



Lenten Worship

On **Wednesday, March 5, 2025**, we will begin the season in the church year known as Lent. This is a forty-day season (excluding Sunday's) that we focus on repentance (getting back on track with God) and preparation for Holy Week and Easter (April 20, 2025).



During our Wednesday worship, we are going to focus on various kinds of Lament. Each week we will explore what it means to sit with our grief rather than deny or push it aside. We all experience grief in our lives, and struggle with why so many suffer. We will approach God honestly and with humility, admitting that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, finding a God who weeps with us in our struggles. We will move toward the God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform it into holy joy and hope. We learn this through the death of Jesus on a cross, the place to which the season leads us. It is here we find we never need to mourn without hope.

Our Lenten schedule is as follows:

- 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 5th—Ash Wednesday
- 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 12th—What is Lament?
- 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 19th—Little Laments
- 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 2nd—Individual Lament
- 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 9th—Communal Lament
- 7 p.m., Thursday, April 17th—Maundy Thursday
- 1 p.m., Friday, April 18th—Ecumenical Good Friday service at First United Methodist, 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48638 (*we are participating with several other churches*)
- 7 p.m., Friday, April 18th—Good Friday service at Ascension Lutheran Church



Lenten Soup Suppers—Wednesday's 6p.m.



Once again, our congregation will host simple soup suppers prior to our Lenten worship services. There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk asking for volunteers to bring soup, salads and bread **each week beginning March 5th**. As it has in the past, this will be a fundraiser for our youth ministry. We are looking for youth to sign up to help set up (5:30 p.m.), serve (6:00 p.m.) and clean up (6:45-7:15p.m.). Youth working the event will then split the free will offering each night to apply that to their account to use for upcoming youth activities. (If there are weeks we do not have youth to serve, other ministries will be given the opportunity to work and have that money go to that ministry.)

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Special points of interest:

- *Soup Suppers, Weds Mar 5th-Apr 9th, 6pm*
- *Noisy Offering, March 16th & 19th*
- *Scholarships & Grants—March Deadlines!*
- *Center of HOPE Food Pantry—Annual Fundraiser Mar 1st-Apr 30th (pg 11)*
- *Living Portrayal of the Last Supper (pg 9)*

Message from Pastor Julie

Daily Bible Readings on YouTube

A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon that shared some alarming statistics regarding the frequency of reading the Bible in a year, apart from being in worship or at a church event where it is mandated (I would guess this would be like devotions in a meeting, not necessarily a Bible study.) The research showed:

- 27% Never
- 14% less than once a year
- 9% one or two times a year

That means that 50% of people reported that they read the Bible less than two times per year!

Of the other 50%,

- 8% three or four times a year
- 7% once a month
- 8% once a week
- 14% four times a week
- 13% every day

My question is, how can we really know what the Bible says if we don't actually read the Bible ourselves? How many of us have heard someone say--the Bible says. I learned growing up that the Bible says God helps those who help themselves--later I found out that is nowhere in the Bible, and God is available to help those who can't help themselves.

We may have heard money is the root of all evil. This is a little closer to what the Bible says, but there is a significant different--the Bible says--the LOVE of money is the root of all evil. See the difference?

Love the sinner, hate the sin? God won't give you more than you can handle? Cleanliness is next to Godliness?

How can we truly discern God's will for us if we don't know what the Bible says? If the Bible reveals to us who God is, if it is the cradle that holds the Christ, it will benefit us to know what the Bible says.

It is hard to get into the habit of reading scripture. However, the discipline is important for those of us who follow Christ.

Beginning February 1, 2025, I began recording daily Bible readings. I began with 1 John, one of my favorite books, and over a few days we read all of 1 John. We then completed 2 John and 3 John. During the end of February and early March, we are reading through the gospel of Mark. We aren't skipping verses or skipping around. We are just reading the Bible as it is, translated into English of course.

These Bible readings are shared on our Facebook page and recorded on our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/@ascensionlutheranchurch4799>). I find it easy in the morning, before I even get out of bed to listen to this reading. What a great way to begin our day in the Word.

Pastor Julie

Camp Sunday—March 16, 2025, with a Noisy Offering

Our ministry with Living Water Ministries has been vital for years. The youth and adults who attend find this a place to explore their faith, alongside their peers. **Sunday, March 16th**, we will welcome Dan Carlson, the Director of Programs and Partnerships. He will share with us the direction of Living Water Ministries and likely stories of how

lives are changed. We will receive a noisy offering on this day for this important ministry of our church.

From Living Water Ministries:

Our vision is clear: To create communities centered in Christ to transform lives and the world.

Our mission is real: Bringing together all of God's children to

experience Christian community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others.

Our core values: excellence,



Christian community, faith formation and welcome to all – guide our work.

Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, we will finish up a session on parables.

March 2: Jesus and Beelzebul, the Strong Man, and Good and Bad Trees (Matthew 12:22-37)



Beginning March 9th, we will focus on Jesus, Lamb of God.

- **March 9:** Behold the Lamb of God: Basic Concepts: John 1:29
- **March 16:** The Lamb that Took our Place: Isaiah 53
- **March 23:** The Lamb who Redeems us from Slavery: 1 Peter 1:18-19
- **March 30:** The Passover Lamb: 1 Corinthians 5:7
- **April 6:** The Triumphant Lamb We Worship: Revelation 5:1-14

We will not have Sunday morning study for the rest of April, we will resume in May.



Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study

We are began our 2025 bible study on **Monday, February 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Digging Dunes room at Ascension.

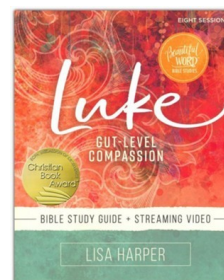
Our study is Luke by Lisa Harper. The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for a deep and personal relationship with Jesus. Luke writes to highlight those seen as outliers and outcasts, those deemed misfits and unfit. Then he reveals to us the outrageous mercy of God.

Lisa Harper has 30+ years of church ministry and leadership. She is also the author of multiple books and bible studies. Lisa lives south of Nashville, Tennessee and is the proud mother of daughter, Missy. This is an eight week study and **participant books are \$10**. This study has a little homework for participants each week.

We have moved our meeting time to 1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m. (This time was preferred to our group.) We will not meet on March 24th due to the meeting of the ELCA Saginaw Women's

Group. Our Bible Study will end on April 7, 2025.

Please contact Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 (call or text) to reserve your participant book.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study



Our **Tuesday** morning Bible study is reading the book of **Jeremiah**.

All are welcome to join us at **11am**. Enter the code for the zoom meeting or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite.

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561

Passcode: 099583

March Birthdays

1st	Edna Bell Rae Stoddard Heidi Trepkowski Chris Trier John G. Whelton	15th	Alexandrea Becker Diane Kolinski	27th	Lillian Hendrick Amy Kolb Mitchell Turner
2nd	Erika Collier	16th	Bob Mancini	29th	Tracy Aldrich
3rd	Nikki Herren Steve Salowitz	18th	Cole Stadler		
6th	Barbara Mitchell	19th	Daxton Briggs Rebecca Enright Gregory Wortley		
7th	Debra Beyerlein Alayna Dalton Dana McClure Connor McRae Joyce Richardson	20th	Darren Dancer Jacob Faerber		
11th	Brooks Druelle	21st	Dave Marceills		
12th	Ella Frollo	22nd	Jeff Maeder		
14th	Linda Chilton	23rd	Cody Briggs Andy Friend Heidi Mackel Brett Phillipon		
		24th	Jacob Crook		



March Anniversaries

9th	Karen & Rick Hart
29th	Andrew & Stephanie Dunn

Please Remember Those on Ascension's Care List

Dick Chilton—17935 Roosevelt Rd,
Rm #5, Hemlock, MI 48626

Pat Joyce—8044 Winchester Ct.
Saginaw, MI 48609

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

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

Arlene Neuenfeldt—11819 Dice Rd.,
Freeland, MI 48623

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

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

Dan Wenzel—9065 Bray Rd., Saginaw,
MI 48609

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

Ruth Williams—Brookdale Saginaw,
2485 McCarty Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

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

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

PRAYING
FOR YOU

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.

March 2nd

Messiah Lutheran Church, Constantine, MI and Rev. Thomas Pederson
Ascension Families: Mitchell Turner; Ashley Turner-Singh & Brock Vasquez; Barb Van Marter

March 9th

Christ United Church, Dewitt, MI and Rev. Alex Aivars
Ascension Families: Lindsay, Dave, Lucas Vanthof; Noel, Ella, Landon, Sabrina, Olivia Wagner; Sarah Wagner

March 16th

Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Jordan, MI and Rev. Matt Deames
Ascension Families: Bryce, Megan, Brant, Brynn, Jayde, Layne Wakeman; Lindsay & Michael Walsh; Michelle, Brandon, Courtney, Josh, Ella Wardlow

March 23rd

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI and Rev. Carl Ballard
Ascension Families: Bob & Cathy Watz; Mike & Debbie Weadock; Spence, Tammy, Connor, Hannah Webb

March 30th

University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI and Rev. Emily Shipman & Rev. Zachary Shipman
Ascension Families: Matt, Tera, Harbor Weber; Dan Wenzel; Danielle Wenzel

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 2025 flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and many dates are available.

March 2nd

In memory of Bill Gottlieb, by Celina Gottlieb and family

March 9th

available to sponsor

March 16th

available to sponsor

March 23rd

In honor of Andy Friend’s birthday, by Kris Friend

March 30th

available to sponsor

NOTE: Please bring the plastic cup that the flowers are in, back to church within 2 weeks. Our florist re-uses the cups weekly.

WEEKEND FOOD BAGS HAVE A NEED!

Ascension’s weekend food bags program is trying to obtain 3,000 cloth grocery bags. They need to be new, or clean and “like new” condition.

The current plastic bags are getting too full & heavy and there are concerns about ripping bags.

If you have any to donate, please place them in the red box in the gathering area. Logos on the bags are ok.



Sewing Group

Do you like to sew or quilt? Ascension’s Sewing Group meets in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. on the dates noted. Bring your sewing supplies and 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. All donations are appreciated.

**March 5th & 19th
April 2nd & 16th
May 7th & 21st**



Cancelling Worship

The church Office **IS CLOSED** if Swan Valley Schools are Closed due to inclement weather



The church office closing due to inclement weather does not affect worship. If we do cancel worship due to inclement weather, you will see that post on Facebook, maybe get an email, possibly a phone call to the regular attenders who we know don't have social media,

AND it will be on the news channels under closings.



SERVICE CANCELED

Saving Energy & All Exterior Doors

As most of you are likely aware, for security purposes, we keep the exterior doors of the church locked, with those entering with a key or pressing the Ring doorbell (*at the front door*). Many times, the outside door is propped open when a ministry team is entering for a meeting or event. During the cold (*and very cold*) months, our heat is escaping at a rapid rate, not only cooling the inside, but also increasing our energy bill as the furnaces run extra.

Going forward, if you are meeting in the church, we ask that you do one of two things.

1. Unlock the exterior door so that your team members can enter, but the heat stays in. (*If you need instruction on how to unlock/lock the door please ask*)
2. Have a team member wait by the inside door letting each one in individually, until all team members have arrived.

If you choose to unlock the door, please lock it again when you leave. You can designate a team member for this job or pull on the door handle each time you leave the building to make sure it is locked. (*you may also lock it as soon as all team members arrive & you enter your meeting*)

We want to be good stewards with the offerings we receive and I'm sure everyone would agree that we would like to use our offerings to "boldly make Christ's vision known" rather than hand it over to the energy company.

Thank you!



The bishop's latest newsletter can be found here:

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

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will continue meeting informally on the **3rd Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m.** There are no requirements to share, no pressure, and everyone is welcome! This is not just a group of people from Ascension, it is open to the community, so feel free to share with anyone you know struggling with grief and may want to talk or just listen. If you have any questions about the Grief Support Group, do not hesitate to contact Linda Lentner at 989-274-7418 or linda.lentner@gmail.com.

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 16th**



BLOOD DRIVE

Ascension's next blood drive is:

April 3rd, 2:30pm-7pm.

Please sign up [online](#) or contact the church office for available times.

Walk-ins are welcome!

Living Lutheran In Print—**Last Chance**



In 2025, the Living Lutheran will again appear as a print magazine, published quarterly. This frequency will allow people to reconnect in a way that makes them feel part of the ELCA while keeping costs efficient and effective to produce the magazine.

The cost for a subscription signing up through Ascension (*group discount*) is **\$17**. We do need **10 members to have a group**, at the time of print of this article, **we have 4**. This is your last chance to sign up for the group rate.

If you are interested in receiving the print copy, please let Lisa in the office know. She will add you to the list. You

can provide your \$17 payment by writing "Living Lutheran" under the word "OTHER" on your giving envelope or dropping off payment to the church office anytime. All checks should be payable to Ascension Lutheran Church.





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.

Lawn Mowing Team

The Trustees are always welcoming individuals who would like to assist with lawn mowing. 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 Dick Schomaker at 989-327-9722. (an email was also sent in February to “current” team members, if you haven’t responded, please do so. Thank you)

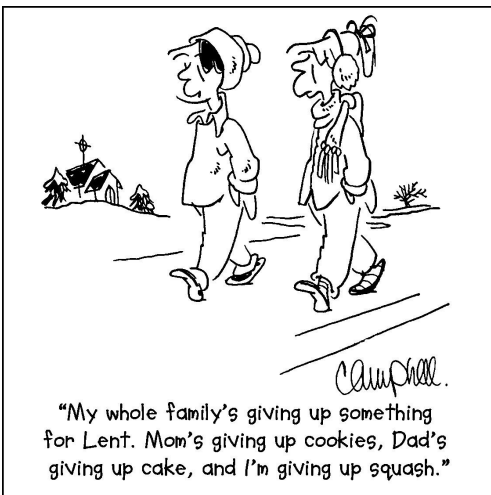


The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church. Deadline for the April 2025 issue is: **Monday, March 17th at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

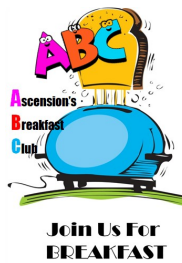
Fellowship Hall & Pavilion Rental

In addition to use by the various ministries in our congregation, the Fellowship Hall and Pavilion are available to church members for rental. Members have rented for family reunions, Christmas parties, graduation parties, baby and bridal showers, retirement parties, and wedding receptions; just to name a few.

To rent either facility, please contact the church office. The cost for up to 5 hours of use is a \$75 donation and \$125 for over 5 hours. A refundable security deposit of \$100 must be received. Requests for rental should be made at least one month prior to the event for ease in scheduling. Requests for the current year are first come first served and can begin the first business day of the calendar year.



Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) March 10th



All who are available for breakfast are invited to join others from Ascension for a time of fellowship and food on the second Monday of each month. We will meet at **9 a.m. at Sullivan’s at 5235 Gratiot Rd., in Saginaw**. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don’t need to prepare anything or clean up, just show up.

ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The February meeting of the ELCA Women of Saginaw County will be at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603, on **Monday, March 24th at 1:00 pm**. This group will be forming a nominating committee for the fall of 2025/2026. Gina Dillenbeck has volunteered to represent Ascension. If there is anyone at Ascension that is interested in one of the 3 leadership positions – President, Vice President or Secretary, for this Women’s Group, please contact Gina at 989-928-6829.

The group voted at their February meeting to collect twin blankets, can openers, pot holders, and shower curtain liners for the NEST. There will be a collection box in the gathering area. If you would like to learn more about the NEST program <[click here](#)>.

Please make sure to Like or Join both the [ELCA Women of Saginaw County](#) and the [ELCA Saginaw County](#) Facebook pages for updates.



Ascension’s Women’s Support Group



Ascension is participating with the ELCA Women of Saginaw County group. To effectively share information with our congregation and participate in their goals and programs, Ascension has established a women’s support group. This group is not the Women’s Group of Ascension’s past, however a group of women who would like to grow in faith, support one another in endeavors, engage in ministering to those in need, and to promote fellowship within our group, our churches, and our community. The contacts for Ascension’s Women’s Support Group are Gina Dillenbeck (chair), Wanda Dankert, Edna Bell, and Ginny Whelton. If you need their contact information, feel free to call the office.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Tables—ELCA Saginaw County

Representatives from the six ELCA congregations continue to meet and discuss how we might best proclaim Jesus in our community.

On **June 22, 2025**, we are planning another joint opportunity to gather as people of faith. This is being planned for an outdoor service that will include worship and educational conversations about what it means to be part of the ELCA.



Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Table

This is an extremely important time to learn and proclaim how the ELCA views scripture, is inclusive and strives for diversity, proclaims the grace of Jesus to all people. We are not the denomination that understands Jesus as primarily judgmental and determining who is in and who is out. We are not the denomination or church that many are exposed to by the news, TV evangelists, or political activists. We believe we are saved by grace through faith, through the work of Jesus—not by what we do or could do. We do not worship the Bible; we worship the God who is revealed in the Bible. Please understand that I, Pastor Julie do not believe the ELCA has everything right, but I do believe we offer an important aspect to the conversation of faith in our community and world.

As planning continues, more details will be available.

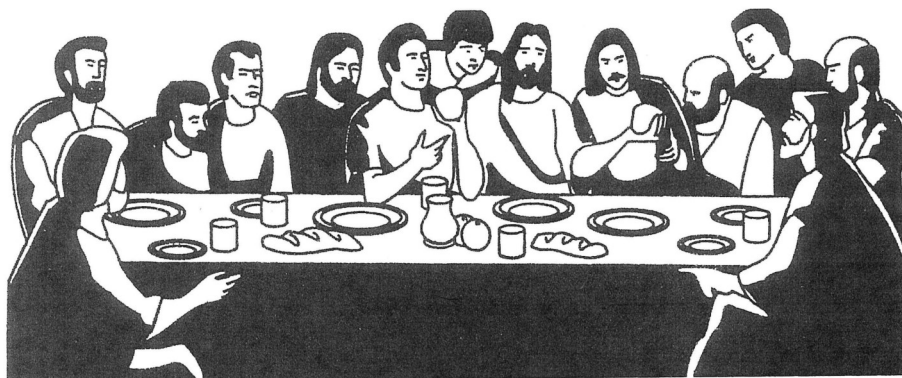
If you wish to join the conversation and planning, please talk to Pastor Julie or Kris Friend. Our next meeting is **Monday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway, Saginaw, MI 48602.

A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper

Save-the-Date: Our friends in Freeland are hosting "A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper" on Saturday, April 12th @ 7pm. The Public is welcome. Additional dates: Fri, Apr 11th in Hemlock and Sunday Apr 13th in Saginaw.

A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper

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



*****NEW PLACE*** Friday, April 11 @ 7 p.m. – The Well, 247 North Fordney Road, Hemlock
Saturday, April 12 @ 7 p.m. – Zion Evangelical Lutheran, 545 7th St., Freeland
Sunday, April 13 @ 6 p.m. – Holy Cross Lutheran, 600 Court St., Saginaw**

Questions? Call Frank (989) 751-5631

Ascension's Endowment—Grants & Scholarships

The Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is accepting applications for 2025 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 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, 2025.**



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, 2025.**

If there are any questions, please contact a member of the Endowment Committee Dave Becker Jr, Joyce Berg, Tony Dancer, Dawn Earnesty, Craig Ford, 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](#).

Deadlines for both opportunities are the 1st of February, May, August and November, considered quarterly as funds remain available, apply early.

Note: Applications first have to be provided to the Ascension's office, where Council and/or Pastor need to sign. Ascension will then forward all documents to the committee for review.

Bertha H. Wilson Family Trust Fund Grants

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 18th** and will review the applications. Once approved, the applications will be submitted as soon as possible. Application deadline is March 25th. This is one of the rare 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. Forms are available on the kiosk in paper form, and on ascensionlc.org, it can also be emailed to you



Thrivent Choice Dollars

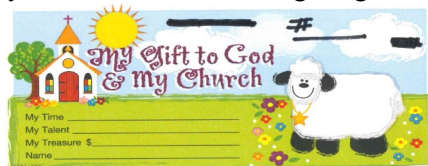
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

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, totaling **\$486!** 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, 2025.

Elementary Youth Giving Envelopes



We thank you greatly for teaching your children about giving and



using their giving envelopes. Envelopes can be picked up in the Children's Church classroom. Each youth has their own giving number. It is VERY helpful to ensure that their giving is recorded properly to put their **name and their giving #** on

the envelope each week. There is a sign posted just inside the door of the classroom with all the giving envelopes numbers listed. You may also use any envelope you have at home, as long as their name and number is written on it.

Center of HOPE Food Pantry—Open House

We welcome you to come down to the Center of HOPE Food Pantry, 723 Emerson St., Saginaw, MI 48607, on **Sunday, March 30th, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**, to see for yourself what the talk is all about. See what we do and how we provide food to the folks in Saginaw. Talk to our dedicated volunteers. Let us show you what is involved in volunteering. Let us show you how we stock our shelves and why we stock them that way. We also will be in the Middle of our fund drive. Let us show you where your donations go, how they are spent, and explain to you about our ten percent financial match the food bank is offering on every dollar donated in the months of March and April. There will be snacks, conversation, and eager Food Pantry volunteers that will talk to you about why our food pantry is needed in Saginaw at our location.

Center of HOPE Food Pantry—**NEW** Schedule

Ascension will serve at the Center of HOPE Food Pantry, 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607 on the following ****updated**** dates. Arrive at **8:30 a.m.** and 8-10 volunteers are needed.

April 9th • June 11th • July 23rd • September 10th • November 12th

The next Truck Unload & Pantry Shelf Stocking is **March 5th at 8:30 a.m.**



Center of HOPE Food Pantry—Annual Fundraiser

It is that time again, for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry fund drive, where the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan matches all donations by 10%. Please consider making a donation to help feed those with food insecurities in Saginaw. Please include the completed deposit slip with each donation. We work hard to provide food for every person that comes to our pantry with a food request. Last year it took over seventy thousand dollars for our food pantry to fill all the needs presented to us. Donations can be mailed to the address on the deposit slip and **must** have Pantry P981 written in the memo line. If you have any questions, please reach out our congregation's pantry representative, Amanda Doerr. The Flyer/Donation Form is on the kiosk.

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

Date: _____	Donation Amount: \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed
Please accept this donation on behalf of		
Agency Name: _____	Center of HOPE Food Pantry-Saginaw MI	Agency Acct #: P981
Donor Information		
<i>Complete a separate deposit form for each individual in need of a personal acknowledgement letter.</i>		
Donor Name: _____		
Address: _____		
Phone: _____ Email: _____		
Checks must be made payable to FBEM and dated between March 1, 2025 and April 30, 2025		
All donations must include this March Against Hunger Donation Form and be received by the Food Bank no later than Friday, May 9, 2025		
<i>Only agencies in good standing & current on reporting are eligible for the 10% account match</i>		

Ragman—A Drama

The Ragman is a story written by Walter Wangerin Jr. It is a story of how Jesus enters into our lives at the most vulnerable of moments of life. It is the story of love, redemption, and healing.

On **April 13th**, the Middle and High School Youth will share this story with our congregation as the Word of God is shared through this drama. All Middle and High School Youth are welcome to participate, I am hoping we can share this at both services on Sunday.

Youth—Please see Pastor Julie if you are interested in sharing this story of hope.

Parents & Youth—Watch your email for rehearsal times!



Confirmation Classes

te **Class Schedule—all classes are 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

- Mar 2nd & 16th
- Apr 6th
- Apr 27th Confirmation

Next Meeting to Discuss Summer Events and Fundraisers for the Youth
March 16, 2025 @ 11:30am
(after 10:30 worship)
This meeting is for Youth and their Parents.

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.



Children's Church/Sunday School

What is Children's Church?

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.

If you did not register in September, please complete the **Registration Form** on the kiosk for each student that will attend. The form is also found online at ascensionlc.org. Return the form to the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Earnesty or Pastor Julie.

Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 _____
- Psalms 78:45 _____
- Matthew 23:24 _____
- Judges 14:8b _____
- Acts 12:23 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Deuteronomy 7:20 _____
- Exodus 16:20 _____
- 1 Samuel 24:14 _____
- Isaiah 50:9 _____
- Isaiah 59:5 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.



What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

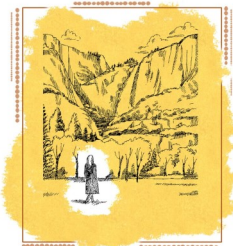
1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of ____."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones



Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: Ezekiel 37:1

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
2	Charleen Boland	Linda Lentner	2	Susan Kelley	Amy Fahrenbruch
9	Marty Debozy	Linda Luplow	9	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
16	Tom Erskine	Lori Schultz	16	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Whelton
23	Kris Friend	Heidi Trepkowski	23	Tom Page	Heidi Trepkowski
30	Joan Ford	Olivia Trepkowski	30	Charleen Boland	Dawn Dalton

Sound Board Operators

2	Kris Friend	Marissa Fahrenbruch
9	Jeff Whelton	Amy Fahrenbruch
16	†	Makena Whelton
23	Jeff Whelton	Makena Whelton
30	†	Marissa Fahrenbruch

Video Screen Operators

2	Charleen Boland	Amy Fahrenbruch
9	Susan Kelley	Marissa Fahrenbruch
16	Kris Friend	Marissa Fahrenbruch
23	Charleen Boland	Marissa Fahrenbruch
30	Charleen Boland	Amy Fahrenbruch

Head Ushers

2	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
9	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
16	Wilson	Dawson/Mossner
23	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein
30	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

2	Matti Wizner
9	Ethan Earnesty
16	Alex Becker
23	Hugh Carroll
30	Eliza Trepkowski



Altar Guild

2	Kris Friend
9	Kris Friend
16	Susan Kelley
23	Susan Kelley
30	Kris Friend

Children's Church

2	Dawn Earnesty & Stephanie Wizner
9	Louise Roby
16	David & Stephanie Becker
23	No Class—Spring Break
30	No Class—Spring Break

March Librarian: Marty Debozy



WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
5	Glen Mck	Connie Dutcher	Mike Romosier	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher
12	Mike Clifford	Kristin Kazmierski	†	Kelly Phillion	Donna Malburg
19	John Schroeder	Glen Mack	†	Celina Gottlieb	Celina Gottlieb
26	Mike Clifford	Melissa Pretzer	†	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford

Ascension Lutheran Church - March 2025






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 are having a meeting in the church, please let the church office know.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Food Bank of Easter Michigan—March Against Hunger Fundraising Campaign—Extra 10% match for donations March 1st thru April 30th—Details on Page 11 of March Newsletter</i></p>						<p>1 1pm-Kitchen Rental</p>
<p>2 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 4:30pm-Confiramation</p> 	<p>3 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw (@Resurrection)</p>	<p>4 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Commun.</p> 	<p>6 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg</p>	<p>7 <i>Office Closed</i></p> 	<p>8 1pm-Kitchen Rental</p>
<p>9 <i>Daylight Saving Time</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church</p>	<p>10 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Sullivan's 1pm-Women's Bible St</p>	<p>11 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>12 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>15 8:30am-Scouts Pinewood Derby @ Shields Elem.</p>
<p>16 <i>Noisy Offering-LWM BP Screening RaiseRight Due</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 11:30am-Youth Mtg 4:30pm-Confiramation</p>	<p>17 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline 1pm-Women's Bible St</p> 	<p>18 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg</p>	<p>19 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church</p>	<p>24 1pm-ELCA Women of Saginaw (@Our Saviour)</p>	<p>25 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p>26 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 1pm-Food Pantry Open House</p>	<p>31 1pm-Women's Bible St ALC Endowment Grant & Scholarship Deadline</p>					

Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 989-525-4603

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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
Charleen Boland, Treasurer
Stephanie Becker, Secretary
Susan Kelley, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Kristin Kazmierski, Congregational Care
Gus Hendrickson, Finance/Resources
Joyce Berg, Outreach
Celina Gottlieb, Spiritual Health

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw
(Group Name: Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw (ELCA) Group)
YouTube: Ascension Lutheran Church
ELCA Saginaw Website: elcasaginawcounty.weebly.com
ELCA Saginaw Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/elcasaginawcounty

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.