

The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

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



Installation of Council

The Congregation Council of Ascension will be installed as officers and ministers of our congregation on **Sunday, January 28th and Wednesday, January 31st**. Serving the 2024 Calendar Year are:

President: Kris Yackel-Friend
Vice President: Lori Schultz
Secretary: Stephanie Becker
Treasurer: Connie Dutcher
Financial Secretary: Susan Kelley
Minister of Spiritual Health: Celina Gottlieb
Minister of Outreach: Joyce Berg
Minister of Congregational Care: Glen Mack
Minister of Resource and Finance: Gus Hendrickson



Please keep these leaders in your prayers and support them as we move forward in mission to boldly make Christ's vision known.

Thank you to Linda Lentner for her service as Minister of Finance and Resources.

Volume 45, Issue 1
January 2024

Special points of interest:

- *Annual Report Deadline is January 15th*
- *Congregational Meeting is February 11th*
- *Pick up Giving Envelopes if you haven't already*
- *Register for Summer Camp ASAP*
- *Greif Support meets on Mondays at 10:30am*

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Congregational Annual Meeting

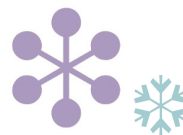
On **Sunday, February 11th** at 11:30 a.m., we will meet for our annual meeting where the ministries have the opportunity to share what has been accomplished in 2023.

The Annual Report is available at the church beginning **January 28th**. The report can also be sent to you via email, please contact the office for that request.

Reports from each Minister and/or Team Leader are due by Monday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m.

All Confirmed Members of Ascension Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend as we review our 2023 year in ministry and attend to any official business and attend to any official business





A Message From Pastor Julie

The Power of Thanks

I want to thank the congregation again for the appreciation of our service together these last ten years. The gift cards, the snacks, the surprises were so amazing. Mostly, thank you for showing up. I am not one who thinks I need a lot of recognition for what I do, I would rather thank you and draw attention to our ministry together. Having said that, I surprisingly found myself more energized and excited for our ministry together.

I've shared that so often we spend our time complaining about things we don't like—it is our culture. We have a bad meal or bad service and we complain—a lot of times on social media for everyone to see. Even at church I hear the negatives of not liking that hymn, how the lighting in the sanctuary is, we need more people and money, I like it better when you wear the robe, no one reads the newsletter, there aren't any kids in worship, the kids are too loud in worship, and so on. I know that there is thankfulness every week in ministry, and it is sometimes nice to hear it.

I know people who are serving also like to be thanked. Whether it is

reading, filling food bags, putting together the newsletter, counting money, serving on council, working as sound or video operator, setting up communion, teaching—whatever it is, they aren't doing it for the thanks or recognition—but it is sometimes nice to hear.

When I was writing the thank you notes, I also realized how meaningful it was to think of each of you as I wrote them. Being thankful can be just as meaningful as being the one thanked.

In a Forbes article, I found “7 Scientifically Proven Benefits of Gratitude that will Motivate you to Give Thanks Year-Round” were these reasons:

1. Gratitude opens the door to more relationships. Loving God and loving our neighbor is all about relationships.
2. Gratitude improves physical health. The report says that people who practice gratitude experience fewer aches and pains and report feeling healthier.
3. Gratitude improves psychological health. Being grateful reduces those toxic emotions ranging from envy, resentment, frustration, and regret.

4. Gratitude enhances empathy and reduces aggression. People who are grateful are less likely to retaliate, even if given some negative feedback. They also experience more sensitivity and empathy toward others.

5. Grateful people sleep better. They suggested spending 15 minutes writing down some grateful sentiments before sleep. (I think I have suggested that before.)

6. Gratitude improves self-esteem. We can appreciate other people's accomplishments without being jealous or resentful.

7. Gratitude increases mental strength. Being thankful fosters resilience, even in the worst times of our lives.

Being thankful is not just for Thanksgiving or the holidays. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” May we enter into this 2024 New Year giving thanks continually!

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/amymorin/2014/11/23/7-scientifically-proven-benefits-of-gratitude-that-will-motivate-you-to-give-thanks-year-round/?sh=40add68183c0>

North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly



The synod assembly will be held by Zoom on **Saturday, May 11th**. Pastor Julie will be attending, as well as Lori Schultz and Gus Hendrickson who were

elected at our recent meeting.

There is still a position open for one youth.





Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Beginning on **January 7, 2024** our Sunday morning adult class will begin a six-week study titled Self-Esteem: Made in the Image of God. All are welcome.

Beginning **February 18, 2024** our Sunday morning

Bible study class will begin a study called Making Sense of the Cross. This is a good study to do during the season of Lent. **All are welcome.** There is a book that would be helpful to accompany. I do have some books, so if you want one,

please let Pastor Julie know. We can order more if needed.

This class is held at 9:15 a.m. in the Digging Dunes Room.



Monday Women's Bible Study



January—Winter break—no sessions

February 5th—19th: Social Issues Freestyle: Digging into personal concerns and social issues of your choice and studying the Bible verses to guide us through.

February 26th-March 25th: Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. In this video Bible study, Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at his

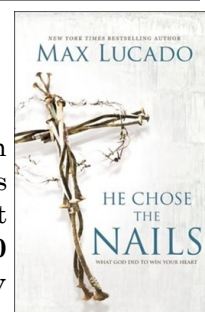
crucifixion. The **He Chose the Nails** Study includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, personal study and reflection materials.

Our author, Max Lucado, has served many churches in his 45 years of ministry. He currently serves as Senior Minister of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. He is a bestselling author with more than 145 million products in print.

Our Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study is a five-week study

that will meet in the Digging Dunes room. Participant books are **\$9.00 due the first day of class.** This is a shorter class but, it is a good one! Come and join us!

Please let Joyce Richardson know if you are participating in the class so we may order enough books. Sign up by calling or texting Joyce at 989-274-6787. **All women are welcome!**



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us at 11 a.m. on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. On January 2, 2024 we will begin reading through **1 John, 2 John and 3 John.** *FYI—1 John is one of Pastor Julie's favorite books*

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561

Passcode: 099583



of scripture. Join us, and as always friends are welcome. Enter the code for the zoom meeting or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite.

**STAFF**

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kris Yackel-Friend, President
 Lori Schultz, Vice President
 Connie Dutcher, Treasurer
 Stephanie Becker, Secretary
 Susan Kelley, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Glen Mack, Congregational Care
 Gus Hendrickson, 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: January 1st



1st Andrea Kittle
 3rd Mary Erskine
 4th Ruth Howell
 David Huston
 5th Taylor Hoffmann
 Jean Joslyn
 Hunter Turner
 Lindsay Walsh
 7th Courtney Whelton
 9th Malory Lopez
 10th Phil Ballien
 Mike Clifford
 Collene Kolinski
 13th Melissa Morgan
 14th Elizabeth Clark
 Jim Dankert
 Zoey Kohnert-Pretzer
 15th Marty Debozy

16th Laura Schian
 18th Christopher Hoffmann
 Connor Webb
 19th Ben Crump
 Logan Dalton
 20th Larissa Crook
 Bob Darling
 22nd Alisha Albrecht
 23rd Cheryl Andrus
 Judy Goschke
 Danielle Hendrick
 24th Gina Dillenbeck
 25th Theresa Hamilton
 26th Alice Doerr
 Nikki Whelton
 27th Lisa Espinoza
 28th Karen DeLaRosa
 Alicia Leffler
 29th Lillian Edsall
 Amaya Favazza
 Kathleen Kelly
 30th Bob Aldrich

31st Dawn Earnesty
 Maxwell Faerber
 Leonard Howell
 Rachel Joslyn
 Ruth Schomaker



2nd Charleen & Carl Boland
 17th Dave & Stephanie Becker
 21st Casey & Emma Stadler
 29th Hunter & Alexis Turner





Please Remember Those on Ascension’s Care List

Leslee Arnst—5935 Shattuck Ave #3, Saginaw, MI 48603	<i>Mail a card, plan a visit, or say a prayer for these members of our church family</i>	Jackie O’Dell—108 Fulton Street, Apt 405, St. Charles, MI 48655
Bob Bolger—Edgewood Assisted Living, 4850 Gratiot Rd., Room B12, Saginaw, MI 48638		Joyce Storm—181 Evelyn, Saginaw, MI 48609
Betty Cliff—5935 Shattuck Apt 50, Saginaw, MI 48603		Lee Turner—6371 Birchview Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609
Pat Joyce—8044 Winchester Ct. Saginaw, MI 48609		Barry Wiggins—1202 Weiss St, Room 305, Saginaw, MI 48602
John Kaul—5935 Shattuck Apt #13, Saginaw, MI 48603		Barb Yancer—8936 N. Brookshire Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
	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	

Prayers of the Week

<p>Our partner prayers are included in The Messenger each month.</p> <p>PRAYING FOR YOU</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	MI and supply pastors. <i>Ascension Families: Bruce, Traci, Makenzie, Erika Collier; Mary Collison; Jeff, Brenda, Larissa, Jacob Crook.</i>	and Rev. Christin Fawcett. <i>Ascension Families: Eric, Dori, Gabby Dalton; Logan, Samantha, Mackenzie, Madilyn Dalton; Patrick and Bonnie Dalton.</i>
	<u>January 14th</u> Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lansing, MI and Rev. Matthew Smith and Rev. John Burow. <i>Ascension Families: Ben, Chris, Nicki, Josh Crump; Allen, Jessica, Emmett, Alayna Dalton; Dawn Dalton.</i>	<u>January 28th</u> Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lansing, MI and Rev. Janice Hite. <i>Ascension Families: Sheila Dambro; Tony, Melanie, Darren Dancer; Jim and Wanda Dankert.</i>
	<u>January 7th</u> Advent Lutheran Church, Lake Ann,	



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 2024 flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and many dates are available.



January 7th	In memory of Kay Ballien, by Phil Ballien
January 14th	In memory of Ron Schultz, by Lori Schultz
January 21st	available to sponsor
January 28th	available to sponsor





Grief Support Group—Next Session Begins February 5th

Ascension's Grief Support Group will begin a new session on **February 5th at 10:30 a.m.** The program they follow is called GriefShare.

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,

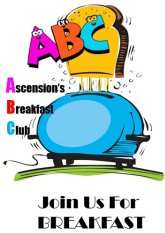
orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Participant books are \$20.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Linda Lentner at 989-274-7418 or linda.lentner@gmail.com.

When the grief group is not participating in the

GriefShare program (*such as in the month of January*) they still offer support in a more relaxed and informal setting where you can come and just listen or share if you choose. There are no requirements, no pressure, and everyone is welcome!

The grief group supports many types of grief; death, sickness and divorce are just a few.



Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) - January 8th

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—Tuesdays 6:15 p.m.



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! Questions? Contact Kris Friend (989) 245-6446 or Rita Hendrickson (989) 482-0271.

Sewing Group

Ascension's Sewing Group meets 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 at 989-781-1619.



The Sewing Group is in need of ALL COTTON sheets. They can use FLAT Queen and 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.

January 3rd & 17th

2024 Giving Envelopes

2024 giving envelopes can be picked in the Gathering Area. They can also be picked up at the church during office hours; Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. If other arrangements are needed, please contact the church office.



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, January 21st.**

Food Pantry

There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **January 3rd at 7:30 a.m.** at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

Ascension is providing workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **February 14th.** 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.

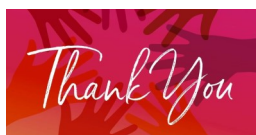
The Food Pantry continues to collect clean plastic & cloth grocery bags & manual can openers.

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



December Blood Drive

Thank you to all who gave the gift of life tonight. We had a total of 17 donations, two of them by Versiti's own staff. A huge thank you to Ginny Whelton for opening the drive in my absence. I appreciate you so very much! I do not have dates yet from Versiti for 2024. As soon as we have them made available to us I will share.
-Rita Hendrickson



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 January 21st



Bishop Satterlee's Newsletter

Ground Everything in the Good News of Jesus Christ

"What is your most important or meaningful story about Jesus today?" I ask myself this question to close every day. Sometimes I am flabbergasted by what story or saying floats into my mind. For example, on the Friday after Thanksgiving, the news was filled with the hostage exchange in Israel and Gaza, hate speech on college campuses and at Black Friday shopping centers, and the unending political division in our country. I was anticipating Christ the King Sunday, when we hear Jesus say, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40) and that evening I heard Jesus saying, "I was maligned and you spoke up for me. I was threatened and you stood up for me."

Of course, Jesus never said this

but that is when a saying attributed to Jesus floated into my mind: "So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16). I know how hard our rostered ministers try to remain balanced and to not give offense. For a while now, I have wondered where the line is between caring for all God's people and being lukewarm to Jesus. I suspect we are going to find out. I am convinced (perhaps I am afraid) that 2024 will be a year in which the church will not have the luxury of remaining lukewarm. The church will not get away with remaining neither cold nor hot. Some will call upon the church to be hot; others will demand the church be cold. It would be so much easier if we were all of one mind. But we are not.

Less important than where we end up on any issue is how we ground it in the good news of

Jesus Christ. Therefore, we all must become confident and comfortable speaking of Jesus in ways that directly address life in this world. Speaking of Jesus may lead some to be hot and others to be cold. What's important is that we speak of Jesus and offer good news that matters. I am not assigning us more to do. I am realizing that the wisdom of what we have been doing since our last synod assembly will likely become apparent in 2024. My advent prayer is that God will bolster those sharing the story of Jesus, and that the spirit will inspire more of us to join them. A way to start might be closing your day by asking yourself, "What is your most important or meaningful story about Jesus today?"

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop



Bishop Satterlee's Sabbatical



I begin a sabbatical January 1, 2024 and I will return on April 1, 2024.

Sabbaticals are an established part of our synod's care and renewal of our called staff. I will make two trips to warm places with Cathy and Chelsey, read, probably write, and likely take a retreat at a monastery. I will continue to watch my diet, make exercise

a daily priority, slow down, pray, and rest. I am grateful for this privilege, opportunity, and care. Thank you!

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

To read more about Bishop Satterlee's sabbatical, please see the full synod newsletter at <https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/>



Bishop's
SABBATICAL



The Name of Jesus—Worship on January 3rd

On **Wednesday, January 3rd** we will worship around the naming of Jesus. Names are important and often our parents put quite a bit of thought into our names. Jesus means “God saves.”

Through baptism, we are given a name that connects us all to each other and to Christ. We Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s

name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Father. Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year. (Read Luke 2:15-20)



The Baptism of Jesus—Worship on January 7th & 10th



During the **week of January 7th**, we are going to remember Jesus’ baptism, and our own. Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that

Baptism

it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the

Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Do You Have an Idea for an Article??

Many members are not aware that any member can submit an article for the newsletter. If you are part of a ministry within the church, feel free anytime to submit something for us to include. Updates are great!!

You can also come across

articles that may be helpful to our members.

In the past there have been health articles, financial articles, educational information. You can also submit thank you’s; examples of these are after an illness or death, when



additional attention was provided. Articles can be submitted on paper or sent via email to ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to ask Lisa.



SOUP COOK OFF

Soup Cook-Off—Youth Fundraiser—February 4th

The Youth will sponsor a Soup Cook-Off on **Sunday, February 4th** at approximately **11:45 a.m.** following the second service.

The categories are **Most Unique, Most Comforting and Most “New Orleans”**. We ask you to consider participating by entering your best soup in our cook-off competition AND by attending and casting your votes. A form

for your entry will be available on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

There is no fee to enter—bring your soup in a crock pot, enough for several people to get a small taste at least. We ask each attendee to donate \$5.00 in order to eat and cast your votes.

Money raised will go to support the Youth Ministry of

Ascension, specifically those traveling to New Orleans for the Youth Gathering.

There will also be a Silent Auction. If you have an item you would like to donate for the Silent Auction, please contact Donna Frollo at 989-297-8883.

Questions about the Soup Cook-Off can be directed to Dori Dalton, Donna Frollo, Lisa Whelton, or Pastor Julie.

Craft Fair—Youth Fundraiser—March 9th



We are planning a craft fair at Ascension on **Saturday, March 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The fair will be a Youth Fundraiser for the National Gathering in New Orleans. We are looking for vendors and individuals that would like to rent tables for \$25. The table rental will allow each person to decorate and set up their table as they choose. If you know someone who would be interested, contact information is below. We also plan to hold a bake sale, so those that can contribute in baked goods, we will gladly take those donations.

Contacts: Dori Dalton (954) 205-3588, dmd0274@hotmail.com
Donna Frollo, (989) 297-8883, donnaafrollo@gmail.com
Lisa Whelton (989) 529-4400, ljwhelton@gmail.com



Children's Christmas Program



On December 17th, the youth from our congregation shared the message of Christmas with those in worship at 10:30 a.m. Thank you to Pastor Julie and Makena Whelton for directing and practicing with the youth for many weeks. Thank you to the Weber family for the Bethlehem

Express Train, Bob Aldrich, Trustees, Altar Guild for the altar re-arrangement, Stephanie Becker for the train tickets, Greyston Hendrickson and Makena Whelton in the sound booth, and especially the youth and parents who made all the rehearsals to be able to present a beautiful program.





Youth and Adult Game Night—January 14th

Join us on Sunday, **January 14th from 4:30p.m.—7:00 p.m.** for Youth and Adult Game night.

We will enjoy each other's laughter and fellowship.

Please note, this means everyone is invited (every adult and every youth) because we are all a family. Bring friends, board games, cards, and a snack to share.



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 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.

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.

Confirmation Schedule



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

January 7th—Fifth Commandment

January 28th—Sixth Commandment
(rescheduled from 1/21 due to Pastor's continuing education)

February 4th—Seventh Commandment

February 18th—Eighth Commandment



March 3rd—Ninth and Tenth Commandments

March 17th—What is a Creed

March 24th & 31st, Spring Break & Easter



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.



Camp Registration is OPEN!—Attending July 7-12, 2024

You heard right! Summer Camp Registration is open—and Pastor Julie is already registered.

To register, go to www.elcalivingwater.com and select summer programs. Make sure you select the correct week and that you are with Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw. All the information will be available. Please note that camp sometimes fills quickly and you will be waitlisted when camp begins to reach capacity.

Ascension will attend "Week 4"—July 7th-12th.

Once again the camp is "All Pricing," meaning you determine what you are able to pay: Full price/Half price/Nothing. All are invited and money should never be an obstacle.

Confirmation Youth/6th-8th grades /Challengers—Challenge is at the core of this experience as campers grow in understanding their own gifts & abilities through classic camp activities and our low and high ropes challenge courses. This includes those current 5th graders who are planning on attending confirmation next fall, as well as the current confirmands. (Please see Pastor Julie if this will be the first time at Confirmation camp—the church has committed to support your registration at ½ the price. Cost for camp is \$470/\$235/\$0.

Elementary Youth/3rd-5th grades/ Discoverers-A classic camp experience designed for your child to discover the love and grace of Christian community as they also

begin to discover who they are as children of God. Includes a trip to Lewis' Adventure Zoo. Cost is \$480/\$240/\$0.

High School /8th-12th grades/ Servant Heart— .Make a difference in the name of Christ by serving others, while enjoying camp classics! During their week at camp, campers will have the opportunity to pick between service trip options, heading off camp to work on these projects. Campers will not attend Michigan's Adventure in 2024. \$470/\$235/\$0.

Young Elementary /1st-3rd grades /Explorers— An abbreviated camp experience for younger campers wanting to give camp a test drive. This program begins Sunday and ends Wednesday. Cost is \$330/\$165/\$0.

Summer camp





PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

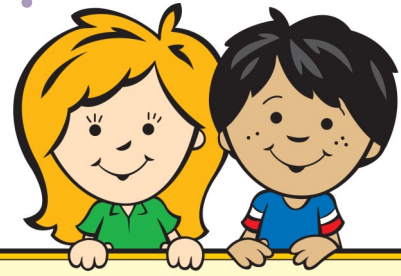
Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7						
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14						
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21						
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28						
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _
 The last Monday _ _
 The 16th _ _ _ _ _
 One day before the 20th _ _
 The day before the first Friday _ _
 The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _
 The day after the 20th _ _
 The day after 18th _ _
 The first day of the second weekend _
 The last Sunday _ _ _
 The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



KIDS PAGE

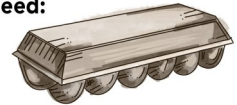
New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

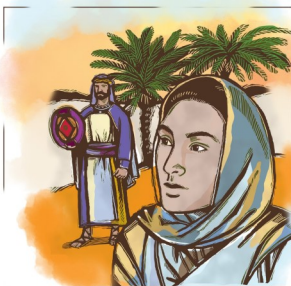
1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: Judges 4:1-10





Serving in January

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
7	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton	7	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton
14	Marty Debozy	Heidi Trepkowski	14	Charleen Boland	Heidi Trepkowski
21	Edna Bell	Chris Crump	21	Lynn Schomaker	Chris Crump
28	Charleen Boland	Dawn Dalton	28	Ruth Schomaker	Dawn Dalton

Sound Board Operators

7	†	Greyston Hendrickson
14	†	Makena Whelton
21	†	Makena Whelton
28	†	Makena Whelton

Video Screen Operators

7	Susan Kelley	Makena Whelton
14	Charleen Boland	Ginny Whelton
21	†	Ginny Whelton
28	Charleen Boland	†

Head Ushers

7	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
14	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
21	Wilson	Dawson/Hendrickson
28	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

7	Hannah Wizner
14	Olivia Trepkowski
21	Greyston Hendrickson
28	Brooklyn Becker



Altar Guild

7	Kris Friend
14	Sue Bailey
21	Susan Kelley
28	Sue Bailey



Children's Church

7	Tony Dancer
14	Tom Page
21	Stephane Wizner/Dawn Earnesty
28	Louise Roby/Amanda Doerr

January Librarian:

WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
3	Glen Mack	Kristin Kazmierski	†	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
10	John Schroeder	Glen Mack	†	Kelly Phillion	Connie Dutcher
17	Mike Clifford	Joyce Richardson	†	Glen Mack	Celina Gottlieb
24	Glen Mack	John Schroeder	†	Connie Dutcher	Donna Malburg
31	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	Mike Clifford

Ascension Lutheran Church - January 2024

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 <i>Office Closed</i>	2 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	3 7:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	4	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 9am-Decoration Take Down
7 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation	8 9am-Ascension Breakfast Club @ Levi's 10:30am-Grief Group	9 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 	10 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	11	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13
14 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Game Night	15 Reports Due 10:30am-Grief Group 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw County Visionary Board Mtg @ Resurrection 	16 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	17 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Pastor Julie at Conference January 17th-22nd	18	19 <i>Office Closed</i> No Fellowship Hall Rentals 1/19/24-1/21/24- Trustees Wax Floors	20
21 BP Screening <i>RaiseRight Due</i> 8am-Worship 10:30am-Worship/Children's Church Pastor Julie at Conference January 17th-22nd	22 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline	23 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	24 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion 	25	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
28 Council Installation 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation	29 10:30am-Grief Group 	30 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	31 Council Installation 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed			

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

Ascension Lutheran Church

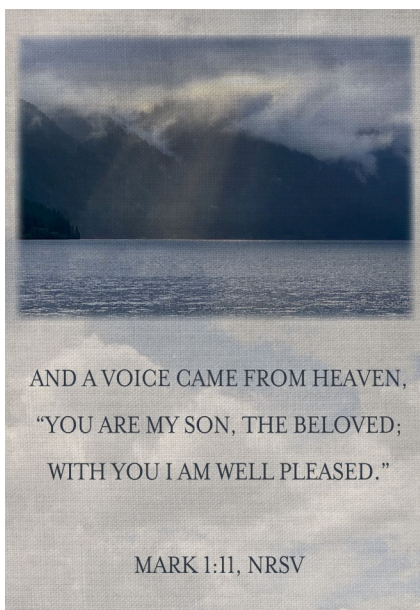
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Phone: 989-781-2170
www.ascensionlc.org

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

January

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AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN,
“YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED;
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED.”

MARK 1:11, NRSV



“First, I'd like to list the mitigating circumstances.”

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the February 2024 issue is: **Monday, January 22nd at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net