalization can leave us feeling a bit dissatisfied and insignificant.

What if you had a sense of calling about the roles you play every day – parent, child, worker, homemaker, neighbor, community leader, volunteer – a sense that God has uniquely chosen you and given you a mission right where you are in those roles? Then each of your life's roles would be more than work, it would be your call. But it starts with knowing how God has made you, what God is up to in the world, and your part in it.

Connecting Sunday to Monday focuses on how congregations can transform, one member at a time. This transformation isn't measured by growth in numbers but rather by the change that takes place in the lives of people as they begin to understand God's call on their lives – to use their gifts, talents and abilities to serve God's world.

Join a 5 week conversation on Monday's from **7 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Connecting Sunday to Monday.

**June 12:** Congregational Vitality

**June 19:** Exploring God's Call in Daily Life-Part 1

**June 26:** A Centered Life Retreat-Part 1

**July 17:** A Centered Life Retreat-Part 2

**July 24:** Exploring God's Call in Daily Life-Part 2

[www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

**Meeting ID: 848 3891 5779**

**Passcode: 737958**

## 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—108 Fulton Street, Apt  
405, St. Charles, MI 48655

Joyce Storm—181 Evelyn, Saginaw, MI  
48609

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

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

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

PRAYING  
FOR YOU

## 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. 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-Thursday 9am-2pm). The flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and many dates are available.



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| June 4th  | To the Glory of God, by Donna Frolo                   |
| June 11th | In memory of Richard and Amelia Borm, by Richard Borm |
| June 18th | Available to Sponsor                                  |
| June 25th | To the Glory of God, by Tom & Sue Bailey              |

## Food Pantry

Ascension is providing workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **June 14th**. Volunteers should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** at the pantry at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **June 7th at 7:30 a.m.** at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

The food pantry is also sponsoring several outdoor giveaways this summer and fall. They are in need of approximately 15 volunteers to assist with setup, cleanup and distribution. Arrival at **8am**. No need to sign up, you can just “show up” to be given a task to do.

Upcoming Dates & Locations: **6/3 @ Spaulding Twp Hall (5825 Cole Rd)**  
**6/5 @ Center of HOPE**  
**6/16 @ Center of HOPE**

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

The Food Pantry is continuing to collect clean plastic & cloth grocery bags & manual can openers.

## Grants & Scholarships

thank you

We are thankful for the generosity of the following organizations supporting the ministries of Ascension Lutheran Church.

The Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee authorized scholarships of \$1,700 to Madison Morgan and Joscelyn Whelton. The committee also authorized grants of \$1,000 to the ELCA Youth Gathering, the Weekend Backpack Food Program, the Summer Youth Coordinator, and the Sewing Group. \$500 was awarded to the Women's Bible Study, a new GreifShare program, and a new Kindness & Caring Ministry.

The Bertha H. Wilson Family Trust awarded a grant of \$2,500 to the Weekend Food Bags Program.

The 100+ Women Who Care: Courtney Elisabeth (York) Favazza Memorial donated \$4,200 to the Weekend Food Bags Program.

## Homebound Visitors

We are looking for people who would be willing to visit our members in their home/nursing facilities once a month. This is a way to extend our community to those who are no longer able to worship physically with us. It would include providing home communion. Training is available.



We do have some who are continuing to serve in this ministry. **Thank you.** Much has changed since prior to the pandemic, and so it is time to reboot this team. If you think you would be willing to provide this meaningful ministry, we welcome you. This position does require a background check.

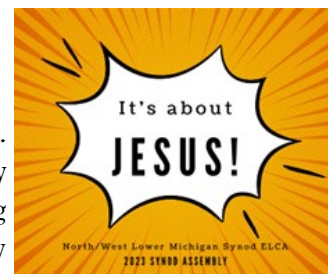
## Servers Needed During Worship

It is a privilege to provide worship three times during the week for people to gather as community and praise God. We have some very dedicated people who serve regularly as altar guild members, readers, prayers, ushers, acolytes, song leaders, projection operators, sound operators, and video recording. If you feel the Spirit calling you to serve in one of these ministries, please let us know (we are also gathering data off the Time and Talent Sheets!)

We would welcome some people to serve as sound and projection operators during worship. If you think you would be willing to do this, please let Pastor Julie or the office know. Training can be provided.

## North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly

The assembly of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod was held May 7-9 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. In addition to worshipping together, we conducted the necessary business—adopting a budget, voting in members of committees, and hearing reports. We also had round table discussion that I (Pastor Julie) found wonderfully meaningful—1) What is your favorite Bible story today and why? 2) When was a time you encountered Jesus? 3) What is the gospel in one sentence? **How would you have answered?**





## Welcome New Local Pastors

Please welcome Pastor Christina Beauvais. She will be serving with the people of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saginaw. The ordination and installation service will be held **Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** at Faith, 4432 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603.

Please welcome Pastor Kevin O'Bryan. He will serve with the people of Zion Lutheran Church in Freeland and Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Saginaw. The installation service will be held **Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** at Zion Lutheran Church, 545 7<sup>th</sup> St., Freeland, MI 48623.

## In Loving Memory

*The Prayers and Sympathy of our congregation along with the hope and promise through the resurrection of Jesus are extended to the families of Robert Dalton, who passed on April 23<sup>rd</sup> Charles "Rusty" Van Marter who passed on May 24<sup>th</sup>*



## Office Closed

Lisa will be out of the office and the office will be closed on the following dates: June 5th, 13th and June 19th–22nd

## June Birthdays

|      |                  |      |                  |              |                 |                    |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2nd  | Brooke Phillion  | 12th | Wanda Dankert    | Ellie Wizner | 30th            | Deborah Harrington |
| 3rd  | Joyce Berg       |      | Angelica Dawkins | 21st         | Rob Joslyn      | Jeff Whelton       |
|      | Jack Fleissner   |      | Ellie Dunn       |              | Kate Naples     |                    |
|      | Ali Krzyzaniak   |      | Stephanie Dunn   |              | Vicki Wenzel    |                    |
| 5th  | Mike Romosier    |      | Nathan Earnesty  | 22nd         | Carol Wilson    |                    |
| 6th  | Savannah Maddox  |      | Rylie Hoffmann   | 23rd         | Kelly Phillion  |                    |
| 7th  | Donna Frollo     | 13th | Spence Webb      |              | John Stroebel   |                    |
|      | Sherry Stuller   |      | Sally York       | 25th         | David Faerber   |                    |
| 8th  | Tom Erskine      | 14th | Liam Fleming     |              | Jessica McRae   |                    |
|      | Alana Fleming    |      | Sarah Wortley    |              | Jackie O'Dell   |                    |
|      | Susie Trumble    | 16th | Matti Wizner     | 28th         | Wendy Awad      |                    |
| 9th  | Michael Gottlieb | 17th | A.J. Denman      |              | Alec Preston    |                    |
| 10th | Thomas Stoddard  | 20th | Owen Edsall      |              | Garrett Preston |                    |
| 11th | Josh Mack        |      | Landen Wagner    |              | Sabrina Wagner  |                    |



## June Anniversaries

|      |                         |      |                         |      |                            |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 2nd  | Jon and Alicia Leffler  | 13th | Tim and Carol Wilson    | 25th | Alison and Mike Krzyzaniak |
| 6th  | Craig and Joan Ford     | 19th | Rick and Nikki Herren   | 27th | Tom and Sue Bailey         |
|      | Thomas and Rae Stoddard | 20th | Eric and Dori Dalton    |      |                            |
| 11th | James and Cheryl Andrus | 21st | Anthony and Kate Naples |      |                            |

# 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. **DUE BY 7/31/23**
- 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. **AWARDED QUARTERLY**

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

## Library Team

At the request of the library team, the church council approved a change in the library use policy. The new policy states: *"Materials (books, puzzles, magazines, media, etc.) may be borrowed for a reasonable amount of time and returned or replaced with material of equal use and value. No individual monitoring system needs to be used".*



In other words, materials do not have to be "checked out". Just borrow what you wish and return it when you are finished with it. This makes our library a true "lending library".

The team is also in the process of re-organizing materials. A new section called "Emotional Support" is being added. This will include materials for physical, practical, and emotional support for people and caregivers in times of crisis. The support includes materials for those suffering from cancer, dementia, and personal grief. Some really great materials have been donated. If you have any materials that may help and you wish to donate them, drop them off in the donation box in the library. **Thank you again for all the great support given to the library.**

## Contact Information



Do you have a method or someone that can contact extended family or friends in case of an emergency?

Breeze (the church data management system) has a place where it can store contact information. Contact Lisa in the office and she can add it to your account. The information is kept private so that only authorized staff is permitted to view the name, relationship to you, and contact phone numbers. The emergency contact will only be utilized if the church is unable to communicate with you over an unusual amount of time. An example of a phone call might include *"This is Pastor Julie Bailey, I haven't been able to reach Lisa Whelton and she hasn't been at church the last few weeks so wanted to check-in and make sure everything is ok"*.

Anyone who lives alone, especial if the rest of the family is out of the area should take advantage of this service.

## 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.

## 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 June 18th**

# Annual Spring Cleanup

Thank You!



Another successful Spring Clean-up Day! Thank you to all that blessed us with their time and talents. The grounds, building, and pavilion are all spruced up and looking great! Thank you to Cub Scout Pack #3363 for your hard work! We were treated to Sue Bailey's famous Sloppy Joes and fixings for lunch. Thank you all so much!

**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, June 18th.**

## 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!

## Prayers of the Week

Our 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.*

### June 4th

Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Jordan, MI and Rev. Matthew Deames

Ascension Families: Brad & Kelly Phillion; Brett, Haley, Briar Phillion; Brooke Phillion.

### June 11th

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI and Rev. Carl Ballard  
Ascension Families: Ira, Charlene, Genevieve, Penelope, Felicity Potter; David & Jackie Prange; Debi Pretzer & Zoey Kohnert-Pretzer.

### June 18th

University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI and Rev. Gary Bunge, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman  
Ascension Families: Jack, Joyce, Joel Richrdson; John & Barbara Robishaw; Louise Roby.

### June 25th

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Edmore, MI and Rev. John Autio  
Ascension Families: Dan Roth; Steve, Jen, Ben, Will, Harrison, Henry Salowitz; Ken & Laura Schian.



## Children's Church

On **May 7th**, the Children's Church/Sunday School students chose the ELCA Good Gifts program to give their \$140 offering they've collected all school year. They purchased honey bees, chicks, a piglet, a water filter and seeds & gardening tools. To learn more about the ELCA Good Gifts program, please visit [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org).

Although Children's Church has ended until September, they can continue to give each time they are in church. They can put their offering in the plate that is passed and if they designate it with children's church on the envelope OR with their name and #, it will be included in the next program year's total. If you need their number, ask Lisa in the office or check the sheet next to the door in the Sunday School classroom.





# Confirmation

We welcome five of our young people who were confirmed on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Their bible verses and faith statements are below.

## Rylan Awad

**Genesis 28:15a:** Know that I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go.

*I chose this verse because it helps assure me that God will be with me no matter where I am and regardless of the mistakes I make.*

**Faith Statement:** I believe in God, as the almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen sent his son, sent Jesus to die on the cross

so that my sins can be forgiven. I believe that God will be with me and guide me through the good and bad. I believe that through my baptism, I received God's grace, promise of salvation, and eternal life. I believe that grace is the acceptance God gives us by forgiving our sins through our belief in him, not our work or deeds.



## Gabriella Dalton

**Exodus 3:14:** And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM, and he said; Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

*I chose this verse because it shows that you don't need a picture of name to be recognized.*

**Faith Statement:** My faith means that I am a part of my church and that God claims me and everyone else as one of his creations, to look at the brighter side of everyone and what situations that you're in. I have grown well in faith. When I was younger I would always sit and pay attention during church even if I was playing with something but that just raised my faith even more than what it was up to now.

## Gabriella Frollo

**Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

*I choose this verse because it feels like a very powerful verse for when get rough, or even when they aren't, it is very motivational and a really nice reminder that God will always support you.*

**Faith Statement:** My faith has become a larger part of me than I would have ever imagined. When I was younger, I wouldn't have thought that this is what I would do. To me, my faith is not only belief but also a connection, like my faith directly links me to God. As a kid I went to church a few times but it was always on and off. When a family friend passed away it led me and my mom coming more often. In my faith, I developed new friendships and relationships with people I never knew before and going to church no longer felt like a chore.

## Harrison Salowitz

**Psalms 27:** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

*I chose this verse because there has been many times in my life when I had to trust in God to keep me safe and so I can apply it to my life.*

## Olivia Wagner

**Luke 1:37:** For nothing will be impossible with God.

*This verse shows me how nothing is impossible if I look up to God because he will give me strength and courage to carry on.*

**Faith Statement:** My faith gives me hope in life. It gives me something to believe in. It's something I can live by confidently. There's more to life than what we see. There's more meaning than we think. It gives me a lot to believe in and gives us a sense of purpose. That's what my faith means to me.



# CONGRATULATIONS

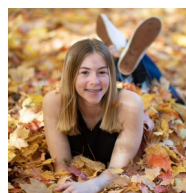
## CLASS OF

# 2023



**Allison Faerber**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School  
Attending: Michigan State University*



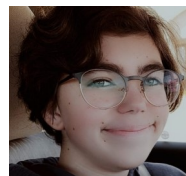
**Emily Hamilton-Gerard**

*Graduated From: St. Charles High School  
and Saginaw Career Complex  
Attending: Delta College  
Studying: Business*



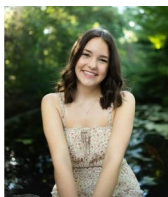
**Lyric Haupt**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School*



**Skylar Haupt**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School*



**Anni Mackel**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School  
Attending: Michigan State University  
Studying: Political Science & Pre-Law*



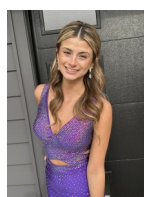
**Savannah Maddox**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School*



**Madison Morgan**

*Graduated From: Swan Valley High School  
Attending: Delta College  
Studying: Diagnostic Medical Sonography*



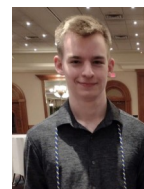
**Erin Peters**

*Graduated From: Swan Valley High School*



**Benjamin Salowitz**

*Graduated From: Hemlock High School  
and Saginaw Career Complex  
Attending: Delta College  
Studying: Business*



**Landon Wagner**

*Graduated From: Heritage High School  
Attending: University of Michigan*



**Ella Wardlow**

*Graduated From: Hemlock High School  
Attending: University of Michigan  
Studying: Biochemistry and Human Biology*



**Joscelyn Whelton**

*Graduated From: Swan Valley High School  
Attending: Central Michigan University  
Studying: Music Education*



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



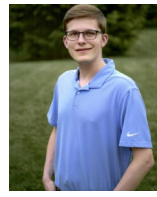
**Sarah Wortley**

*Graduated From: Swan Valley High School  
Attending: Alma College  
Studying: Integrative Physiology & Health Science*



**Nicole Crump**

*Graduated From: Alma College & Delta College  
Next Steps: Obtain a Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work*



**Mason Friend**

*Graduated From: Nova Southeastern University  
Next Steps: Employment in Anesthesia at CHRISTUS St. Vincent's Hospital, Santa Fe, NM*



**Meredith Friend**

*Graduated From: Michigan State University  
Next Steps: Employment at a pediatric outpatient clinic in Metro Detroit*



**Heidi Mackel**

*Graduated From: Michigan State University  
Next Steps: Employment as a teacher through MSU in the Detroit area*



**Carrie Nielsen**

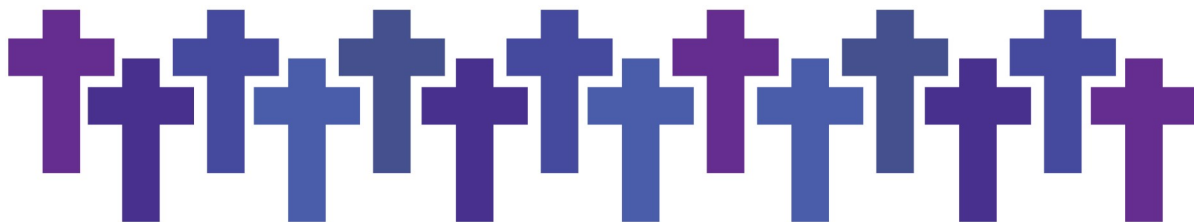
*Graduated From: Michigan State University*



**Connor Webb**

*Graduated From: Temple University*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11, NIV*







## Group Gathering—Music Concert

The Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw is performing their Summer Concert on **Thursday, June 15th at 7:30 p.m.** at Roethke Park, located at 400 Leddy Rd. in Thomas Township. Ascension would like to gather as a group to attend the concert. Our own members Joscelyn Whelton and Pastor John Soyster perform in the band with several amazing community musicians. The concert is free of charge, bring a chair and bug spray for an evening of musical enjoyment.

## Michigan's Adventure—June 27, 2023



We are planning our annual trip to Michigan's Adventure on **Tuesday, June 27th**. We will meet at the church at **7:45 a.m.** with a planned departure at 8 a.m. This event is open to all members of the congregation. Elementary aged children must have an adult accompany them. Permission slips are necessary for all Middle and High School Youth attending. **Cost is \$70.** Checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Friends are welcome. Bring sunscreen and snacks for the bus. The park is "cashless" so you will need a credit/debit card or prepaid card for purchases including food in the park. There are kiosks to convert cash into the prepaid card if necessary. Sign up on the Kiosk in the gathering area and grab a permission slip. They are also on our website.

**Payment must be received by June 12, 2023**

## Welcome to Our Summer Youth Coordinator—Nicki Crump

Nicki Crump has agreed to serve as this summer's Youth Coordinator. She will be coordinating youth activities and share with Pastor Julie the responsibilities of our Youth Nights on Sunday's. Watch for information on activities as she gets the wheels rolling!



## Youth Nights Begin June 25th

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. Bring friends. Ascension requires 2 adults be present at youth events, please contact Pastor Julie or Nicki Crump if you can be a parent volunteer.

## 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 Michigan's Adventure, 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 **no later than the next week.**

**Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: Isaiah 55:10-11**

?? ?

## Bible Quiz

? ??

What does God compare to rain “watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater”?

- A. The justice of the nations
- B. The work of God’s people
- C. The message of Isaiah the prophet
- D. God’s word



## A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



### What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

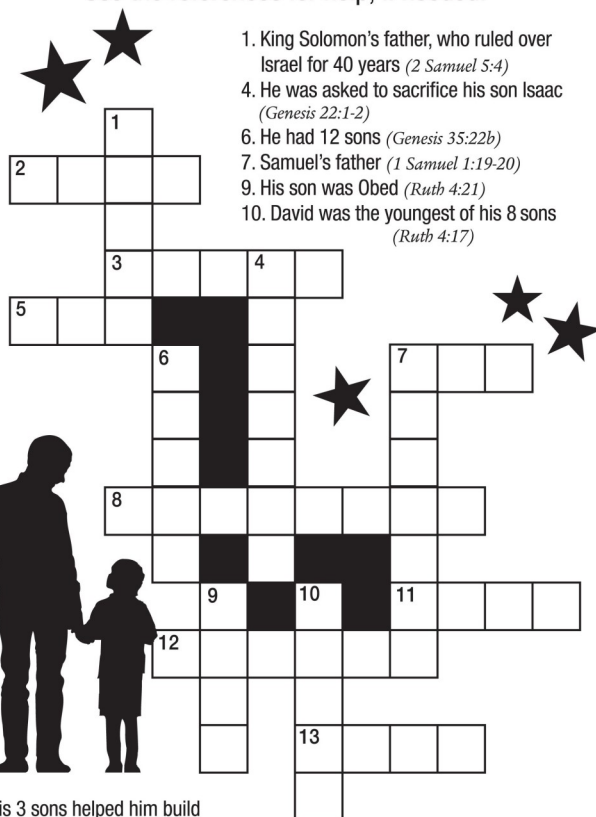
### What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

**Remember to celebrate your dad on Father’s Day**

## Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers. Use the references for help, if needed.



1. King Solomon’s father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (*2 Samuel 5:4*)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (*Genesis 22:1-2*)
6. He had 12 sons (*Genesis 35:22b*)
7. Samuel’s father (*1 Samuel 1:19-20*)
9. His son was Obed (*Ruth 4:21*)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (*Ruth 4:17*)
2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (*Genesis 6:10*)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (*Genesis 27:30*)
5. The Father of our Lord (*Ephesians 1:3*)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (*1 Samuel 2:12*)
8. David’s best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (*2 Samuel 9:6*)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (*Genesis 4:25*)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (*Matthew 1:20-21*)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (*2 Samuel 9:6*)



## Serving in June

*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       |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| 4       | Susan Kelley   | Linda Lentner   | 4       | Susan Kelley    | Tim Grueber   |
| 11      | Kris Friend    | Linda Luplow    | 11      | Lynn Schomaker  | Lisa Espinoza |
| 18      | Dick Schomaker | Barb Van Marter | 18      | Ruth Schomaker  | Chris Crump   |
| 25      | Edna Bell      | John Whelton    | 25      | Charleen Boland | Dawn Dalton   |

### Sound Board Operators

|    |             |                |
|----|-------------|----------------|
| 4  | †           | Makena Whelton |
| 11 | Kris Friend | Makena Whelton |
| 18 | †           | Makena Whelton |
| 25 | †           | Makena Whelton |

### Video Screen Operators

|    |                 |                  |
|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 4  | Charleen Boland | Tim Grueber      |
| 11 | Kris Friend     | Tim Grueber      |
| 18 | †               | Joscelyn Whelton |
| 25 | †               | Tim Grueber      |

### Head Ushers

|    |           |                    |
|----|-----------|--------------------|
| 4  | Roth      | Earnesty/Wizner    |
| 11 | Wilson    | Dawson/Hendrickson |
| 18 | Kelley    | Friend/Beyerlein   |
| 25 | Schomaker | Dalton/Whelton     |

### Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 4  | Hannah Wizner        |
| 11 | Greyston Hendrickson |
| 18 | †                    |
| 25 | Ethan Earnesty       |

### Altar Guild

|    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 4  | †            |
| 11 | †            |
| 18 | Susan Kelley |
| 25 | †            |

### Lawn Mowers

|                |
|----------------|
| Howe/Blehm     |
| Dalton/Aldrich |
| Becker/Becker  |
| Crump/Wilson   |

### Children's Church

*Summer Break—Classes  
Return in September*

### June Librarians—Joyce & Kayla Berg

## WEDNESDAYS 7pm

|    | Head Usher     | Readers          | Sound Board | Video Screen   | Prayers        |
|----|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 7  | Glen Mack      | John Schroeder   | †           | Kelly Phillion | Connie Dutcher |
| 14 | John Schroeder | Joyce Richardson | †           | Glen Mack      | Donna Malburg  |
| 21 | Glen Mack      | Connie Dutcher   | †           | Connie Dutcher | Connie Dutcher |
| 28 | Mike Clifford  | Mike Clifford    | †           | Kelly Phillion | Mike Clifford  |

# Ascension Lutheran Church - June 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   |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
|   |    |   |  | 1                                   | 2<br><i>Office Closed</i>   | 3   |
| 4 <b>Trinity Sunday</b><br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>9:15am-Adult SS<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion   | 5 <i>Office Closed</i><br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>6:00pm-Women's Bible Study   | 6<br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>5:45pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors   | 7<br>7:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload<br>7pm-Worship/Communion  | 8                                   | 9<br><i>Office Closed</i>   | 10<br>Pavilion Rental   |
| 11<br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>9:15am-Adult SS<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion  | 12<br>9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Levi's<br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>12pm-Messenger Deadline<br>7pm-Summer Bible Study-Zoom<br>MI ADVENTURE \$\$ DUE | 13 <i>Office Closed</i><br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors  | 14 <b>Flag Day</b><br>8am-Serve @ Food Pantry<br>12pm-Council Reports Due<br>7pm-Worship/Communion<br> | 15<br>7:30pm-Concert @ Roethke Park | 16<br><i>Office Closed</i>  | 17<br>Pavilion Rental<br>FH Rental<br>3pm-Pastor installation @ Faith |
| 18 <b>Father's Day</b><br><i>RaiseRight Due</i><br><i>BP Screening</i><br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>9:15am-Adult SS<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion<br>Pavilion Rental | 19 <b>Juneteenth</b><br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>7pm-Summer Bible Study-Zoom<br><br>Lisa Out of Office  | 20<br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors<br>6:30pm-Council Mtg   | 21 <b>Summer Begins</b><br>6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw Mtg @ Faith<br>7pm-Worship/Communion<br>               | 22                                  | 23<br><i>Office Closed</i>  | 24  |
| 25<br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion/<br>Baptisms<br>10am-Pastor installation @ Zion-Freeland<br>6pm-Youth Night                               | 26<br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>7pm-Summer Bible Study-Zoom  | 27<br>7:45am-Michigan's Adventure<br>11am-NO BIBLE STUDY<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors<br> | 28<br>7pm-Worship/Communion<br>Messenger Mailed  | 29                                  | 30<br><i>Office Closed</i><br> |   |

**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](http://www.ascensionlc.org)

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### Grief Support Group



Ascension has a new Grief Support Group. The group meets at the church on **Mondays at 10:30 a.m.**

It is very easy to feel like you're all alone. There is also no timeline on grief. A grief group surrounds you with other people going through the same thing you are. There are many types of grief, death, sickness, and divorce are just a few. All kinds of grief are supported in this group.

No Requirements.  
No Pressure.  
Relaxed & Informal.  
Come and just listen or you may share.  
**Everyone is Welcome!**

### 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 **Levi's Restaurant** at 5800 Brockway, 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: June 12, 2023**



**Join Us For  
BREAKFAST**

**Bishop Craig Satterlee's newsletters can be found at:**

**<https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/>**

*The MESSENGER* is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the June 2023 issue is: **Monday, June 12th at 12:00 (noon).**

Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)