

The Messenger

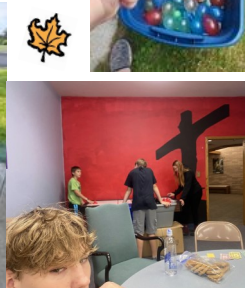
Ascension Lutheran Church

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

Youth Summer Fun! Snacks, Bonfires, Games, Tie Dye, Friends and More!

September 2023

Volume 44, Number 9



Inside this issue:

Contacts	1
Pastor's Message	2
Bible Studies	3
Prayers	4
Announcements	5-8
Birthdays/ Anniversaries	6
Community/Synod	9-11
Youth News	12-14
Children's Activity	15
Serving This Month	16
Calendar	17



STAFF

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gus Hendrickson, President
vacant, 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.

Office Closed Sept 4th

A Message From Pastor Julie



We Are the Church Together

In October 2022, we started hosting a “Re-MEMBER-ing” service if there was a fifth Sunday in the month. The intent was to gather the congregation, that during the week is often split between three services, into one service. It was an opportunity to see people that we don’t see regularly and to meet new people that attend another service. It was also a time after we had been separated so long from the pandemic to renew relationship. Most worship services included gathering with food afterwards.

Council has made the decision to place a hold on Re-MEMBER-ing Sunday’s for now and will revisit in the new year.

We are the Church together! All of us! May we continue to find ways in which to strengthen that relationship with others. This may be through attending activities outside of worship like Bible Studies, special events, or service activities.



A Summer Book-end

I for one am glad to see this summer end. As much as I loved the weather, camp, and summer programs, my summer was bookended by surgery. It was not major surgery, but having to go in twice and be out for a week each time was not my plan. I am in hope that as we begin a new program year, I will feel better and be ready to continue to boldly make Christ’s vision known. Thank you to everyone who covered and supported me during those times.

-Pastor Julie



Planning Ahead

LOOKING AHEAD



Did you know Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year? Because of this, we will NOT have worship in the morning on December 24th, where we would have celebrated the 4th week of Advent. We WILL have **Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

This also means that New Years Eve lands on Sunday—so we are holding ONE service **December 31st at 9:15 a.m.**



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**September 10
2023**

“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 our 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 10th and September 13th in worship. Thank you. Email to Pastor Julie: pr_julie@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Bible Study-How Lutheran Interpret the Bible

In this seven session video series we will be invited to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. Dr. Mark Allen Powell does not prescribe "the Lutheran way" to read the Bible nor does he dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Powell's rich discussions you will discover answers to questions you have always had about the Bible.

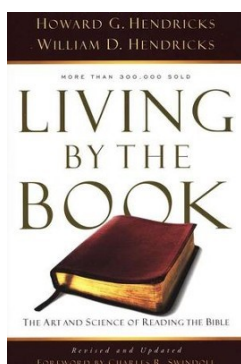
Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in-person at Ascension or Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom (sign up for the Sunday evening class-will need 5 people to hold the class. Email Pastor Julie at pr_julie@sbcglobal.net or comment on the facebook page your intention.)



September 10th	Session 1: The Word of God
September 17th	Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
September 24th	Session 3: Where the Bible comes From
October 1st	Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
October 8th	Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
October 15th	Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
October 22nd	Session 7: Devotional Bible



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: September 19th*

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

**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

Barry Wiggins—1202 Weiss St, Room
305, Saginaw, MI 48602

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



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.*

September 3rd

Faith Lutheran Church, Grand
Rapids, MI and Rev. Kevin Sullivan

Ascension Families: Barb Van Marter;
Noel, Sarah, Ella, Landon, Sabrina
Olivia Wagner; Bryce, Megan, Brant,
Brynn, Jayde, Layne Wakeman

September 10th

Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand
Rapids, MI and Rev. Robert
Linstrom, Rev. Daniel Schewe, Rev.
Kari Fast

Ascension Families: Michelle, Brandon,
Courtney, Ella, Josh Wardlow; Bob &
Cathy Watz; Spence, Tammy, Connor,
Hannah Webb

September 17th

St. John Lutheran Church, Gray-
ling, MI and their Supply Pastors
Ascension Families: Dan Wenzel; Jeff,
Vicki, Danielle Wenzel; Tamara
Wenzel; John & Ginny Whelton

September 24th

St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Greenville, MI and Rev. Betsy
Kamphuis
Ascension Families: John, Nancy, John,
Josh, Nicki, Courtney Whelton; Jeff,
Lisa, Joscelyn, Makena Whelton; Barry
& Sue Wiggins



Altar Flowers



Thank you to everyone who has sponsored flowers in 2023. There are only 2 weeks still available in 2023. Sign up on the Flower Chart on the Acolyte Door for **December 24th and December 31st**. 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 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).



September 3rd In celebration of Jayme York's Birthday, by Kathy York

September 10th In honor of the new Program Year, by Pastor Julie Bailey

September 17th In Memory of Susan Lentner, by Marv Lentner

In celebration of her Birthday, by Lori Schultz

September 24th To the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley

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. Contact Linda Lentner if you have any questions about joining the group and/or when their next program begins

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) - September 11th

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 September 17th

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 8 more people who would like to get The Messenger via email only. **THANK YOU** to those who are experiencing the email version for the first time this month. 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

September Birthdays



2nd	Alex McClure	19th	Wade Kittle
3rd	Ella Wagner	20th	Emily Hamilton-Gerard
	Jayne York	21st	Diane Lobsiger-Braden
4th	Betty Cliff		Noah Ryder
5th	Jennifer Dickie		Samantha Wright
	Jim Stuart	22nd	Emily Edsall
6th	Leslee Arnst		Donna Malburg
	Jenny Nielsen	23rd	Jenny Maier
8th	Hugh Carroll	24th	Brock Vasquez
10th	Marie Leonard	26th	Jessica Hoffmann
13th	Nancy Kozak	27th	Carl Boland
	Julie Meschke		Makenna Dawson
14th	Annie Nielsen		Max Dawson
16th	Kris Friend		Ethan Earnesty
17th	Nathan McClure		Celina Gottlieb
	Nathaniel Ryder		Angela Saxton
	Lori Schultz		John Schroeder
	Timothy Trumble	29th	Grace Girardin
	Brandon Wardlow		Linda Lentner
18th	Melissa Hostetler	30th	Amanda Doerr
			Alicia Spear

September Anniversaries

1st	Robert and Rita Bolger
10th	Angelica and Jordan Dawkins
18th	Scott and Kim Anderson
20th	Ed and Lisa Espinoza
24th	Jonathan and Amanda Doerr
26th	Jason and Rebecca Enright
27th	Russ and Melissa Morgan

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.



Baptism

Maverick Paul Toupin received the Sacrament of Baptism on August 20th. His sponsors are Megan Wakeman and Michael Browne. May God bless him with His gift of grace.



Dear Ascension Family, I want to thank many in the congregation for the love, support and prayers during my recent journey with cancer (Jan. through May 2023). The PET scan in June showed "no evidence of tumors". Your words of encouragement meant so much. I thank and praise God for His healing. I am truly grateful and very blessed. God is faithful. I remind myself each day that God is in control. My sincerest thanks, Sara Gregor

A Note From Pr. John Stolzenbach

It's been good being able to keep track of the ministry, events and, especially, the people while serving at Ascension from January, 1985 to June, 1991 through The Messenger. It's given us an opportunity to pray for the congregation and people we knew and loved through life events. It's been good to see so many new names and ministries of those involved at Ascension. We would be happy to receive The Messenger via email to save on costs. Hopefully you get the needed 20 families to make this happen.

After leaving Ascension, I served at Upper Arlington Lutheran in Columbus before retiring in 2011 and moving to Yakima, WA, to be closer to our kids in Seattle. Please greet those who remember us.

Together Serving Jesus,
John and Sue Stolzenbach





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



Blood Pressure Screening

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

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!

Food Pantry



There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **September 6th 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: **9/7 & 9/27 @ Center of HOPE**
 9/23 @ Spaulding Twp Hall (5825 Cole Rd)

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.

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.**

School Kit Bags



School Kit 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.

Lutheran World Relief—Noisy Offering—September 17th & 20th

“At Lutheran World Relief, we envision a future where all people, in every corner of the world can live full, dignified lives.”

LWR was founded following World War II. The goal is to tackle global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. Ascension has partnered with LWR for several years, including providing quilts and school kits that many of you have helped assemble.



During the week of September 17th, we will dedicate those quilts and school bags, as well as collect a noisy offering at all services.

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.



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 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.

Community News/Events



Dear Family in Christ,

You are cordially invited to a special concert event with one of Nashville's most beloved Christian Men's Vocal Bands, New Legacy Project. It will be held on **Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm**, at Zion Lutheran Church, 1209 Hancock Street in Saginaw.

If it doesn't interfere with your own services, I'm hoping you will print and post the attached flyer, and perhaps invite your congregation to join us for the free concert event. We know it will be a great time of ministry, music and fellowship.

Hope to see you there!



FROM: CHERYL RUTHIG— BOWLING SCHOLARSHIP LEAGUE

The Saginaw Lutheran Mixed Scholarship bowling league is getting set to open its 67th season and **WE NEED BOWLERS!** Bowling will start on **September 10th**. We bowl every other week at **6:30 on Sunday nights** at Crooked Creek Bowling Center in Saginaw. Teams consist of 4 bowlers (2 men & 2 women, or combinations of 3 and 1). If you don't have a full team we are also looking for individual bowlers or couples. All funds at the season's end go to scholarships for Lutheran Ministry or Teaching. If interested please contact Jim Ruthig 989-792-9123 or jruthig@sbcglobal.net or Chris Doyle 989-233-1514.



2023 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY QUILT SHOW & AUCTION

Our Saviour—Saginaw

Exciting news! This year's show and auction will be held **Friday, October 13th through Sunday, October 15th**. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Our Saviour's office at 989-799-5470 and they will put you in touch with a coordinator.

FAITH FUNFEST—Faith Lutheran—Saginaw

Join Faith Lutheran 4432 Mackinaw on **Saturday, September 9th from 11a.m.—1p.m.** for pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, balloons, a cookout, snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, bookmobile, fire truck, bike safety helmets, and more! New for 2023: a Car and Bike show-and-tell. (Arrive at 10am to set up for the show-and-tell.) Bring your family, grandkids, neighbor kids, and friends. Direct questions to: Paul Hudson 989-860-3237.

COAT/OUTER GARMENTS COLLECTION—Resurrection—Saginaw

Coats/outer garments are being collected for a distribution in October 2023. If you are going through your closets or visiting those end-of summer garage sales and find good used coats consider dropping them off at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway St., Saginaw, MI 48602. They are looking for coats for all ages-children/male/female. They also accept new coats if you run into a sale! Questions or for office hours, call Resurrection at 989-792-7135.



Live & In-Person From Nashville!



Rick Price Ministries presents:

NEW LEGACY PROJECT

Formerly the Blackwood Legacy

THU – SEP 7 – 6:30 PM

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
1209 Hancock Street - Saginaw

Non-denominational Event – Everyone Welcomed

Please join us for a phenomenal concert with one of Nashville's finest Men's Vocal Bands. Best known for their stellar harmonies, impeccable delivery, humor & love for God.

Admission is free!

Covenant HealthCare is Seeking Volunteers



Covenant HealthCare is currently seeking volunteers age 18 and older. Volunteers assist guests, work side by side with staff and work with physicians to ensure that each need is handled appropriately and timely.. Volunteers can apply online at covenanthealthcare.com/volunteer. See the flyers on the kiosk for additional information.

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan has Job Openings, if you are called to help in this arena, please see their website at:

<https://r3monline.org/category/job-openings/>



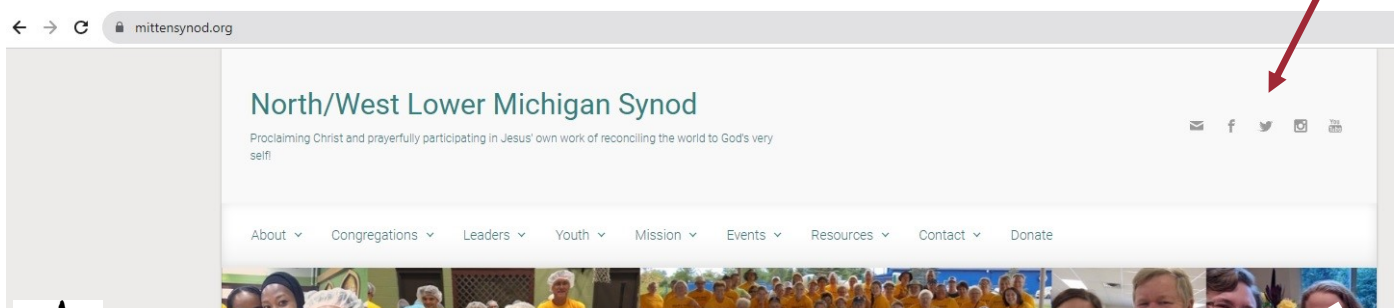
Volunteering at St. Mary's Thrift Store—Benefits Food Pantry

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.



Our Synod Resources

Stay in contact with our synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Go to mittensynod.org. Sign up to receive the bishop's newsletter monthly and follow their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube pages.



Bishop Satterlee's Newsletter

Bishop Craig Satterlee's newsletter can be found at <https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/>



You Are Witnesses of These Things Retreat

September 17–September 18

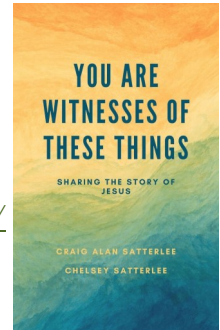
Join Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee and Pastor David Sprang September 17-18, 2023 for a retreat centered on the book “You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus!” Experience the joy and fun in sharing the story of Jesus for no reason other than Jesus is such life-giving good news.

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/>



Adult Theological Education-Luther's Small Catechism

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD ELCA

ADULT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM



JOIN THE REV. DR. KIT KLEINHANS, DEAN OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY AT CAPITAL UNIVERSITY, FOR A SIX-WEEK STUDY OF LUTHER'S CATECHISMS!

TUESDAYS STARTING OCTOBER 24
ZOOM

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is excited to announce a new series of theological education courses! For five semesters beginning in Winter 2023, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will offer six-week Zoom courses led by seminary professors. These courses are open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and are free of charge.

Fall 2023 – Luther's Small Catechism for Adults

When Luther wrote that familiar question, “What does this mean?” he meant it! He wanted Christians to understand their faith and to see how God was at work in their lives, in the church, and in the world.

Join the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, for a six-week study of Luther's catechisms. Let's dig deep into what God means *for us*!

Before she was Dean at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Dr. Kleinhans taught religion, including Lutheran Confessions and History of Christianity, at Wartburg College for 25 years. A fifth-generation Lutheran pastor and a brilliant theologian and Luther scholar, Dr. Kleinhans cares about her students, the Church, and what it means to be Lutheran today. She has a pastor's heart and is capable of both the deeply esoteric and the foundationally concrete.

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: **October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET**. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants. **Registration is required and will close on October 19, 2023.**

Register at: <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/adult-theological-education/>

Learning The Bible Stories



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children
Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV

On **Sunday, September 10th** and **Wednesday, September 13th** 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 1st**.

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.



Children's Church/Sunday School—Begins September 10th



With our commitment to assist parents in their baptismal covenant to teach their children, the “Children’s Church” model will continue this year. The **youth, 4 years old through 5th grade**, will begin the 10:30 a.m. worship service with their families, and after the Children’s Message, be dismissed with their teachers to experience the Word, or message of worship in a more age appropriate way. We will then return to worship as an entire congregation during the peace, so that our youth will still receive Communion/Prayers.

We are always looking for parents, grandparents, and high school youth that are interested in serving as a teacher of Children’s Church on a rotating schedule. This will provide the teachers the opportunity to worship most Sunday’s with the congregation in the sanctuary.

Please complete the **Registration Form** on the kiosk or at ascensionlc.org and return to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Earnesty, Rita Hendrickson or Pastor Julie.



Charge—Great Wolf Lodge—November 10th-12th



Charge is an event that attempts to bridge the gap by providing a powerful faith community where students grades 6-12 can grow in faith, engage in service, and develop leadership skills; all while enjoying the amenities of Great Wolf Lodge. Participants at Charge are equipped and empowered to learn, lead, laugh, and love as an expression of their faith in Jesus.

Registration due September 1st

Registration Cost: \$185, however, we have been gifted some money for this event to lessen the fee for participants, but you must be registered by September 1st.

All Payments due September 15th, checks payable to: Ascension Lutheran Church

Registration Forms are on the kiosk & ascensionlc.org

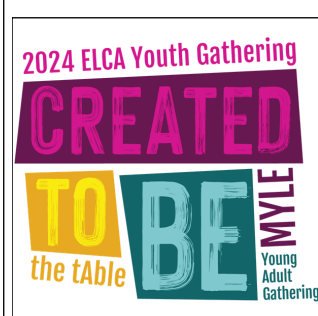


Confirmation Classes begin September 10th

Our first class will be held **Sunday, September 10th at 4:30 p.m.** in the Youth Room. All students and parents are invited while we go over the program, expectations, and some Bible Basics. A copy of the schedule will be included and can also be found on our webpage. Contact Pastor Julie with any questions.



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!!!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 24, 2023, 11:30 a.m.—Those interested parents and youth meet with Pastor Julie at Ascension

October 15, 2023, 1 p.m.—Those planning on attending meet at Zion Lutheran in Freeland, along with parents.

October 15, 2023—Registration due with \$150 deposit

Junie B. Jones Jr.—The Musical: Sunday, October 1st at 3p.m.



Join your friends from Ascension as we attend Junie B. Jones Jr-The Musical.

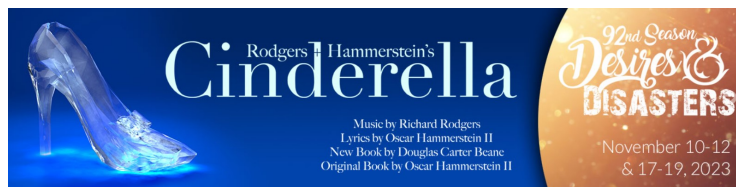
“Join Junie B. on her first day of first grade, where many changes are in store: Junie’s best friend Lucille has found new best friends — and Junie B. makes friends with Herb, the new kid at school. While in Mr. Scary’s class, Junie has trouble reading the blackboard — and she may need glasses. Add in a friendly cafeteria lady,

an intense kickball tournament and a “Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal,” and first grade has never been more exciting.”

The play features Marissa F. who will be playing “mother”. Marissa is a youth who has been a regular at our youth nights over the past summers.

Tickets are \$10. Performances are at 3:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the box office at 989.893.5555 (M, W, F 10-2; closed Friday during summer; open 1-hour before show). Pastor is seated in Right C1. Show will be held at Bay City Players, 1214 Columbus Ave., Bay City, MI 48708.

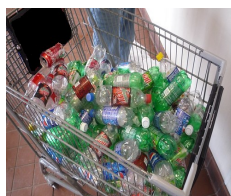
Cinderella—The Musical— Saturday, November 18th at 7:30 p.m.



Join others as we attend Cinderella at Pit & Balcony Theatre in Saginaw. This is a new Broadway adaptation of Rogers and Hammerstein’s musical. You can purchase your ticket online at pitandbalconytheatre.com or through the box office (989-754-6587, 805 N. Hamilton St., Saginaw, MI 48602). There are also youth tickets available. (Pastor is sitting in seat D-110)



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.



Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:
2 Kings 2:19-22



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

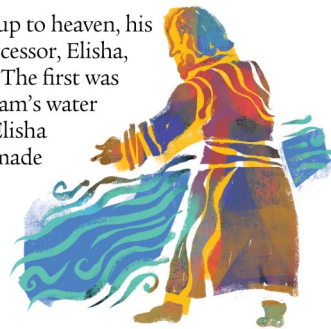
1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sand-box or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt



Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA



_ R _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B _ T _ L _ W _
 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ B _ G _ R _ N _ V _ R _
 _ I _ V _ N _ V _ N _ Y _ V _ I _ B _ L _ F _
 _ R _ M _ Z _ O _ O _ N _ B _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ V _ I _ H _ U _ L _ I _ Z _ O _ O _
 _ L _ U _ B _ L _ F _ , _ R _ Z _ O _ D _ Z _ B _ H _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ D _ R _ G _ S _ Q _ L _ B _
 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

Serving in September

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
3	Marty Debozy	Lisa Whelton	3	Susan Kelley	Chris Crump
10	Tom Erskine	Chris Crump	10	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
17	Joan Ford	Dawn Dalton	17	Lynn Schomaker	Dawn Dalton
24	Kris Friend	Lisa Whelton	24	Charleen Boland	Lisa Whelton



Sound Board Operators

3	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
10	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
17	†	Makena Whelton
24	†	Makena Whelton

Video Screen Operators

3	Kris Friend	†
10	Kris Friend	†
17	Susan Kelley	†
24	Charleen Boland	†



Head Ushers

3	Wilson	Dawson/Hendrickson
10	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein
17	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
24	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

3	†
10	Greyston Hendrickson/Olivia Trepkowski
17	Ethan Earnesty/Matti Wizner
24	Hannah Wizner

Altar Guild

3	†
10	†
17	†
24	†

Lawn Mowers

Dalton/Aldrich
Howe/Blehm
Hendrickson/Ecker
Becker/Becker

Children's Church

3	Labor Day—No Class
10	Dawn Earnesty/Stephanie Wizner
17	Tony Dancer/Nicki Crump
24	Bob Aldrich

September Librarian—



WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
6	John Schroeder	Joyce Richardson	†	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
13	John Schroeder	Glen Mack	†	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher
20	Mike Clifford	John Schroeder	†	Kelly Dutcher	Mike Clifford
27	Mike Clifford	Connie Dutcher	†	Connie Dutcher	Celina Gottlieb

Ascension Lutheran Church - September 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 Charge Registration Due Office Closed	2 
3 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion 	4 Labor Day Office Closed 	5 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5:30pm-Kitchen Rental 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	6 7am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	7 2:30-7pm-Blood Drive (FH) 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg 	8 Office Closed	9
10 LWR School Bags Due 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom	11 Patriot Day 9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Levi's 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study 	12 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5:30pm-Kitchen Rental 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	13 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	14	15 Charge Final Payment Due Office Closed	16
17 Raise Right Due BP Screening Noisy Offering-LWR 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom	18 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	19 5:30pm-Kitchen Rental 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg 	20 Noisy Offering-LWR 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	21	22 Pastor Julie was installed at Ascension 10 Years Ago Today! Office Closed	23 9am-12pm First Communion Preparation Class 
24 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 11:30am-Youth Gathering Mtg 4:30pm-Confirmation 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom	25 Office Closing at 12:30pm 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study 	26 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5:30pm-Kitchen Rental 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	27 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	28 	29 Office Closed 2pm-Kitchen Rental	30 

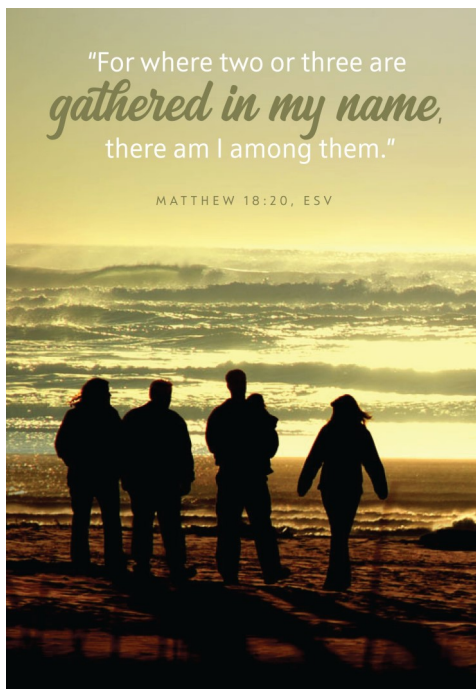
Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 989-781-7803

Ascension Lutheran Church

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

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAGINAW, MI
PERMIT NO. 59

"ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED"



Respect the
Deadline!



The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the October 2023 issue is: **Monday, September 18th at 12:00**
(noon). Articles may be emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net