

# The Messenger

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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



Our Congregational Budget and Election Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 10th at 11:30 a.m.** (following our 10:30 a.m. worship service). We will be voting on a budget for 2024 and electing members to fill council vacancies.

Please prayerfully discern the nomination of members to serve on our Congregation Council. Positions currently available are:

**President**  
**Vice President(1yr Term)**  
**Secretary**  
**Financial Secretary**  
**Minister of Finance & Resources**  
**Minister of Spiritual Health**

This is your opportunity to step up to this two-year commitment as we follow Jesus' call and lead the congregation forward in boldly making Christ's vision known. If you have questions, please contact a Council Member.

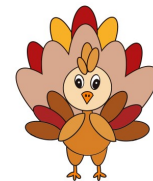
**\*\*Voting Members as defined by the Ascension Lutheran Church Constitution:** Confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation.

**November 2023**

**Volume 44, Number 11**

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### 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](mailto: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.

**Office Closed Nov 22nd & 23rd**

# A Message From Pastor Julie

Isn't God where everything starts? God provides us everything we have and empowers and calls us to use these resources faithfully. Stewardship and everything else begins with God.

Over the course of October and through November, we will continue to hear how God has given us everything and how God calls us to use what we have been given. We will talk about some myths that we have heard say—like “God helps those who help themselves” or “Giant Checks mean Giant Faith.”

God has blessed us abundantly but so often we are unable to see that abundance. We get so distracted by the scarcity that bombards us every day. We wonder what if this or that happens? God, who promises us to be with us always, who promises to provide for all our needs is asking us to trust. Letting go of those fears, the what-ifs, the I have never done that before's— that is hard. But God is faithful and just, God isn't asking you to go without. God is asking you to share, to participate, to provide resources in whatever means you can to the mission of Christ here on earth.

The general offering you give is the foundation upon which much of our ministry is funded. Yes, it provides for staff, lights, heat and cooling, the maintenance of the building, the ongoing programs like Children's Church or Bible Study. Try making a list of all the things that Ascension is able to do because of you! If we weren't able to fund for lights, heating or maintain the building, funerals and weddings would be no more. If we don't have funding and people to help with worship, Ascension will no longer be able to support three worship services. We won't have concerts, home visits, provide for outreach in the community, scouts wouldn't meet here, Wellness Warriors will cease to exist. Essentially without the financial foundation, our ministry in this place will end.

I, Pastor Julie, believe that Ascension is still called to be a beacon and place for all people to learn, know and experience God. We offer so much—in the form of outreach, three services each week, confirmation, children's church, pastoral care, home visitations, weddings, funerals, Adult Bible studies online and in-person, weekend food bags for elementary youth, hospital visitation, place for people to meet for things like Scouts or the 100+ women group, a place to hold events like concerts or celebrations, Youth Nights weekly in the summer, pet blessings, working the food pantry, we are an Energy Star congregation, we have Wellness warriors, GriefShare, a library, blood drives, food donations, engaging in community organizations like Mustard Seed, Teen Challenge, food pantry, weekly communion, baptisms, youth participate in larger events like youth gatherings and Charge, we have health programs, provide online worship for those who can't attend, a children's Christmas program, participate in World Hunger, make quilts and school bags for Lutheran World Relief, provide early education with a story Bible for our 3 year olds, provide educational scholarships, maintain a welcoming environment with lawn mowing, cleaning services, decorations, we provide through our giving to the synod seminarian support, call process, and transitions of congregations, support Living Water Ministry—and so much more. We have so much abundance, and God will provide more if that is our mission.

What is God asking of us now and in the future?

- I sense God is calling us to continue to engage in the youth of our community, providing a rich foundation for education and experience with Christ.
- I sense God is calling us to engage in the community and what our community may raise up as a need. Grief support and GriefShare is one of those programs we offer that reaches out beyond ourselves to a world and to people who are experiencing grief.
- I sense God is calling us to reach out to people who have felt like they don't belong, that they are not welcome, that they are broken because of the way they have experienced the Church in their past. We are a church of understanding, of justification by grace through faith; we are not called to judge but to embrace.
- I sense God is calling us to engage in faithful discipleship practices such as in meaningful and awe-filled worship, Bible studies, prayer and fellowship. God is calling us to be community set apart from the world to walk with each other through the joys and challenges of life.

We are the church! We are Jesus people! We are the hands and feet of God's mission.

*...continued on page 3...*

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This year as you consider how you will participate in the ministry of Ascension, consider the following:

- What ministry would you like to know more about and consider participating?
- Is God calling you to increase your giving? If you have given the same amount for years, maybe try a bit of an increase. Or maybe you can give a one-time gift for the congregation to build a strong foundation upon which to do God's work in this community.



On behalf of myself, I thank you for what you are witnessing to me and to the community in your support by sharing your resources. Ascension has served this community for over 60 years, and I believe if we are faithful to God's call and share Jesus in all we do, we will be serving for years to come.



## Thanksgiving Gifts—A Little Early—Nov 12th & 15th



As part of your Thanksgiving offering, you are invited to share the fruits of the harvest. Altar Guild is inviting you to assist with both wine donations and monetary donations to help underwrite the cost of wafers and loaves of bread used each week for communion. **Monetary donations and wine (Mogan David Concord) will be received at worship on Sunday, November 12th and Wednesday, November 15th.** Your contributions

will be a way you can become a part of preparation for each service and help defray the cost.

### Commitment Card

- Bring this card with you to worship on or before December 3rd
- Mail it to the church office (8695 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48609)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund Giving Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Yearly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Building/Mortgage Giving Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Yearly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)*

Ascension  
Lutheran  
Church

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

## 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.*

### November 5th

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand  
Rapids, MI and Rev. Galen  
Knutson, Intentional Interim

Ascension Families: James & Cheryl  
Andrus; Mitchell Andrus; Nancy  
Armstrong

### November 12th

Faith Lutheran Church, Grand  
Rapids, MI and Rev. Kevin Sullivan  
Ascension Families: Don & Lorna  
Arndt; Leslee Arnst; Brain, Wendy,  
Ahren Rylan, Rhys Awad

### November 19th

Bread of Life Lutheran Church,  
Hudsonville, MI and supply pastors  
Ascension Families: Rev. Julie Bailey;  
Tom & Sue Bailey; Carolyn Ballien

### November 26th

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Jackson, MI and Rev. Kate  
Schroeder

Ascension Families: Phil Ballien; Edna  
Bell; Joyce & Kayla Berg



## 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).



November 5th In memory of Margie Fruk, Scott and Tanya Blehm

November 12th In memory of Eric, by Linda Lentner

November 19th In honor of John's birthday and John G. and Nancy's anniversary, by  
John and Ginny Whelton

November 26th In memory of Kay, by Phil Ballien



## November Birthdays



|      |                    |      |                  |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 2nd  | John Robishaw      | 19th | Donna Fries      |
| 4th  | Jan Faerber        | 19th | John H. Whelton  |
|      | Samantha Leffler   | 20th | Barb Yancer      |
|      | Micaela Richardson | 21st | Mason Friend     |
| 5th  | Rick Hamilton, Jr. | 22nd | Joyce Storm      |
| 6th  | Kathy York         | 23rd | Madison Huston   |
| 7th  | Jason Enright      | 24th | Julia McRae      |
|      | Johnny Whelton     | 25th | Richard Borm     |
| 10th | Connie Dutcher     |      | Makenzie Collier |
| 11th | Lynda Goward       |      | Peggy Darling    |
|      | Jayde Wakeman      | 26th | Nathan Gottlieb  |
| 12th | Bob Watz           |      | Emerson Hendrick |
| 13th | Brenda Crook       | 28th | Lindsay Vanthof  |
| 15th | Bryan Joslyn       |      | Erin Peters      |
|      | Russell Morgan     | 29th | Bonnie Dalton    |
| 16th | Haley Phillion     |      | Nick Espinoza    |
| 17th | Dylan Gottlieb     |      | Ruth Jakes       |
| 18th | Kayla Berg         |      | Paisley Lopez    |
|      | Waylon Earnesty    | 30th | Andrew Dunn      |

## November Anniversaries

|      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 1st  | Mike and Jan Faerber           |
|      | Chris and Ashley Howe          |
| 5th  | Paul and Kelee Lopez           |
|      | Janet O'Dell and Angela Saxton |
| 6th  | Wayne and Dorothy Mayou        |
| 8th  | Bryce and Megan Wakeman        |
| 12th | Bob and Tracy Aldrich          |
| 19th | John G. and Nancy Whelton      |
| 24th | Brad and Kelly Phillion        |



## Baptism

## All Saints'

O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially: Gilbert Bell, Patricia Owen, Hayes Mack, David Goward, Robert Dalton, Charles Van Marter, David York, Ronnie Viers, Timothy Grueber, Judy Carr, Roger Bacon, and all others we name aloud or in our hearts.



If you ordered carnations for All Saints' **Sunday, November 5th**, you may take them home after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



**Thomas William Gottlieb** received the Sacrament of Baptism on October 15th. His sponsors are Thomas and Kelsey Carson. May God bless him with His gift of grace.



A warm welcome to the New Members who were received via transfer in October.

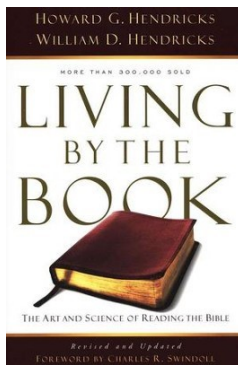
Dave and Dorothy Becker  
Dave, Stephanie, Brooklyn, Alex Becker  
Jared, Heidi, Olivia, Eliza, Jack Trepkowski

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our Sunday morning adult bible study will resume after the first of the year. Please feel free to use that time for fellowship or consider helping Pastor Julie with the Children's Christmas Program rehearsals.



## 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 meets on Monday Evenings 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 **Hosea**. **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.

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

## The Gifts of Advent: Worship on Wednesday Evenings

Beginning Wednesday, November 29th we will begin a four-week series of worship preparing for Christmas. We will use Holden Evening Prayer as we center into this time of preparation.



**November 29th:** The Gifts of Patience  
**December 6th:** The Gifts of Speech and Silence  
**December 13th:** The Gift of Hope  
**December 20th:** The Gift of Family



## Christmas Worship Schedule



**Christmas Eve worship on 12/24 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (no morning worship)**

**Christmas Eve worship on 12/27 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Lessons and Carols Service 12/31 at 9:15 a.m. (one service only)**

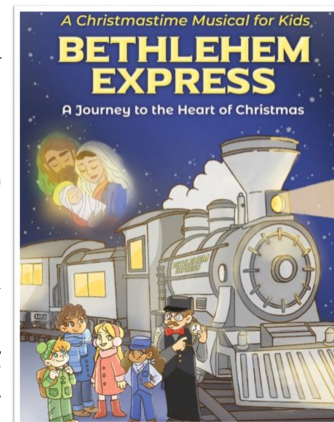


# Bethlehem Express: A Journey to the Heart of Christmas

The Children's Christmas program will be presented on **Sunday, December 17th** at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pastor Julie will be directing the program this year, which means rehearsals need to be at special times. Our first practice will be on Sunday, October 29th at 9:30 a.m.

Parents—I have distributed the music and words to you to bring to practice with your children. Please do so even though I know it is early for Christmas songs. We will begin on the 29<sup>th</sup> practicing the music and beginning to assign speaking parts. If you need music and don't have it yet, please let me know so I can download it for you.



Following are the practice times:

October 29th: 9:30 a.m.

November 5th: 9:30 a.m.

November 19th: 9:30 a.m.

December 3rd: 9:30 a.m. and during Children's Church

December 10th: 9:30 a.m. and during Children's Church

December 16th: 10a.m.-12p.m. & then lunch and celebrate together



## November 19th: Mid-Michigan Adult and Teen Challenge

Joining us for worship on **Sunday, November 19th** will be people participating in Mid-Michigan Adult and Teen Challenge.

Mid-Michigan Adult and Teen Challenge provides Christian faith-based, residential care to young people and adults who struggle with life-controlling problems. The programs are typically 12-18 months and consist



of individual and group biblical studies, work projects, education (for adolescents), recreation and more.

On this day we will take up a noisy offering to help support this important ministry in our community.

My dear Ascension friends - Thank you all so much for the prayers, cards, meals and words of encouragement for my hip surgery and recovery. Your support has meant so much to me. In deep gratitude, Charleen Boland



## Receiving New Members: December 3rd and 6th



New Members will be received December 3rd and 6th at all worship services. If you are interested in knowing more about Ascension, being a Lutheran, or about membership, please contact Pastor Julie. Membership forms and Time and Talent Sheets are necessary. You can find these on our website at [ascensionlc.org](http://ascensionlc.org) under forms. If you prefer us to print one for you, let us know.

**We are the church together!**



## 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.



## 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.

## Poinsettias—Order Due Date—November 19th

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Chancel for the Advent and Christmas season, please see the sign up on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. **Cost is \$10 per plant** and must be paid before the plant is ordered. Please leave your payment envelope in the basket in the Church Office. Checks are payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.

***Order Deadline is Sunday, November 19th.***



## Household/Personal Care Items For Christmas Packages



### GIVING TREE

We are participating with Swan Valley High School to collect household and personal care products for Christmas packages for families in need.

Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, laundry soap, dish soap, dryer sheets, fabric softener, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, lotion, body wash, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, deodorant, etc. **\*\*NEW THIS YEAR—Gas and fast food gift cards\*\***

Items may be placed in the Gathering Area beginning **Sunday, November 26th**. All items should be delivered to the church no later than **Sunday, December 10th**. Thank you for your support!!



## Blood Drive—\*\*Change of Date\*\*

Our last blood drive of 2023 will be held on **Thursday, December 21st from 2:30 - 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Please mark this on your calendar and help us make this last drive of the year our most successful. Every unit counts! Choose your appointment [online](#) or contact Lisa in the church office. Walk-ins Welcome!

## 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, November 19th**

## Sewing Group



Ascension's Sewing Group has returned! They meet in the Fellowship Hall from **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the dates below**. Bring your sewing machine (not required) and join us for fun and fellowship. Contact Sandy Graham with any questions, 989-781-1619.

●November 1st & 15th

●December 6th

## 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.

## Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) - November 13th

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.

# Grief Support Group

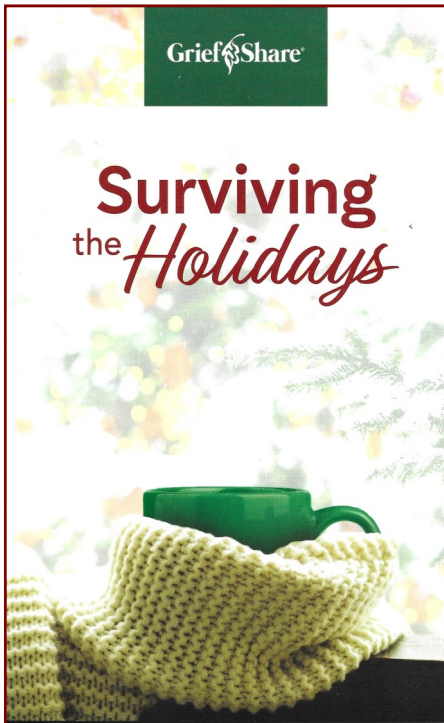


Ascension has a Grief Support Group. The group meets at the church on **Mondays at 10:30 a.m.**

A support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 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**

- No Requirements • No Pressure • Relaxed & Informal • Come and just listen or share • Everyone is Welcome!



The holiday season is here, and with it comes a focus on family, traditions, social events, and cheer—all of which can cause difficult emotions to surface. Whether this is the first, second, or tenth holiday after your loved one's death, the emotions that may arise in the days ahead can blindsides you.

Surviving the Holidays guides you through this holiday season. You'll find support and direction to navigate the holidays in a healthy way.

Surviving the Holidays seminar includes a video and Survival Guide that will be part of the group discussion. These tools will help you not only survive the coming holidays, but also to face them with a measure of peace and assistance.

## *Surviving the Holidays by Grief Share*

**November 12, 2023 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Ascension Lutheran Church  
8695 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609

**Contact:** Linda Lentner 989-274-7418  
or [linda.lentner@gmail.com](mailto:linda.lentner@gmail.com)

**Cost:** \$7.00 to cover the survival guide

**Reservations Required** to ensure there are sufficient guides

## Stewardship Trade Show—Sunday, November 19th

Do you know how many ministries it takes to keep Ascension running smoothly? Do you know how many people it takes to start a ministry? Have you ever wondered about the various ministries at Ascension, as in what are they and what do they do? If you answered yes to any of these questions, or have some of your own, join us **Sunday November 19th** after either service for our Stewardship Trade Show. Representatives from various ministries will be present to share what they are all about and what it takes to serve in His honor at Ascension. Join us for some fun and fellowship and prizes.

If you have questions about this day, please feel free to contact the following Council representatives: Connie Dutcher 989-598-5100, Susan Kelley 989-239-4783 or Kris Yackel-Friend 989-245-6446.

If you are involved in a ministry and are interested in setting up a table, please contact the church office or one of the council representatives above. There will be tablecloths on the tables, a sign-up sheet, and if you would like, a trifold poster board, they are in the church office for your use.



**STEWARDSHIP  
TRADE SHOW**

## Community News/Events



**IT'S ALL ABOUT TRAINS...**  
WWW.CLASSICLEGACYBAND.COM

**FALL CONCERT**  
**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 29TH,**  
**2023**

*Classic Legacy Band*  
of Saginaw  
Est. 2005

**ASCENSION**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
8695 GRATIOT RD.  
SAGINAW

**3PM**



## Community Pet Blessing

The ELCA Saginaw County group held a community pet blessing on Sunday, October 8th at Imerman Park. It was sponsored by the area Saginaw County ELCA congregations with Pastors Christina Schultz, Kevin O'Bryan and Julie Bailey greeting the pets, blessing them, and giving thanks for the care they provide for us and we provide for them.



## ELCA Saginaw Group Meeting: Monday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Members of the congregations in Saginaw County have been meeting to support each other and to determine ways in which we may work together to strengthen the proclamation of the gospel in our community. On Monday, November 6th, Pastor David Sprang, the Director for Evangelical Mission and the Assistant to the Bishop in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will join us at 6:30 p.m. to share demographic information about our county, which will include an overview of what people may be looking for as they seek a church. If you are interested in attending this gathering, please meet us at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Rd at 6:30 p.m.



## Our Synod Resources

Stay in contact with our synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Go to [mittensynod.org](https://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/>



# Food Pantry



There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **November 1st** at **7:30 a.m.** at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

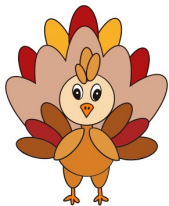
Ascension is providing workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **December 13th**. Volunteers should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** at the pantry at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

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

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

If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry to purchase food through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, donations can be sent directly to: FBEM, 2300 Lapeer Rd, Flint, MI 48503. Checks must include in the memo line: Center of Hope Food Pantry/Saginaw P-981

Here are some amazing Center of HOPE Food Pantry Statistics for September 2023:



|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| At the Food Pantry Give-a-ways:  | Total Families: 101                          |
|                                  | Individuals fed in the above families: 237   |
|                                  | New Families: 17                             |
|                                  | Total volunteers: 32                         |
|                                  | Had to turn away: 22                         |
| At the 3 Outdoor Food Giveaways: | Total Families: 707                          |
|                                  | Individuals fed in the above families: 2,086 |
|                                  | Total volunteers: 134                        |



## Weekend Food Bags Needs Plastic Grocery Bags

The Weekend Food Bags program supply of plastic grocery bags is depleting. Please consider donating bags that you may have at home. The ones that are needed are the cheap thin bags, unfortunately the heavier duty (like Kroger pickup) bags do not work. **THANK YOU!**



## 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.

## 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 November 19th**



Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**



## Year-End Deadlines

**December 26th** will be the last deposit of 2023, please make sure your giving is in the office by 9:00 a.m. this day if you would like it to be recorded for 2023.

**December 26th** is also the last day to submit expense receipts that need reimbursement. After this date, receipts for 2023 will not be reimbursed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Connie Dutcher.

## Butter Braid Fundraiser for the Youth Programs

During the month of November, the youth will be selling Butter Braids, a delicious pastry that is good anytime, and especially at the holidays. You can store them in your freezer, take them out the night before, and bake them in the morning for a perfect pastry with your milk or coffee.



Youth have begun sales and the orders & money must be received no later than November 21st. Butter Braids will be available for pickup or delivery the afternoon of December 4th. You may order [online](#) or from one of the youth directly. Thank you for your support.



## Children's Church/Sunday School



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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



## Elementary Youth Giving Envelopes

We thank you greatly for teaching your children about giving and using their giving envelopes. Envelopes can be picked up in the Children's Church classroom. Each youth has their own giving number. It is VERY helpful to ensure that their giving is recorded properly to put their **name and their giving #** on the envelope each week. There is a sign posted just inside the door of the classroom with all the giving envelopes numbers listed. You may also use any envelope you have at home, as long as their name and number is on it. Any parents with an email address on file at church, will be receiving an email with the giving numbers as well.

## Trunk or Treat

October 31st, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.



Join others at the church for Trunk or Treat. Come in costume, bring candy to distribute, and join our community for some fun and fellowship. Candy must be individually wrapped. Come with creative ways to decorate your table or trunk. (inside if inclement weather)



## Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation Class Schedule, all classes are at 4:30 p.m.

**November 5th**—Second Commandment

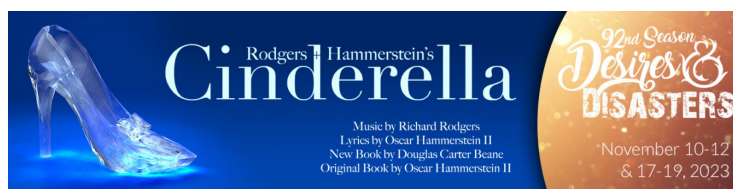
**November 19th**—Third Commandment

**December 3rd**—Service project TBD

**December 17th**—Fourth Commandment



**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](http://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 Can 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.








# PUZZLE

## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

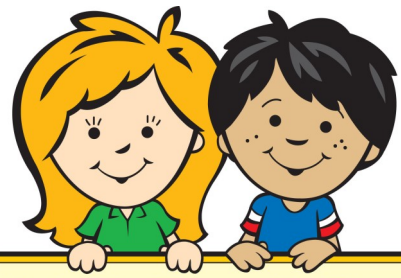
The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

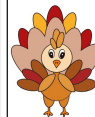
- This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_ 
-  Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_
- The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_ 
-  The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_
- Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_ 

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving



## KIDS PAGE



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.

### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

**Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

### Bible Quiz

#### Fill in the blank:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)

# Serving in November

*Thank you to everyone who participates in these important ministries. If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please let the Church Office know who will be filling in for you. † indicates a volunteer is needed*

| Readers | 8am                     | 10:30am                 | Prayers | 8am                     | 10:30am                 |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5       | Tom Erskine             | Chris Crump             | 5       | Charleen Boland         | Chris Crump             |
| 12      | Joan Ford               | Lori Schultz            | 12      | Susan Kelley            | Dawn Dalton             |
| 19      | <i>No Lessons Today</i> | <i>No Lessons Today</i> | 19      | <i>No Prayers Today</i> | <i>No Prayers Today</i> |
| 26      | Susan Kelley            | Linda Lentner           | 26      | Lynn Schomaker          | Chris Crump             |



| Sound Board Operators |             |                |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 5                     | Kris Friend | Makena Whelton |
| 12                    | †           | †              |
| 19                    | Kris Friend | Makena Whelton |
| 26                    | †           | Makena Whelton |

| Video Screen Operators |              |               |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 5                      | Kris Friend  | Ginny Whelton |
| 12                     | Susan Kelley | †             |
| 19                     | Kris Friend  | Ginny Whelton |
| 26                     | †            | †             |

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

| Acolyte 10:30 a.m. |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5                  | Matti Wizner / Brooklyn Becker  |
| 12                 | Eliza Trepkowski                |
| 19                 | Hannah Wizner / Brooklyn Becker |
| 26                 | Greyston Hendrickson            |



| Altar Guild |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 5           | Susan Kelley |
| 12          | Kris Friend  |
| 19          | †            |
| 26          | †            |



| Children's Church |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5                 | Stephanie & Dave Becker            |
| 12                | Dawn Earnesty & Stephanie Wizner   |
| 19                | Amanda Doerr & Nicki Crump         |
| 26                | <i>No Class—Thanksgiving Break</i> |

**November Librarian—Marty Debozy**

## WEDNESDAYS 7pm



|    | Head Usher        | Readers           | Sound Board       | Video Screen      | Prayers           |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1  | Mike Clifford     | Mike Clifford     | †                 | Connie Dutcher    | Mike Clifford     |
| 8  | John Schroeder    | Glen Mack         | †                 | Glen Mack         | Donna Malburg     |
| 15 | Glen Mack         | Joyce Richardson  | †                 | Kelly Phillion    | Celina Gottlieb   |
| 22 | <i>No Worship</i> | <i>No Worship</i> | <i>No Worship</i> | <i>No Worship</i> | <i>No Worship</i> |
| 29 | Mike Clifford     | Connie Dutcher    |                   | Connie Dutcher    | <i>No Prayers</i> |



# Ascension Lutheran Church - November 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  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
|   |  |   | <b>1</b><br>7:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload<br>9am-Sewing Group<br>11am-Weekend Food Bags<br>6:30pm-Scouts<br>7pm-Worship/Communion<br>              | <b>2</b>                                 | <b>3</b><br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br><b>Office Closed</b>   | <b>4</b><br>FH Rental<br>                                  |
| <b>5 All Saints' Worship</b><br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>9:30am-Christmas Program Practice<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>4:30pm-Confirmation  | <b>6</b><br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>6:00pm-Women's Bible Study<br>6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw<br>County Visionary Board Mtg | <b>7</b><br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors           | <b>8</b><br>11am-Weekend Food Bags<br>6:30pm-Scouts<br>7pm-Worship/Communion   | <b>9</b><br>                             | <b>10</b><br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br>Pastor & Youth @ Charge 11/10-11/12 | <b>11</b><br>  |
| <b>12 Thanksgiving Gifts Due</b><br>8am-Worship<br>10:30am-Worship/Children's Church<br>2pm-Surviving the Holidays Grief Seminar<br><br>Pastor & Youth @ Charge 11/10-11/12   | <b>13</b><br>9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Levi's<br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>6:00pm-Women's Bible Study            | <b>14</b><br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6:15pm-Wellness W.<br>            | <b>15 Thanksgiving Gifts Due</b><br>9am-Sewing Group<br>11am-Weekend Food Bags<br>12pm-Council Reports Due<br>6:30pm-Scouts<br>7pm-Worship/Communion | <b>16</b>                                | <b>17</b><br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br><b>Office Closed</b>  | <b>18</b><br>7:30pm-Cinderella The Musical @ Pit & Balcony |
| <b>19 Stewardship Trade Show Raise Right Due, BP Screening, Poinsettia Orders Due</b><br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>9:30am-Christmas Program Practice<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>4:30pm-Confirmation | <b>20</b><br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>6:00pm-Women's Bible Study   | <b>21</b><br>Butter Braid Orders Due<br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors<br>6:30pm-Council Mtg<br> | <b>22 Office Closed</b><br>11am-Weekend Food Bags<br>6:30pm-Scouts<br>No Worship   | <b>23 Office Closed</b><br>FH Rental<br> | <b>24 Office Closed</b>  | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>26</b><br>8am-Worship/Communion<br>10:30am-Worship/Communion/<br>  | <b>27</b><br>10:30am-Grief Group<br>6:00pm-Women's Bible Study   | <b>28</b><br>11am-Bible Study-Zoom<br>3pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6pm-Kitchen Rental<br>6:15pm-Wellness Warriors          | <b>29</b><br>11am-Weekend Food Bags<br>6:30pm-Scouts<br>7pm-Advent Worship/Communion<br>Messenger Mailed   | <b>30</b><br>                            |  |  |

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## Ascension Lutheran Church

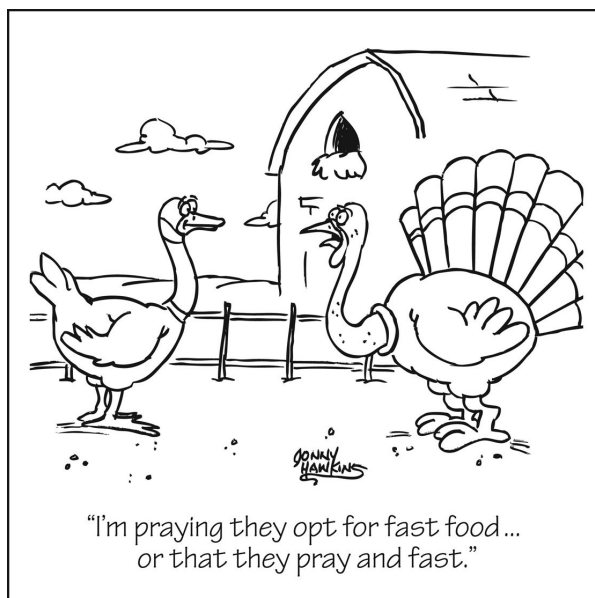
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Daylight Saving Time Ends  
**November 5th** Remember to  
Turn your clocks back  
Saturday Night!



Respect the  
Deadline!



*The MESSENGER* is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.  
Deadline for the December 2023 issue is: **Monday, November 20th at 12:00**  
(noon). Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)