

# The Messenger

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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



## Living Last Supper Portrayal



Thank you to the actors in the portrayal who put on an inspiring performance.

Thank you to those who donated snacks and drinks.

Thank you to members, family and friends who were in attendance

Volume 45, Issue 4

April 2024

### Special points of interest:

- Blood Drive, April 4th
- New members Apr 14th, 17th
- Online Giving (pg 7)
- ABC Breakfast-April 8th
- March Against Hunger-pg 14
- Looking for Lawn Mowers
- Loons Game June 9th

# He is Risen

## Celebration of Graduates

We will celebrate our High School and Collegiate graduates during the **10:30 a.m. worship service** on **May 5, 2024**. Please send Pastor Julie ([pr\\_julie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pr_julie@sbcglobal.net)) the following information (or fill out the form on our website):

- Send pictures "through the years," including events like baptism, confirmation, senior pictures, and doing the things you are passionate about.
- Include information about where you are graduating from, what was your major, if appropriate, what is the next step in your journey (work, college, trade school, military; where; and planned major/program).
- What are you planning to do for fun after you graduate?

Please join us this day and let us celebrate together this important benchmark in your life. This information will also be posted in The Messenger

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## Messages From Pastor Julie

### For God so loved the world..... Now what?

For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16

We just remembered the greatest love God has shown as we celebrated Holy Week and Easter. We heard of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we celebrated Palm Sunday—"Hosanna" they shouted. We gathered hearing and celebrating the greatest commandment to love God and love our neighbor-gathered around the communion table remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples—as a servant washing feet and welcoming even those Jesus knew would betray and deny him. We heard the passion narrative of the arrest, torture, and crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. Then on Sunday, we celebrated Easter, God's triumph over death in the resurrection of Jesus.

I will argue that this is the crux of our faith—in love, God gave God's son for the world; and through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who willingly laid down his life, we have eternal life, here and now.

It is an intense week. As people of faith, we need to remember this love throughout the year.

- This love is for the world—not just for us. Not just for Christians, Americans, Lutherans, those that follow a way of life we agree with. For the world.
- And, "we know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another."—1 John 3:16.

As people who follow Jesus, who claim Jesus as Savior, we are called to live our lives in love, a love that lays down our lives for one another; or it might also read for the other.

One of the most powerful ways we, as people who live our faith through the expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is through the open table of Holy Communion. It is for everyone—you don't need to be a member of Ascension or to be Lutheran, this table is open to all. Not every expression of the larger church practices this.

We teach that in the bread and wine (or juice), Jesus is really present. The bread and wine don't change physically into the body and blood of Christ, and yet, in ways in which we can't understand, by the power of God, Jesus is truly present in, with, and under the bread. We trust that as Jesus commanded us to share this meal, Jesus' promise of presence is real.

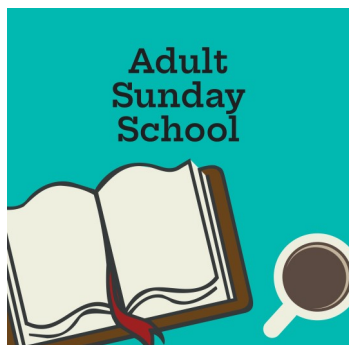
This meal isn't just for those who have met some set of standards or are good enough. This meal is for everyone—remember, Jesus served Peter and Judas—knowing what they, and likely the other disciples would do after his arrest and death. Through the mystery of faith in Holy Communion, we are to remember what Christ has done, we are forgiven, strengthened, called to look ahead to the coming feast, give thanks and celebrate the opportunity to live each and every day with the grace, the free gift of Jesus—not because we deserve it, rather because God loves us so much.

We also live out this love when we are radically welcome. It is important in the radical welcome of Jesus

- to show hospitality to all people, regardless of anything!
- to live out the reconciling faith of Jesus, in building transforming relationships with each other and beyond.
- to possess and live out our identity in Christ, unashamed and unapologetic for the radical nature of God's love.
- to be intentional about our conversations, including those difficult ones that make us uncomfortable and that may bring about systemic change.
- to be compassionate, that we and others are not always going to get it right; we need to extend a compassionate space to express fears and struggles.
- to be faithful as disciples of Jesus Christ, who welcomes and heals all people, the world.

Are we ready to live out our lives together with this radical love and welcome, through the example of our Lord, the crucified and risen one?

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study



The Sunday morning class is reading a study called **Making Sense of the Cross** through April.

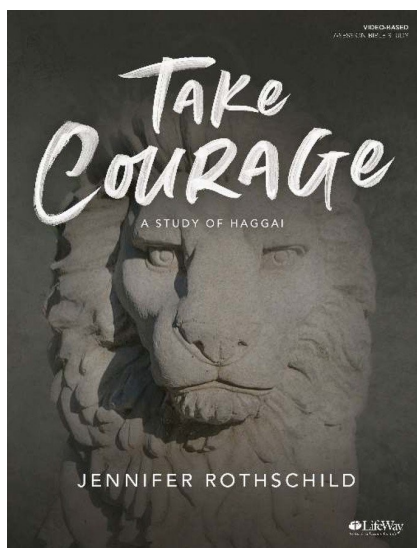
**This class is held at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays, in the Digging Dunes Room.**



## Monday Women's Bible Study

In the **Take Courage** video Bible study, Jennifer Rothschild invites you to study book of Haggai and how God's promises give us courage to trust Him and press on in life. This 7-session video study will encourage you to say confident in God's calling, motivate you to not give up, and trust God created you for a great purpose.

Participant books are **\$10.00, due the first day of class.**



Our Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study will meet in the Digging Dunes room on **Mondays at 6:00 p.m.**

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 invited!**



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us at 11 a.m. on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. We are reading 2 Corinthians, moving next to Galatians, and then Romans. Join us, and as always friends are welcome.

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

**Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561**

**Passcode: 099583**



Enter the code for the zoom meeting or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite.



## 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

Betty Cliff—5935 Shattuck Apt  
50, Saginaw, MI 48603

Pat Joyce—8044 Winchester Ct.  
Saginaw, MI 48609

John Kaul—5935 Shattuck Apt  
#13, Saginaw, MI 48603

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

Peggy Lockhart—6143  
Longmeadow Blvd. North,  
Saginaw, MI 48603

Esther Mack—285 S. Miller Rd.,  
Saginaw, MI 48609

Marie Myers—11145  
Morningstar Dr., Saginaw, MI  
48609

Jackie O'Dell—108 Fulton Street,  
Apt 405, St. Charles, MI 48655

Joyce Storm—181 Evelyn,  
Saginaw, MI 48609

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

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.

***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.***

### April 7th

First Lutheran Church, Muskegon,  
MI and Rev. William Uetrict  
*Ascension Families: Ellen Foley;  
Craig & Joan Ford; Andy & Kris  
Friend*

### April 14th

Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church,  
Muskegon, MI and Rev. Jake Ferra.  
*Ascension Families: Mason Friend;  
Meredith Friend; Ron & Donna Fries*

### April 21st

Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era,  
MI and Rev. Sarah Samuelson  
*Ascension Families: John, Donna,  
Ella, Emma Frollo; Grace, Mark,  
Miles, Sean Girardin; Jack & Renae  
Goschke*

### April 28th

Bethany Lutheran Church,  
Northport, MI and Rev. Chrysanne  
Timm  
*Ascension Families: Judy Goschke;  
Aaron, Dylan, Sawyer Gottlieb;  
Celina Gottlieb*

PRAYING  
FOR YOU

## Altar Flowers

Altar arrangements are placed in the Sanctuary each week to help decorate for worship. They can be given "To the Glory of God", in memory of someone, or in honor of an event, such as birthday or anniversary. The arrangement may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday morning. You can choose a specific date and 2 arrangements are permitted each week. **The cost is \$30.00. Payment envelopes are available on the Acolyte Room Door,** you can mail a check, or drop off payment when you are at church or during office hours (Monday-Thursdays 9am-2pm). The 2024 flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and dates are available.



April 7th  
April 14th  
April 21st  
April 28th

In memory of Margie Fruk, by The Blehm Family  
*available to sponsor*  
In memory of Bob Dalton, by Dawn Dalton  
To the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley  
In memory of their 51st anniversary, by Lori Schultz

## Library Update



A new section has been added to the library—"Emotional Support"!

This section has materials that cover a variety of emotional support needs. The basic sub-categories are: "Cancer", "Dementia", "Grief", and "Other". "Other" has materials relating to caregiving, divorce, death of a pet, etc.

The sub-categories are color-coded with the key above the section.

"Emotional Support" is located near the bottom of the middle section of the shelves nearest to the office, just above the magazines.

Feel free to borrow any of the materials that may help you.

## Looking for Reliable Resources?



Have you ever needed to find someone to help with a problem (*plumber, electrician, housekeeper, roofer, etc.*) and didn't know how to find someone reliable? The solution may be found in a list of reliable businesses recommended by people you know.

There is a notebook of reliable business recommendations now in the library on the shelf below the book return box.

A few recommendations have already been put in the book. Please feel free to add as many as you have. The recommendation forms are in the pocket on the inside front cover of the notebook. It would be nice to have a number of entries in each category—either your own business or ones you have successfully used. Feel free to add notes or endorse entries already included.

If you have any questions, contact Marty Debozy (989-642-8135) or Lori Schultz (989-239-3076)

## New Members Will Be Received



Have you been attending worship and participating with Ascension for a while and are interested in joining with us in our ministry together in our community? New members will

be received **April 14th and 17th**. Please contact Pastor Julie and complete the Membership and Time & Talent forms found at [www.ascensionlc.org](http://www.ascensionlc.org).



**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  
**Pastor Email:** pr\_julie@sbcglobal.net  
**Website:** [www.ascensionlc.org](http://www.ascensionlc.org)  
**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw](http://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.



1st Thomas Deaton  
 2nd Rhys Awad  
 4th Briar Phillion  
     Jared Trepkowski  
 8th Katica Gottlieb  
 9th Greyston Hendrickson  
 10th Sean Girardin  
     Chelsea Houthoofd  
 11th Joel Richardson  
 12th Dawn Dalton  
 13th Glen Mack  
 14th Marie Catterfeld  
     Brent Fleissner  
     Carlie Kolb  
     Carrie Nielsen  
 15th Jayson Hoffmann

18th Dave Becker, Sr.  
     Courtney Wardlow  
 19th Pam Mackel  
 20th Ryann Kittle  
 21st Eliza Trepkowski  
 23rd Steve Haupt  
     Kathy McNally  
 24th Jack Goschke  
     Sara Gregor  
 25th Breana Mack  
 28th Susie Mackel  
     Harbor Weber  
 29th Bryan Carroll



3rd John & Carol Schroeder  
 15th Michael & Elizabeth Clark  
 17th Ben & Chris Crump  
 29th Larry & Maija Preston  
 30th Matt & Stephanie Wizner



# He is Risen

## Earth Day—April 22nd

What are some simple activities that you can do to protect our Earth:

- Switch to re-usable bags instead of plastic grocery ones
- Shut off extra lights
- Carry a reusable water bottle
- Commit to a reusable coffee cup
- Participate in your local community's recycling

program

- Take a walk and pick up garbage along your way
- Return your pop cans (*the church has a bin for these*)



## 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!

## Online Giving through VANCO

It has been a while since we provided information on our direct online giving program.

Ascension utilizes VANCO. Members can use VANCO to give on a regular schedule or for single donations.

VANCO offers a mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement) from the App or Play store.

Whether you login on your computer or through the app (or both), you will have 1 login. You can choose to give to either the General Fund, the Building Fund (Mortgage), to the Youth, to the Weekend Food Bags program, or to a combination of any of these.

To sign up today **via your computer**—go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN7D/home> click “Sign Up” (at the top) and follow the online directions.



To sign up **via the Mobile App**—download the app, when prompted add the invite code MRDSGS, Choose Ascension, click “Sign Up” and follow the directions.

If you already have a login, but haven't logged in within 90 days, you may need to reset your password, click on “Log In”, type in your email address, click “Next”, then click on “Forgot password?” - this will take you through the steps to reset your password.

If you have any trouble with logging in or the giving, please contact Lisa at the office for assistance.



Scan the QR code to take you to VANCO's online giving website.



## Grief Support Group—Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Ascension's Grief Support Group began a new session on February 5th. The program they follow is called GriefShare. Participants can still join the session.

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. Due to a generous donation, participant books, normally \$20, were covered in full.

If you have book from a previous session, you may use that book again for future

sessions.

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

There are no requirements to share, no pressure, and everyone is welcome!



## Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) - April 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.

**April 3rd and 17th**



## Join Ascension Lutheran Church for an Afternoon at the Loons

**Sunday, June 9th @ 1:05 p.m.**

Tickets are \$12.50 each.

Against the Cedar Rapids  
Kernels.

“Peanuts Day”—Players hit the field in special Charlie Brown-inspired jerseys.

Kids Eat Free & Run the Bases—Each child 12 years old and under eat free!



After the game, all kids are invited to run the bases.

See the Kiosk at church for the form, tickets are pre-ordered.

Money is due by **May 22nd**

Cash or Checks payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.

*(If you want to pay via Vanco, please let the church office know)*

## St. John's Grants & Scholarships



Upon closing St. John ELCA in downtown Saginaw as a worship center in 11-01-2020, the process began to complete the transformation of the trust into a foundation. They strive to continue the programs that were established by the church and develop and offer support to programs and organizations that further the Gospel of Christ in

the Saginaw Area. They are doing this in two ways:

**Scholarships** for applicants age 16+, who are a confirmed member/employee of one of the ELCA churches in the Saginaw area and attending K-12, Jr College or University, or payment on their student loan.

**Grants** for programs such as

Christian education, community health and welfare, social welfare, feeding and supporting the needy, supporting and assisting troubled youth, and aiding the poor in the Saginaw Area.

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

## 100+ Women Who Care: Courtney Elisabeth (York) Favazza Memorial

In memory of Courtney, her mother, Kathy York, has begun a Memorial to provide donations to Saginaw, Hemlock, St. Charles, Merrill and Freeland charities or non-profits.

Any woman is welcome to join other women in making a difference in our community. Each member will commit to \$100/meeting. The group will meet quarterly to determine what charity/program/non-profit will receive the donations that quarter. Ascension is providing a location for the meetings. Ascension will not be handling any of the donations. The charity/program/non-profit that receives a donation must agree not to use the names of members for future solicitations or give information to the public.



*100+ Women Who Care  
Courtney Elisabeth (York) Favazza  
Memorial*

The next meeting will be **April 11th at 5:30 p.m.** in Ascension's Fellowship Hall. Additional information can be found at [www.100womencourtellis.com](http://www.100womencourtellis.com)

Ascension has a congregational goal of participating with at least six other organizations in our community. We welcome the 100+ Women Who Care with open hearts and hospitality.

## Coat/Outer Garments/Household Linens—At Resurrection



Coat/Outer Garments/Household Linens are being collected for a coat/linen distribution in October 2024 by Resurrection Lutheran Church. If you have clean outer garments/linens in your home, please bring to Resurrection, 2110 Brockway St, Saginaw, MI 48602 for distribution in the fall. When shopping, as you are able, purchase winter children's coats at the end of the season bargain racks. Questions directed to Resurrection, 989-792-7135.

## Conversations in Caregiving—At Our Saviour



Join the discussion at **1:00 pm, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month** at Our Saviour Lutheran Church (2525 Hemmeter Rd. Saginaw, MI. 48603).

At some point in your life you can expect that you will be a caregiver, maybe you already have been. Maybe you have been cared for.

It is inevitable when we interact with other living things that one of us has more responsibility than the other. If you have a seeing eye dog, both you and the dog have responsibilities. When you have children you can expect to have a lot of responsibility at first, less as they grow up and leave home. Sometimes a child has a disability that prevents them from becoming independent. Or you might have a sister, mom or spouse who needs more care from you than you anticipated.

If someone breaks a leg, you are happy to step up to the extra work, knowing the burden will be time limited as the leg mends. A life altering situation can happen abruptly like a stroke or sneak in over time like a chronic illness or dementia.

Then the question becomes, well, a lot of things. Can I take care of this on my own? How do I feel about doing this? Can I take care of myself as well?

Until truly this generation, there have been prohibitions about talking about these issues with others. Maybe we are betraying the person we are caring for by speaking about the stressors. Am I complaining about caring for someone dear to me? How rude. Will this last forever, what if it doesn't?

Conversations in Caregiving will not tell you who to hire, point out shortcomings or recommend resources. Oh, recommending something may happen but isn't the point of meeting. The point is listening and being heard. Maybe we will learn how to do this with grace, maybe we will learn something about ourselves.

We invite you to join the Conversations in Caregiving to enjoy the support and understanding of members.

## Living Lutheran Magazine—Now Digital Only

The Living Lutheran magazine is still available for free in digital format at the following link:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/>

You will be able to get the links to stories based on

your preferences delivered to your inbox weekly, biweekly, or monthly. HAPPY READING!



## Bishop's Newsletter



Although the Bishop is on sabbatical, there are still others proving content for the monthly newsletters.

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



## 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 April 21st**

## Blood Drive

Our first blood drive of 2024 will be held on **Thursday, April 4th from 2:30 - 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Please mark this on your calendar and help us make this first drive of the year 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, April 21st.**

*He is Risen*

## Food Pantry



There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **April 3rd at 8:30 a.m.** at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

Ascension is providing workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **April 24th.** Volunteers should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** at the pan-

try 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

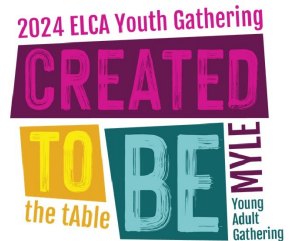
the Food Pantry to purchase food through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, donations can be sent directly to: FBEM, 2300 Lapeer Rd, Flint, MI 48503. Checks must include in the memo line: Center of Hope Food Pantry/Saginaw P-981

**See the March Against Hunger Flyer where 10% of donations are matched (page 14).**

## Attention ELCA Gathering Youth

We will meet **on Sunday, April 21st at 5:45 p.m.** to do some prep work for our Gathering experience. We will be focusing on Created to Be "Authentic".

We will also meet on **Sunday, May 5th at 5:45 p.m.** to continue our prep work, focusing on Created to Be "Free."



Thank you to all members and friends who have donated their time, talents and hard earned money to the youth of Ascension. We thank you for supporting our Soup Suppers, Craft Fair, and



Bake Sale. We raised \$1,086 at the Craft Fair and Bake Sale and another \$939 at the Lenten Soup Suppers. You donated your time, your soup, salad, bread, and sweet treats.

The families of Gabby, Marissa, Ella, Makena, and Pastor Julie.

## Youth Envelope Fundraiser



There is a display board in the Gathering Area with envelopes attached. Each envelope has a monetary designation that we ask be placed in these envelopes. They progress from \$1 to \$50 (*there are 2 of each denomination*). Checks may be written to Ascension Lutheran Youth and placed in the offering plate or in the Church Office. We are making it a goal to have all the envelopes taken and returned by April 15th with a grand total of \$2,550 raised.



- o Donate to Group Expenses
  - o Donate to Gabby Dalton
  - o Donate to Marissa Fahrenbruch
  - o Donate to Ella Frolo
  - o Donate to Makena Whelton
  - o Donate to Pastor Julie Bailey
- Your Giving Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Checks Payable to Ascension Lutheran Church

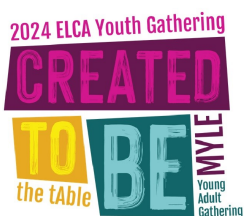
\$1



**Thank you for your support!!**



## Youth Gathering—What Is It? & Costs



You may wonder why it seems we are constantly doing fundraisers for the Youth Gathering. What is it? The Gathering is an experience of learning, worship, bible study, fellowship and service with 30,000 other youth from across the county who are growing and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. It happens once every 3 years. There are 4 youth and 1 leader attending from Ascension from July 15th-22nd. The cost for registration, hotel, and transportation for the 7 days is a little over \$6,000...*we haven't eaten yet...*The goal for each attendee was to raise about \$1,600, and we are getting close!

Thank you Ascension for the support and encouragement that you are providing these young people to carry on with their faith. If you are curious in learning more about the gathering, please see [elca.org/gathering](http://elca.org/gathering).

## Confirmation Schedule

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

**April 7th**—First Article: God

**April 21st**—Second Article: Jesus

**May 5th**—Third Article: Holy Spirit



## 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.



## Scouts—Blue & Gold Banquet

The Scouts held their Blue & Gold Banquet at Ascension on Saturday, March 16th. Blue and Gold Banquets are a tradition in Cub Scout packs. They are a celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the BSA on February 8, 1910. Often, badges of rank are awarded. The Arrow of Light ceremony is included as the 5th graders cross over to a troop. A potluck meal was enjoyed.







## DONATION FORM

**START DATE:**  
March 1, 2024

**END DATE:**  
April 30, 2024

**March Against Hunger** is a fundraising campaign for the Food Bank and for our partner agencies. We make it easy for our partners to participate, **PLUS** we offer a 10% match credited to your account for use on future orders.

Complete this form and enclose your check made out to:

**FBEM**

Deposit form and payment must be received by May 10, 2024 (NO exceptions)

**Mail to:** Food Bank of Eastern Michigan  
2300 Lapeer Road • Flint, MI 48503

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check Enclosed

**Please accept this donation on behalf of**

Agency Name: Center of HOPE Agency Acct #: P-981

### Donor Information

*Complete a separate deposit form for each individual in need of a personal acknowledgement letter.*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Checks must be made payable to FBEM and dated between  
**March 1, 2024 and April 30, 2024**

All donations must include this **March Against Hunger Donation Form** and be received by the Food Bank no later than **Friday, May 10, 2024**

*Only agencies in good standing & current on reporting are eligible for the 10% account match*

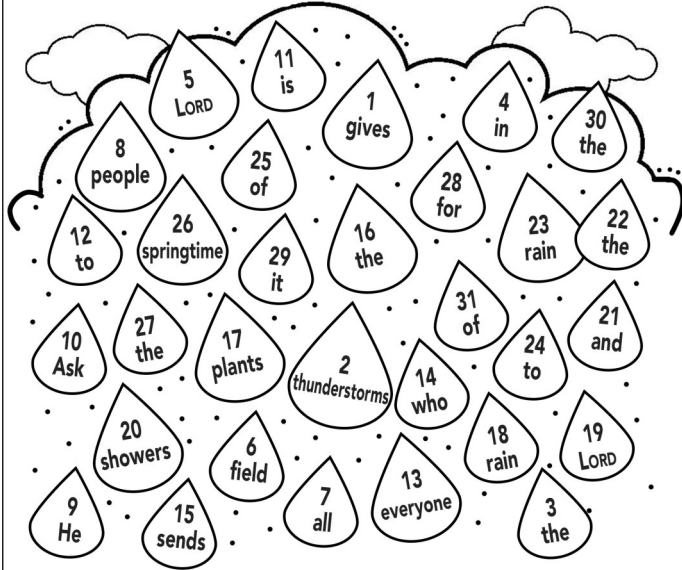


**For questions regarding March Against Hunger please contact your Regional Outreach Representative.**

**For questions regarding a deposit, please contact our Development Coordinator, Kaitlyn McGlaughlin at [kmcglaughlin@fbem.us](mailto:kmcglaughlin@fbem.us).**

# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.

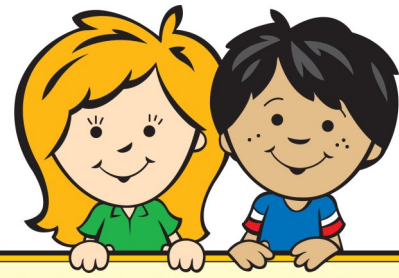


10      16      5      28      18  
 4      22      26  
 29      11      3      19      14      15  
 27      2  
 9      1      20      31      23  
 12      7      8      21      17      25  
 30      6      24      13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

HAPPY EASTER!



KIDS PAGE

SOMETHING OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

#### What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



#### What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



## Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"




Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: John 20:19,21

## Serving in April

*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	Marty Debozy	Linda Lentner	7	Susan Kelley	Lisa Espinoza
14	Kris Friend	Donna Frolo	14	Charleen Boland	Chris Crump
21	Susan Kelley	Linda Luplow	21	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton
28	Tom Page	Lori Schultz	28	Lynn Schomaker	Dawn Dalton
					
Sound Board Operators			Video Screen Operators		
7	†	Makena Whelton	7	Susan Kelley	Gus Hendrickson
14	Kris Friend	†	14	Kris Friend	Gus Hendrickson
21	†	†	21	†	Marissa Fahrenbruch
28	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton	28	Kris Friend	Marissa Fahrenbruch
Head Ushers			Acolyte 10:30 a.m.		
7	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner	7	Nathan Earnesty	
14	Wilson	Dawson/Collison	14	Greyston Hendrickson	
21	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein	21	Matti Wizner	
28	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton	28	Brooklyn Becker	
Altar Guild		Lawn Mowers	Children's Church		
7	Carol Wilson		7	Dave & Shelly Dawson	
14	Carol Wilson	Becker/Becker	14	Bryan Carroll	
21	Carol Wilson	Crump/Wilson	21	Tom Page	
28	Carol Wilson	Roth	28	Stephanie & Dave Becker	

April Librarian: Sally York

*He is Risen*

### WEDNESDAYS 7pm

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



## Ascension Lutheran Church - April 2024


8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609 (989) 781-2170

Email: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net) Website: [ascensionlc.org](http://ascensionlc.org)

Church Office hours: Mondays—Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

If you plan to meet  
for one of our  
Ministries in the  
church, please let the  
church office know.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10:30am-Grief Group	<b>2</b> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	<b>3</b> 8:30am-Food Pantry TruckUnload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	<b>4</b> 2:30pm-7pm Blood Drive (FH) 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	<b>5</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation	<b>8</b> 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible St	<b>9</b> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	<b>10</b> 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	<b>11</b> 5:30pm-100+ Wom- en Who Care (FH)	<b>12</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 New Members</b> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	<b>15</b> 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline 6:00pm-Women's Bible St	<b>16</b> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	<b>17 New Members</b> 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 BP Screening</b> <i>RaiseRight Due</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation 5:45pm-Gathering Mtg	<b>22</b> 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw (@Faith) 	<b>23</b> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	<b>24</b> 8:30am-Serve @ Food Pantry 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	<b>29</b> 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible St	<b>30</b> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors		<i>He is Risen</i>		

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

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

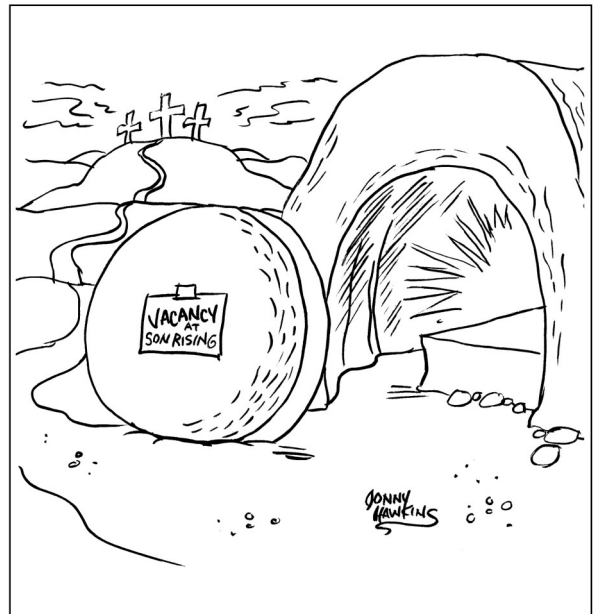


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ORG.  
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PAID  
SAGINAW, MI  
PERMIT NO. 59



The Trustees are always welcoming individuals who would like to assist with lawn mowing this year. We can pair individuals together or you can join as a 2-person team. Cutting takes place from April—October (weather permitting) and is done weekly. Each team cuts either 5 or 6 times during the season. The church has 2 riding lawnmowers and cutting takes approximately 2 hours. If you are interested in becoming part of the lawn mowing team or have any questions, please contact Tom Bailey, 989-239-3928.

**SAVE-THE-DATE:**  
**Church Spring Cleanup—May 11th**



**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**The MESSENGER** is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.  
Deadline for the May 2024 issue is: **Monday, April 15th at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)