

# The Messenger

## Ascension Lutheran Church

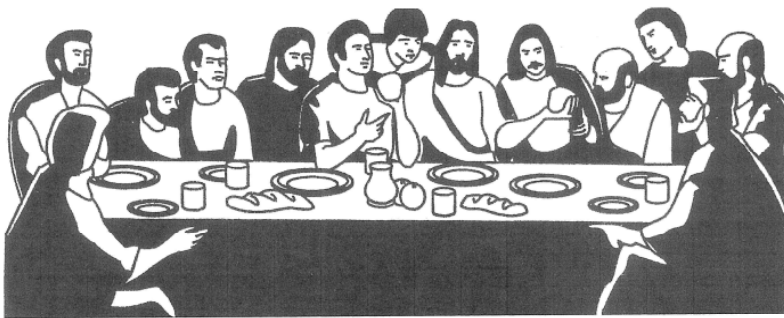
MISSION: - "As an open and progressive congregation, we boldly make Christ's vision known."

Volume 45, Issue 3

March 2024

### A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper

*"A Portrayal of the Last Supper" with music, song & theatrical performance*



**Saturday, March 23 @ 7 p.m.**

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**8695 Gratiot Road (M-46), Shields**

**Questions? Call Frank (989) 751-5631**

The portrayal is an interactive theatrical performance with music and song. Ascension is hosting this free event and it is open to the public so invite your friends and neighbors. Communion will be served. Donations collected will be donated to local food pantries and/or soup kitchens.

## Holy Week Worship

3/24, 8:00 am & 10:30 am—Palm Sunday Worship

3/28, 7:00 pm—Maundy Thursday Worship

3/29, 7:00 pm—Good Friday Worship

3/31, 8:00 am & 10:30am—Easter Sunday Worship

*\*There is no worship on Wednesday March 27th*

### Special points of interest:

- *Lenten Worship*-page 4
- *Register for Summer Camp* ASAP
- *Easter Flowers*-Order by 3-16
- *Grants & Scholarships* (pg 9)
- *Online Giving* (pg 7)
- *Craft Fair*-March 9th
- *ABC Breakfast*-March 11th

### Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Messages</i>	2
<i>Bible Studies</i>	3
<i>Lenten Worship</i>	4
<i>Prayers</i>	5
<i>Contacts</i>	6
<i>Birthdays/ Anniversaries</i>	6
<i>Announcements</i>	7-11
<i>Youth News</i>	12-13
<i>Food Pantry Donations</i>	14
<i>Children's Activity</i>	15
<i>Serving This Month</i>	16
<i>Calendar</i>	17

## Messages From Pastor Julie

### Called to live in Color

I'm a fan of dystopian reality novels. I enjoy the series of Hunger Games and Divergent. It makes me wonder, could our world with all the struggles and sin find itself in a similar situation.

But one book and movie really struck me—"The Giver." It is the story of a seemingly perfect community. There is no pain, or suffering, no war. There aren't any differences or choice, no more conflict. Everything is essentially presented in gray or black and white. No one knows the difference or has any memory of any other way—they accept it as it is. Until—a young boy is chosen to learn from an elderly man, the giver, about the true pain and pleasure of the real world.

"Beginnings. From disorder and chaos, from great suffering and great pain, from confusion and envy and hatred, came a solution. Communities, serene beautiful places where disorder became harmony." Peace and harmony were valued as sameness, uniformity, without conflict. Maybe this sounds ideal to you, but not to me.

What brings joy to life are the differences between us. God teaches that we are created differently, with different gifts. But so often, we divide the world in this or that, either/or. We often value one as better than the other. The world is black and white, or maybe gray.

But does God really us all to live in a gray world? I don't think so. God gives us the life in the gift of differences, uniqueness, variety—all for the sake of the world. All with the same purpose, but not in black or in white. We see this in one of the early covenants of God with Noah—where a rainbow is placed in the sky. It is colorful, varying, and awesome.

I dream of the day when the church will embrace the colors coming together, recognizing and embracing the beautiful differences between us, recognizing that together we are stronger than we are separate. I pray we live not in the either/or world of black and white; rather in a kingdom of joy in color and both/and. And that in doing so, the world, our community and each of us will live with the abundance of joy, in the imaginative and beautiful world of color in the wholeness of creation.

### Communication is Costly

Whether you are a football fan or not, you likely heard about the speculation of what really cost the 49'ers the Super Bowl. It wasn't that they played poorly, Kansas City didn't even really outplay them. It was a pretty even game—until...overtime.

And even how they played wasn't so much the issue, as it was the decisions made, including the choice at the coin toss to receive the ball first. Like "the way it has always been done"—the 49'ers functioned off of, if they score first, they win. However, the rules had changed. They had to essentially play another quarter. So when the 49'ers scored the field goal, they were ready to celebrate. Kansas City knows they have to go for a touchdown now—they have the advantage.

Kansas City knew the rules, the new rules. I am guessing no one really took much stock in the 49'ers "but that's not the way it has happened before." Kansas City had communicated, San Francisco did not—and that was costly!

It happens in the church. We may want to think we don't need to be engaged because things will always be done the way they have always been done. I hear over and over again about events going on at the church, or information that is important, people say "I didn't know". And yet, it may have been announced in worship, an email or text sent, posted on Facebook, our website, our YouTube, or in our monthly Newsletter.

The congregation has a lot going on. We are really trying to get information out. But if people don't read the newsletter, don't look at email, or don't come to worship...that decision can be costly. We are open to suggestions and welcome input in keeping you informed.

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

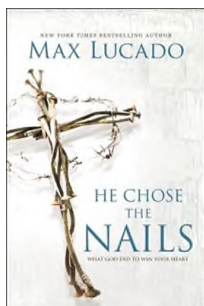


Beginning **February 18, 2024** the Sunday morning class will began a study called **Making Sense of the Cross**. This is a good study to do during the season of Lent. **All are welcome.**

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



**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!

**Classes are 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 welcome!**

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us at 11 a.m. on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. We are reading 2 Corinthians, 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.

## Lenten Soup Suppers through 3/20

Ascension's Youth are hosting meals before our Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m. A free will offering will be collected and split between the Youth accounts of those who volunteer. The Youth will set up, serve, and cleanup. They need to arrive by 5:30 p.m. and should be finished about 7:15 p.m. We will need an adult to oversee each week as well. Sign up on the kiosk in the gathering area or contact the church office.



The design of the meal is to be a simple supper of soup, salad, and bread before worship. We ask those who would like to donate these items to sign up on the kiosk in the gathering area. The goal is to have 3-4 soups each week.

## Wednesday Lenten Series

This season for Lent we are going to focus on five of the I AM statements of Jesus from the gospel of John. These readings and reflections are a great way to ponder on God becoming flesh.

Lent is the season that leads us to the Holy Days of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus goes to the cross, and when Jesus goes to the cross, so does God! We will reflect on what it means that at the same time Jesus is humanity and God. During this season, we hold these two in tension as simultaneous truths.



3/06/24	I AM the Door (John 10:1-10)
3/13/24	I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18)
3/20/24	I AM the Resurrection and Life (John 11:17-27)

## 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).



# 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	Peggy Lockhart—6143 Longmeadow Blvd. North, Saginaw, MI 48603	Lee Turner—6371 Birchview Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609
Pat Joyce—8044 Winchester Ct. Saginaw, MI 48609	Esther Mack—285 S. Miller Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609	Barry Wiggins—1202 Weiss St, Room 305, Saginaw, MI 48602
John Kaul—5935 Shattuck Apt #13, Saginaw, MI 48603	Marie Myers—11145 Morningstar Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609	Barb Yancer—8936 N. Brookshire Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

Prayers of the Week

PRAYING  
FOR YOU

<p>Our partner prayers are included in The Messenger each month.</p> <p><b><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></b></p>	<u>March 10th</u> Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center, MI and Rev. Robert Martin. <i>Ascension Families: Connie Dutcher &amp; Mike Romosier; Waylon, Dawn, Ethan, Nathan Earnesty; Mary &amp; Bob Ecker.</i>	<u>March 24th</u> Trinity Lutheran Church, Millersburg, MI and Rev. Mary Hughes. <i>Ascension Families: Tom &amp; Mary Erskine; Lisa, Ed, Nick Espinoza; Dave, Allison, Jacob, Max Faerber.</i>
	<u>March 17th</u> Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, MI and Rev. Jeffrey Gramza and Rev. Danielle Shealy. <i>Ascension Families: William, Emily, Collin, Lillian, Owen Edsall; Steve Elvin; Jason, Becky, Arlington, Hadley Enright</i>	<u>March 31st</u> Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI and Rev. Dana Hendershot. <i>Ascension Families: Mike &amp; Jan Faerber; Brent, Natalie, Jack Fleissner; Kathy, Alana, Liam Fleming</i>
	<u>March 3rd</u> All Saints Lutheran Church, Mason, MI and Rev. Rev. Gerald Ferguson <i>Ascension Families: Emily, Kip, Amora, Lucas, Max Dreyfus; Barry, Amber, Brooks, Bryce Druelle; Andrew, Stephanie, Eric, Emily, Ellie Dunn.</i>	

## 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.



March 3rd	In memory of Bill Gottlieb, by Celina Gottlieb
March 10th	To the Glory of God, by the Blehm Family
March 17th	available to sponsor
March 24th	To the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley
March 31st	available to sponsor



**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](mailto:ascensionlc@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. **The church will be closed if Swan  
 Valley Schools are closed due to inclement  
 weather.**



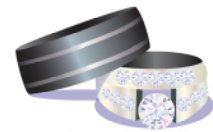
1st Edna Bell  
 Rae Stoddard  
 Heidi Trepkowski  
 Chris Trier  
 John G. Whelton  
 2nd Erika Collier  
 3rd Nikki Herren  
 Steve Salowitz  
 7th Debra Beyerlein  
 Alayna Dalton  
 Dana McClure  
 Connor McRae  
 Joyce Richardson  
 11th Brooks Druelle  
 12th Ella Frollo

15th Alexandra Becker  
 Diane Kolinski  
 16th Bob Mancini  
 18th Cole Stadler  
 19th Daxton Briggs  
 Rebecca Enright  
 Gregory Wortley  
 20th Darren Dancer  
 Jacob Faerber  
 21st Dave Marceills  
 Ella Wardlow  
 22nd Jeff Maeder  
 23rd Andy Friend  
 Heidi Mackel  
 Brett Phillion  
 24th Jacob Crook

27th Robert Bolger  
 Lillian Hendrick  
 Amy Kolb  
 Mitchell Turner  
 29th Tracy Aldrich



29th Andrew & Stephanie  
 Dunn



*United in Marriage*

Congratulations to Nicki Crump and Kyle Biesk  
 who were married on **January 27, 2024**

## Easter Flowers—Order by March 16th

If you desire to purchase flowers to decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday, please fill out an envelope (complete with name and flower choice) and place with payment in the basket in the church office.



*Order Deadline March 16th*



All plants are **\$10.00** and include Lily, Tulip, and Daffodil. Payment must be made before orders are placed; make checks **payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.**



## 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!

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



## Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) - March 11th

All who are available for breakfast are invited to join others from Ascension for a time of fellowship and food. We meet at 9 a.m. at Levi's Restaurant at 5800 Brockway, on the second Monday of each month. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don't need to prepare anything or clean up. Just show up

## Wellness Warriors—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.

**March 6th & 20th**



## Ascension's Endowment—Grants & Scholarships

The Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2024 to fund projects which may support any of the following activities:

- Christian Education
- Youth Programs
- Music Ministry
- Mission Opportunities
- Scholarships
- Family Outreach
- Evangelism
- Technology
- Special Capital Improvement Opportunities

Because of the limited amount of money the Endowment Fund Committee makes on its investments each year, the committee reviews each application and awards monies on how the request fits the mission and purpose of the church. The maximum amount that can be funded for any activity is \$1,000. The applications are available on our website and on the Kiosk at church and must be submitted by **March 31, 2024**.

**Attention all high school students and parents.** There is a scholarship grant available for graduating seniors that are members of Ascension Lutheran Church. The scholarship packets, which include the guidelines and application form, are available on the Kiosk at church and on our website. Application deadline is **March 31, 2024**.

If there are any questions, please contact the Endowment Committee chair Tracy Aldrich or the church office.

## 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.

## Bertha H. Wilson Family Trust Fund

The Saginaw County Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America (ELCA), working in cooperation with the N/W Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA, administer the Bertha H. Wilson Family Trust Fund. It supports ministries of the ELCA congregations in Saginaw County. The grant application must be submitted to the Church Council for approval before submission. The Church Council will meet on **Tuesday, March 20th** and will review the applications. Once approved, applications need to be submitted as soon as possible. Application deadline is **Monday, March 25th**. This is one of the opportunities for Ascension to acquire funding for those special projects that are in the minds/plans of the congregation. Let your imagination run wild, and let's apply for a grant(s). Please keep in mind, projects which will benefit the community and serve as a source of outreach have a higher probability of being approved. They have **\$12,000** to distribute in 2024. Forms are available on the Kiosk at church in paper form and also can be emailed.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

**Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!**

One good act leads to another. And the impact grows. Thanks to Thrivent, that's what we've experienced through the Thrivent Choice® program. Many of you directed Choice Dollars® to Ascension. And by doing so, you have helped to make a difference. The outreach funding we receive from both you and Thrivent helps us to continue our important mission. Thank you for your support. Please consider directing Choice Dollars® to us. You can make a profound impact! The deadline to direct your Choice Dollars is **March 31, 2024**.

## 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 last print issue of the Living Lutheran magazine has hit the presses, but you can still get the free e-digest magazine 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. If you are interested, this month's articles are: Continuing to Learn About Racism, Salt, Light, and Leaven: 2024 Synod Assembly, and Attracting Young Families.

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

## "Other" on Giving Envelopes

Did you notice that the 2024 giving envelopes have an "other" line. You may use this if you would like to give or deposit money for something other than general or mortgage. Examples, could be flowers, weekend food bags, youth, or any ministry or team at Ascension. Please make sure to note the donation on the line provided.

## 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, March 17th.**

## Food Pantry

There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **March 6th 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 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

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



## SOUP COOK OFF

### Congratulations to our Soup Cook-off Winners!

**Most Unique:** Stephanie Becker's Chicken Cordon Blue Soup

**Most Comforting:** Connie Dutcher's Tomato Bisque

**Most "New Orleans":** Stephanie Becker's Gumbo

### Congratulations to our Silent Auction Winners!

We had an amazing turnout of donations and bidders for our silent auction!



We thank the participants for their soup entries, those who donated at the door, those taste-testers and voters, those who donated to the silent auction, those who bid on the silent auction items, as well as all the volunteers! It was a successful fundraiser because of you. The youth raised just shy of \$1,000.



## Youth Fundraiser—March 9th

We are hosting a craft fair at Ascension on **Saturday, March 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The fair is a Youth Fundraiser for the National Gathering in New Orleans. We have a great variety of vendors, so stop in and support our local talent and artists with a unique purchase. **The Youth are also running a bake sale, so grab a sweet treat to take home!**

We are accepting contributions of baked goods, from Ascension members and we could use more items for the bake sale! You don't need to prepackage your items, we will do that and WE WILL price them! We just need you to bake/create them! Bring in your pans, bags, etc of goodies on March 7th & 8th and we will take care of the rest! We do need to know what goodie and approximately how much you are bringing for planning purposes so please sign up at church, call, or send the church office an email (ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net). **THANK YOU**, your support of the Youth in preparing for the Gathering has been awesome and much appreciated!!



## Youth Envelope Fundraiser—Beginning in March

There will be a display board in the Gathering Area in early March 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 5 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.**

**March 3rd**—Ninth and Tenth Commandments

**March 17th**—What is a Creed

*March 24th & 31st, Spring Break & Easter*

**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.



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

Summer Camp Registration is open—and Pastor Julie is already registered.

To register, go to [www.elcalivingwater.com](http://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. 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. Contact Pastor Julie if you have any questions about camp.

Ascension will attend "Week 4"—July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

- Confirmation Youth / 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades / Challengers—Cost is \$470/\$235/\$0.
- High School Youth / 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades / Servant Heart—Cost is \$470/\$235/\$0.
- Elementary Youth / 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades / Discoverers—Cost is \$480/\$240/\$0.
- Young Elementary Youth / 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grades / Explorers—Cost is \$330/\$165/\$0.







## 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*

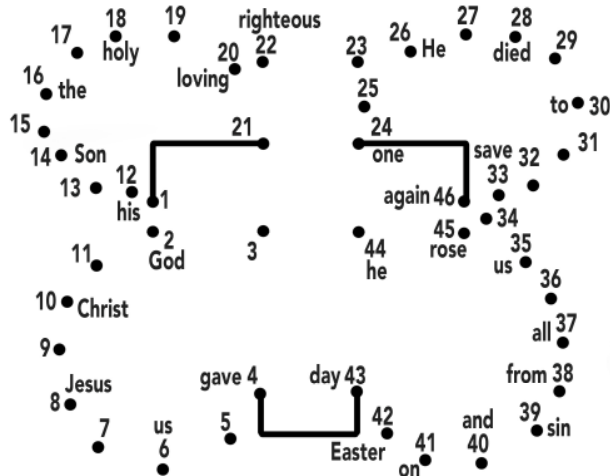


**For questions regarding March Against Hunger please contact your Regional Outreach Representative.**

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

# Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.



## KIDS PAGE



Try this chilly new  
take on a healthy snack.

### What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

### What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



## Bible Quiz

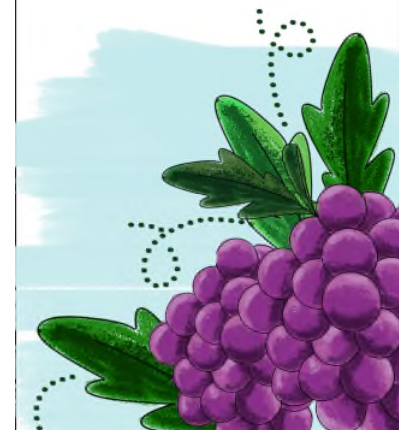
The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)

**Pull Out Your  
Bibles for this  
Quiz  
and Go To:  
Philippians  
2:10-11**



## Serving in March

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

Readers	8am	10:30am	Prayers	8am	10:30am
3	Dan Roth	Barb Van Marter	3	Susan Kelley	Lisa Espinoza
10	Dick Schomaker	John Whelton	10	Charleen Boland	Chris Crump
17	Edna Bell	Lisa Whelton	17	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton
24	Tom Erskine	Chris Crump	24	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
31	Joan Ford	Dawn Dalton	31	Ruth Schomaker	Dawn Dalton
<b>Sound Board Operators</b>			<b>Video Screen Operators</b>		
3	Kris Friend	†	3	Kris Friend	Gus Hendrickson
10	†	†	10	Charleen Boland	Marissa Fahrenbruch
17	†	Makena Whelton	17	Susan Kelley	Ginny Whelton
24	†	Makena Whelton	24	Charleen Boland	Ginny Whelton
31	†	Makena Whelton	31	Susan Kelley	Marissa Fahrenbruch
<b>Head Ushers</b>			<b>Acolyte 10:30 a.m.</b>		
3	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton	3	Greyston Hendrickson	
10	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner	10	Ethan Earnesty	
17	Wilson	Dawson/Hendrickson	17	Matti Wizner	
24	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein	24	Olivia Trepkowski	
31	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton	31	Volunteer Needed	
<b>Altar Guild</b>			<b>Children's Church</b>		
3	Kris Friend	Sally York	3	Amanda Doerr	
10	Kris Friend		10	Dave & Shelly Dawson	
17	Kris Friend		17	Stephanie Wizner / Dawn Earnesty	
24	Ruth Schomaker		24	Spring Break-No class	
31	All Members		31	Spring Break-No class	

### WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
6	Glen Mack	John Schroeder	Mike Romosier	Connie Dutcher	No Prayers
13	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	No Prayers
20	John Schroeder	Connie Dutcher	†	Glen Mack	No Prayers
27	No Worship	No Worship	No Worship	No Worship	No Worship

### MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY 7PM

28	John Whelton, †	Tom Page	†	†	Donna Malburg
29	John Whelton, †	Barb Van Marter	Makena Whelton	Marissa Fahrenbruch	Mike Clifford

*An Acolyte both evenings would be nice to have, but not required, contact the church office to volunteer.*

## Ascension Lutheran Church - March 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
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation	4 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	5 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 3pm-Kitchen Rental 6pm-Kitchen Rental 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	6 8:30am-Food Pantry TruckUnload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Worship/Communion/ Baptism	7 6:30pm-Scouts	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9 10am-3pm-Craft Fair & Bake Sale 
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	11 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Levi's 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	12 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	13 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:00pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Worship/Communion	14 6:30pm-Scouts	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16 Easter Flowers Orders Due
17 BP Screening RaiseRight Due 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation	18 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study 12pm-Messenger Deadline	19 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg 	20 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Worship/Communion	21 6:30pm-Scouts	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23 7pm-Living Portrayal of the Last Supper
24 Palm Sunday 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/ Communion 	25 10:30am-Grief Group 6:00pm-Women's Bible Study	26 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	27 <i>No Worship</i> 6:30pm-Scouts Messenger Mailed	28 7pm-Worship/ Communion/ 	29 <i>Office Closed</i> 7pm-Worship 	30
31 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion 						

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”



NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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 April 2024 issue is: **Monday, March 18th at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)