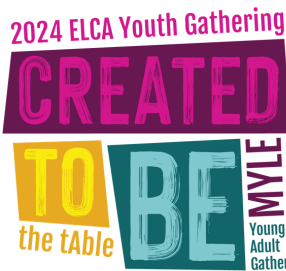


# The Messenger

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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

### ELCA Youth Gathering—July 16-20, 2024 Need decisions by September!!



The registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans will open on **September 15, 2023**.

It is now time to determine which youth will be attending. We are planning on attending with youth from nearby congregations.

Registration cost is \$375, and a \$150 deposit is required at the time of registration.

At best guess:   Registration:     \$375  
                          Hotel:           \$350 (avg \$175/night with 3 people in room)  
                          Travel:          \$600 (assuming we fly)  
                          Total without food or activities: \$1,375/person  
I would like to aim for \$1,600/person to help cover food costs and activities.

There has been some fundraising toward this event by some, but we have a lot of work ahead of us to raise the money to support this. Ideas and help for this will be expected. Expect a parent and youth meeting soon!!!

**August 2023**

**Volume 44, Number 8**

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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](http://www.ascensionlc.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw](https://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



**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday**



“God’s Work. Our hands” is a day to celebrate who we are as people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and how we have been freed for service and love with our neighbor.

Ascension has a long history of reaching out beyond the wall of our congregation. We hosted a Back to School Fair for several years since the inception of this service day until the need in our community was being met by others. We continue to reach out in our community in many ways—some ways directly through our congregation (for instance: weekend food bags, sewing team, food pantry, teaching Children’s church, serving in worship, harvesting watermelons for Hidden Harvest, and so many more). We also serve God in our daily lives (READ volunteers, school volunteers, through our vocations, scouts, coaching, and so many more)

This year we are going to celebrate out ongoing work of God, through our hands and feet.

I am asking for each person to consider either emailing me pictures or bring in pictures to the office to scan of us at work in the world. We will use these pictures in our celebration on September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup> in worship. Thank you. Email to Pastor Julie: [pr\\_julie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pr_julie@sbcglobal.net)



## You Are Witnesses of These Things Retreat

September 17–September 18

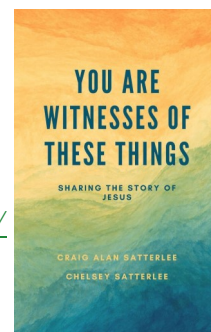
Join Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee and Pastor David Sprang September 17-18, 2023 for a retreat centered on the book “You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus!” Experience the joy and fun in sharing the story of Jesus for no reason other than Jesus is such life-giving good news.

Sunday, September 17, 3:30 PM – Monday, September 18, 3 PM

[Bethany House, St. Francis Retreat Center](#), Dewitt, Michigan

\$85 – Fee covers food and lodging

For more information and to register, please check out <https://craigasatterlee.com/retreat/you-are-witnesses-of-these-things-retreat/>



## 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.



## Sunday Morning Bible Study

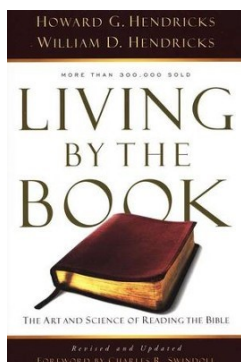
### “Healthy Habits – Shaping Up!”

All are welcome and each class can stand on its 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. Classes: August 6th, 13th, 20th**  
*No Class: July 30th, Aug 27th*

## Monday Women's Bible Study



Millions have been captivated by this brilliant teacher's highly energetic style, unforgettable illustrations, and laugh-out-loud humor. Now you can join Howard Hendricks as he demonstrates how to understand and apply God's Word for yourself. He walks you step-by-step through his model for Bible study-observation, interpretation, and application. Your experience in Scripture will never be the same.

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.

**This study starts on September 11th at 6:00 p.m.—in the Digging Dunes Room**

**Book is \$10 (cash or check payable to Ascension).** A grant has been received that will cover the DVD series and half the cost of the books. 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

Our group will continue meeting on **Tuesdays** via Zoom at **11 a.m.** We are now reading through the book of **Acts**. **All are invited to join us!** Enter the code for the zoom meeting or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite. *No Class: August 29th*

[www.zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com)  
Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561  
Passcode: 099583

## 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**



## Prayers of the Week

Our partner prayers are included in The Messenger each month.

### PRAYING FOR YOU

*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.*

#### August 6th

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Gladwin, MI and Rev. Emily Olsen

Ascension Families: John & Julie Stroebel; Jim & Marie Stuart; Marissa, Michael, Maverick Toupin

#### August 13th

Settlement Lutheran Church, Gowen, MI and Rev. Betsy Kamphuis

Ascension Families: Sharon Trepton; Chris & Cary Trier; Matt, Susie, Ariel, Timothy Trumble

#### August 20th

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI and Rev. Charles Foerster

Ascension Families: Beau Turner; Hunter & Alexis Turner; Mitchell Turner;

#### August 27th

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI and Rev. Karsten Voskuil-RCA

Ascension Families: Lee Turner; Melissa & Halie Turner; Ashely Turner-Singh & Brock Vasquez.



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



August 6th	In memory of John Cavendish, by Bonnie Cavendish
August 13th	Available to Sponsor
August 20th	In Memory of Janet Bain and Kay Ballien, by Phil Ballien
August 27th	Available to Sponsor



## 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.

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, August 20th**



## Grief Support Group



Ascension has a Grief Support Group. The group meets at the church on **Mondays at 10:30 a.m.** They began following a program called GriefShare on July 24th. It's not too late to join.

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

**A support group to help you move through the grief process**

## 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.

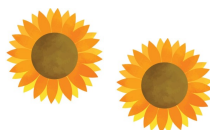
We do have some who are continuing to serve in this ministry. **Thank you.** Much has changed since prior to the pandemic, and so it is time to reboot this team. If you think you would be willing to provide this meaningful ministry, we welcome you. This position does require a background check.

## Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) - August 14th

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!



## 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 August 20th**

## Newsletter Via Email

The Messenger postage costs have increased over the last couple of years. It still makes financial sense for us to mail the newsletter, however, I am looking for about 20 people who would like to get The

Messenger via email only. That would reduce our costs enough to remain "in budget". The email copy is in color and the links are "clickable" right from the article. You can call or email the office to get on the email list. —Lisa

## August Birthdays



1st	Brittany Aldrich	19th	Meredith Friend
	Michelle Midcalf		Sandy Graham
2nd	Kristen Huebner	21st	Marie Stuart
5th	Karen Luplow		Lisa Whelton
6th	Jennifer Deaton	23rd	Madison Stoddard
	John Kaul	24th	Declan Denman
8th	Jeff Crook		Henry Salowitz
10th	Kim Anderson	25th	Renae Goschke
	Allison Hamilton		Michael Randall
	Dorothy Leppert		Trudy Ryder
	Linda Luplow	26th	Bob Dillenbeck
11th	Adam Clauss	27th	Ron Leonard
	Mark Hickner	28th	Marilynn Christensen
13th	Liam Kittle		Tony Dancer
14th	Arlington Enright		Rick Hamilton, Sr.
17th	Pierce Doerr		Marissa Toupin
	Samantha Hamilton	29th	Collin Edsall
	Julie Stroebel	30th	Cathy Wight
18th	Hadley Enright	31st	Mark Girardin
	Tim Wilson		



## August Anniversaries

2nd	Dave and Shelly Dawson
	Tom and Jennifer Deaton
	Mary and Norm, Jr. Hamilton
8th	Ron and Donna Fries
	Barry and Sue Wiggins
11th	Spence and Tammy Webb
12th	Wade and Andrea Kittle
15th	Rob and Jean Joslyn
	Nelson and Lynn Ann Staples
19th	Mike Romosier & Connie Dutcher
20th	Cary and Chris Trier
22nd	Waylon and Dawn Earnesty
23rd	Cody and Melissa Briggs
25th	TJ and Michelle Midcalf
26th	Brian and Wendy Awad
	Hugh and Jennifer Dickie
	Michael and Marissa Toupin
	Jeff and Vicki Wenzel
27th	Carolyn and Tom Ballien
	Matt and Jessica McRae
28th	Jack and Renae Goschke
	Nathan and Katika Gottlieb
31st	Dave and Barb Huston

## Baptism

**Briar Bradley Phillion received the Sacrament of Baptism on July 23rd.** His sponsors are Brandi Bohnsack and Jordan Rohde **May God bless him with His gift of grace.**



Congratulations to Grace Prange and Mark Girardin who were married on **July 7, 2023**

## Food Pantry



Ascension is providing volunteers at the Center of HOPE Food Pantry is **August 9th**. Please arrive by **8:30 a.m.** 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 **August 2nd in the morning** (watch Facebook for exact time, it's been between 7-8:30am), 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: **7/29 @ Spaulding Twp Hall (5825 Cole Rd)**  
**8/15 & 8/30 @ 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 continues to collect clean plastic & cloth grocery bags & manual can openers.

# Volunteering at St. Mary's Thrift Store—Benefits Food Pantry

Dewey Burke is looking for people that are interested in volunteering in the thrift store of St. Mary's. They have asked for his help in collecting volunteers so that they may open more than two days a week. The Center of HOPE Food Pantry would receive 1/2 of the funds collected on each day providing volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Dewey directly at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com.

## ALC earns ENERGY STAR certification for the 6th year!

We're excited to announce that Ascension Lutheran Church has earned ENERGY STAR® certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the 6th year! Our score is 99 (based on 1-100), a 99 means we are more energy efficient than 99% of similar properties nationwide



The next time you visit, check out the little blue label on display at our entrance – it represents proven, verified superior energy performance over a 12-month period. In fact, ENERGY STAR certified buildings and plants perform in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationwide! Thank you for being a part of our sustainability story by taking simple actions to cut energy waste that are critical to saving energy in our building.

Here's to another year of cutting energy waste, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and doing our part to protect the environment – together! Learn more at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

Our next blood drive is scheduled for **Thursday, September 7th 2:30pm-7pm** in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up at [https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/151971](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/151971)

or call Lisa during church office hours. As always, walk-ins are welcomed!

## 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.

## School Kit Bags



School Kit Bags and the slips containing the needed items are located on the table by the front window in the Gathering Area. Be sure to only include the items listed. **New This Year:** We have school supplies remaining from our back to school fairs. Feel free to “shop” from the table and place the scissors, pens, pencils and notebooks in your bags before you purchase the remaining items. Any supplies not used will need to be stored for next year, you are definitely helping us out by using them!

The bags must be returned by **Sunday, September 10th** 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.

## Noisy Offering—September 17th & 20th



Have you been saving your change?? We will collect a Noisy Offering for the Sewing Group for the Lutheran World Relief postage for the School Kit Bags and Quilts.



We also gladly accept flutters and checks payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.

## Sewing Group Needs Bed Sheets

The Sewing Group is in need of ALL COTTON sheets. They can use FLAT Queen & King sizes only. They are used for quilt backings. The sheets do not have to be new, however, we ask that they are clean of stains and do not have holes or rips. Some members of the group find them at yard sales and resale stores. All donations are appreciated.

## Sewing Group-September 6th

*check out their flyer on the Kiosk!*



Ascension's Sewing Group will return from summer break and meet in the Fellowship Hall on **September 6th & 20th** 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.

## Learning The Bible Stories

On **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** we will be presenting a book of Bible stories to our children that are three years old. The idea is that as a parent, you will read a story to the child each day; and as they learn to read, they will read the story to you. These are our family stories, to be passed along from generation to generation. The book also contains some prayers you may wish to teach. We will be mailing out letters to confirm, but if you do not receive a letter and believe your child should be receiving or is ready to receive a Bible, please let Pastor Julie know by **September 1<sup>st</sup>**.



Put these words of mine in  
your heart and soul ....  
Teach them to your children ....

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV





ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL  
**S.T.E.R.M.  
CAMP**  
JULY 25TH  
AUGUST 1ST  
AUGUST 8TH  
3:30 PM TO 6:00 PM



## STERM Camp—Volunteers Needed



We are continuing the search for volunteers for Ascension's STERM Camp this summer. (STERM is Science, Technology, Engineering, Religion, Math) If you have any talents you can share with us, please feel free to sign up on the kiosk or contact Nicki Crump at 989-751-8633 or [nickicrump779@gmail.com](mailto:nickicrump779@gmail.com). We are looking for anything! It could be bracelet making, crafts, cooking, robotics, a science project, or anything in between!

**Camp Dates Remaining: August 1st, August 8th, 3:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.**

## STERM Camp—Student Registration

If you have a student that would like to participate in the STERM Camp, you can pick up a registration form on the kiosk at church, on our website or Facebook, or contact Nicki Crump (see contact info above)! STERM Camp is a great way for your students to learn something new while having a ton of fun!

## First Communion



- Preparation Class September 23, 2023 9 a.m. – 12 noon
- Receive First Communion October 1st or October 4th



The practice at Ascension is that children baptized may begin to commune on a regular basis following their First Communion instruction. This is determined through mutual conversation with the pastor, child, and parents. We are planning on First Communion being celebrated on Sunday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 4th. We will hold our First Communion class the morning of September 23rd. Please contact Pastor Julie if you have questions or you believe your child is ready to receive this instruction in order that we have enough supplies.

## Youth Nights in August--Sunday's at 6 p.m – 9 p.m.



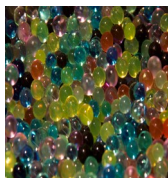
**August 6**—Tie dye—bring a shirt, socks, whatever you want to tie dye for a night of fun that will include tie-dyeing. All youth middle to high school are invited.

**August 13**—Today we are playing Gellyball 3-4 p.m. For youth night, we will plan to stay right after that event and you can play gaga ball or just chill and relax with each other.

We will plan on making foil packet dinners in the fire pit, have s'mores, and kick back before school begins. This event will be open to ALL YOUTH (elementary, middle & high school) and their families. So we have enough food, a sign up sheet will be on the kiosk, please sign up if you can attend.



## GellyBall Event—August 13th



We are planning a youth gathering on **August 13th at 3 pm** to play GellyBall! GellyBall is like paintball but uses GellyBall Blasters that shoot a soft gel-like ball, much like an Orbeez. The soft GellyBalls bounce off kids or simply disintegrate, leaving no stain, mess, or sting. This is available for all youth ages 5 and up! Please sign up at the kiosk or contact Nicki Crump to reserve your spot. There are only 24 spots available and it is \$25 per person.

## Confirmation Classes begin in September



All youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above who are interested and ready to begin confirmation classes will begin in September. Please let Pastor Julie know if your youth will be participating. The last couple years, the class met every other Sunday at 5 p.m. We can continue that time or move it if that would be helpful. I know some have another commitment on Sunday's so if moving to 4:30 p.m. would help, we can do that.

Confirmation is a church program that delves deeper into the faith in which we baptize. At the completion of the two-year program, the youth are invited to Affirm their Faith. Once the youth has been confirmed, they are a voting member of the congregation, with all the rights and responsibilities of other voting members in the congregation.

## Youth Fundraising—Pop Cam Returns



Thank you for bringing cans and bottles in to help support Youth Ministry in our congregation.

Individual youth (elementary, middle, and high school) are encouraged to sign up to return cans each week. The next week, youth return the MONEY from that return to the church office or Pastor Julie. One-half of the money returned goes into that youth's individual account to help pay for camp, retreats, or other events that require a financial fee. The other 50% supports the youth ministry as a whole. We use this money to help offset costs of events and provide events at a lower cost.

Sign up sheet and instructions are located on the kiosk at church.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.





# FruitFULL Faith—Camp 2023



Beginning on July 9th, ten youth and two adults from Ascension Lutheran joined others from around Michigan at Stony Lake Lutheran Camp for a week of fun, fellowship, learning and experiencing the love of God. It is a week of activity with study, games, worship, campfire, eating, making new friends, and learning to live in a community with new relationships without the benefit or interruption of technology. It can be a challenge. Our confirmation youth challenged themselves on the high ropes course, pushing beyond their comfort zones and doing one step more than they thought they could. We learned about the fruits of love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, and faithfulness. We had a few first-time campers, and they did great. Our new adult, Tony Dancer, became a hit as a great worker and having a great time with the other adults present. Despite a rainy day during our community night, a good time was had by all. We hope to share our FruitFULL faith as we return home.







After checking out Bishop Craig Satterlee's newsletter, <https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/>, this month titled "Baked Beans" welcoming Pastor Chrisy Bright as our new Assistant to the Bishop, please read about her below.

Bishop's Newsletter

July 2023

## Saying Hello

Thank you all for your welcome to the position of Assistant to the Bishop. It is an honor and privilege to serve the Synod in this way. I know many of you a bit and look forward to getting to know you all a bit better. As I settle into this role, Bishop Satterlee, Pastor Sprang, and I, along with the rest of the staff, will be working together to establish new ways of accomplishing our shared ministry. I know we all appreciate your continued prayers as we navigate this transition.

While I know a bit about many of you, I realize you might not know that much about me so I wanted to take this opportunity to share a bit about myself. I grew up on a dairy farm in McBain, MI and was a member of St. John Lutheran in Lake City. Our family unit was my parents, maternal grandfather, and younger brother as well as dogs, cats, pigs, sheep, and lots of cows. At St. John, I was a member of the choir and band, taught Sunday School for the Special Needs and preschool classes, and was on the church council.

I am a second-generation Spartan (Go Green!), graduating in 2000 with a degree in International Relations and Health Studies. I was heavily involved in ministry at University Lutheran, East Lansing. Beyond being a member of several committees and teams, I was a student associate for several years before being asked to be the campus ministry staff person during several years of staff transition.

2004 found me at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education at Overland Park Regional Medical Center in Overland Park, KS and Research Medical Center in Kansas City, MO. My internship was at Augustana Lutheran in Cumberland, WI and Barronett Lutheran in Barronett, WI. It was what was then called a detached site and afforded me the opportunity to preach and lead worship 48 out of 52 weeks of the year, as well as all kinds of other ministry opportunities.

After graduation, I interviewed with several ministry sites in the Synod before the Holy Spirit led me to New Life Lutheran in Spruce, MI where I was blessed to serve as pastor for 14+ years. I also volunteer at Alcona Elementary and am part of the local Habitat for Humanity Board.

These days, my family consists of my younger brother (Bear), sister-in-law (Rebecca), and their children (Ethan, Jessica, Katelynn, and Olivia), who still live in the McBain area. I love spending birthdays and holidays with them and try to get to events the kids participate in too.

So that's a little bit about me. I'm excited to learn more about you as I settle into this role, begin to visit congregations, and continue to build relationships in this synod and beyond. I hope you all are having a good summer. May God continue to use our hands, feet, hearts, minds, and voices to do God's work in the world.

Peace,

Pastor Chrisy Bright, Assistant to the Bishop





## Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: Revelation 2-3

### Bible Quiz

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches. Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?

- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea



Answer: B (See Revelation 2-3.)



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

#### What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

#### What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!



## BACK TO SCHOOL



### Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

**Directions:** Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

\_ \_ ○ \_ \_

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

The heave\_\_s declare the \_\_lory \_\_f \_\_od;  
the ski\_\_s \_\_roc\_\_aim the wo\_\_k of his ha\_\_ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV

## Serving in August

*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
6	Susan Kelley	Dawn Dalton	6	Charleen Boland	Lisa Espinoza
13	Dick Schomaker	Linda Luplow	13	Ruth Schomaker	Tim Grueber
20	Edna Bell	Barb Van Marter	20	Lynn Schomaker	Dawn Dalton
27	Charleen Boland	John Whelton	27	Charleen Boland	Lisa Whelton



### Sound Board Operators

6	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
13	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
20	†	Makena Whelton
27	†	Makena Whelton

### Video Screen Operators

6	Kris Friend	†
13	Kris Friend	†
20	†	†
27	†	†

### Head Ushers

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

### Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

6	Greyston Hendrickson
13	†
20	†
27	Hannah Wizner



### Altar Guild

6	†
13	†
20	†
27	†

### Lawn Mowers

6	Becker/Becker
13	Crump/Wilson
20	Roth/Whelton
27	Whelton/Whelton

### Children's Church

6	<i>Summer Break—Classes</i>
13	<i>Return in September 10th</i>
20	
27	

### August Librarians—Joyce & Kayla Berg



## WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
2	John Schroeder	Connie Dutcher	†	Connie Dutcher	Celina Gottlieb
9	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	Mike Clifford
16	John Schroeder	Joyce Richardson	†	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
23	Mike Clifford	John Schroeder	†	Connie Dutcher	Mike Clifford
30	Mike Clifford	Connie Dutcher	†	Kelly Phillion	Connie Dutcher

# Ascension Lutheran Church - August 2023

8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609

(989) 781-2170

Email: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [ascensionlc.org](http://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 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 3:30pm-STERM Camp 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	2 a.m.time TBD-Food Pantry Truck Unload 7pm-Worship/Communion	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6pm-9pm-Youth Night-TieDye	7 10:30am-Grief Group	8 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 3:30pm-STERM Camp 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	9 8:30am-Serve @ Food Pantry 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion 3-4pm-GellyBall-Youth 4pm-9pm-Youth/Family Night	14 9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Levi’s 10:30am-Grief Group	15 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	16 7pm-Worship	17	18 Office Closed	19
Pastor Out of Office August 16th-19th						
20 Raise Right Due BP Screening 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion	21 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline	22 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	23 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Ice Cream/Popsicles following worship	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 8am-Worship 10:30am-Worship	28 10:30am-Grief Group	29 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	30 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	31	BACK TO SCHOOL	
Pastor Out of Office August 25th—September 2nd						

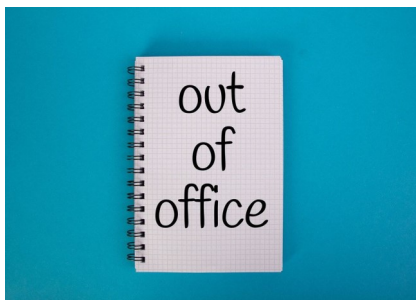
**Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 989-781-7803**

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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

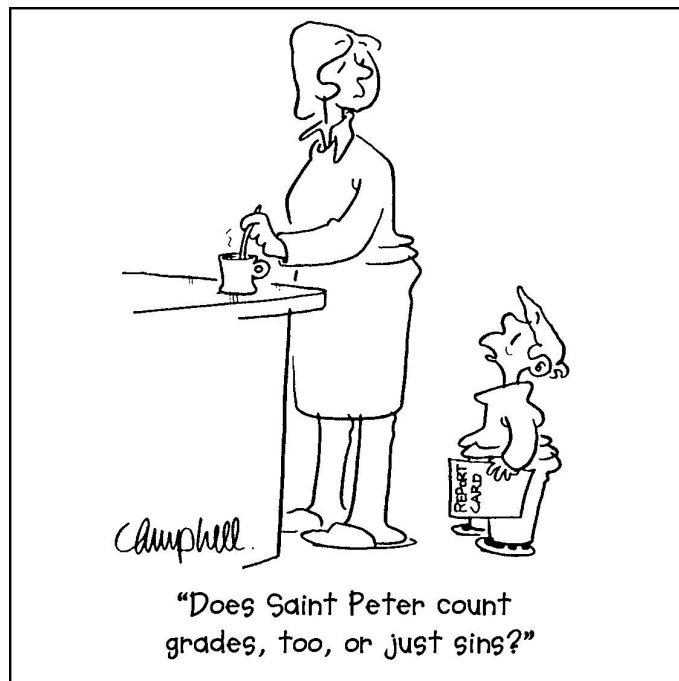
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Pastor Julie is Out of the Office  
for her follow up surgery August  
25th through September 2nd  
Please keep her in your prayers.

She is also out of the office  
August 16th through 19th  
for vacation



*The MESSENGER* is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.  
Deadline for the September 2023 issue is: **Monday, August 21st at 12:00 (noon).**  
Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)