



Lenten & Holy Week Worship

As we continue in our season of Lent, our journey with Jesus to the cross, we are focusing on various kinds of Lament. Each week we 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 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 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 continues as follows:

- 7p.m. -Wednesday, April 2nd –Individual Lament
- 7p.m. -Wednesday, April 9th –Communal Lament
- 8a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 13th –Palm Sunday
- 7p.m. -Thursday, April 17th –Maundy Thursday
- *12p.m. -Friday, April 18th –Ecumenical Good Friday service at First United Methodist, 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48638
- 7p.m. -Friday, April 18th –Good Friday service at Ascension Lutheran Church (*offering for East Side Soup Kitchen*)
- 8a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 20th –Easter service



*The Ecumenical service is designed to be two 30-minute services, not identical so people can come for the whole service, or at 12 p.m. or 12:30 p.m.

Choir— @Ecumenical Service 4/18/25



A joint choir will be offered at the Ecumenical service at First United Methodist on **Good Friday, April 18th**. If anyone is interested in singing, please get the music from Lisa, in our church office. The music is simple. Most of the practice of the music will be on your own, however there are the following rehearsals at First United Methodist:

- 7 p.m. April 10th
- 11 a.m. April 18th

The choir will perform at both the 12pm and 12:30pm services.

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Special points of interest:

- *Soup Suppers, Weds Apr 2nd & 9th, 6pm*
- *Blood Drive Apr 3rd, 2:30-7pm*
- *Membership Updates (pg 5)*
- *Living Portrayal of the Last Supper (pg 9)*
- *Center of HOPE Food Pantry—Annual Fundraiser thru Apr 30th (pg 10)*

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.)

Message from Pastor Julie

Called to Make Disciples

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”—Matthew 28:18-20

This is the Great Commission—what we as people of Jesus are called to do, make disciples. Disciples are follower and learners of Jesus. As we make disciples, we continue our own journey of discipleship, growing into our faith, maturing as people of God.

God’s expectations are greater than the one’s we have to maintain membership. In the early church, according to Acts 2:44-47: ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Discipleship is about being in community, with Jesus and with each other; sharing what we have, praising God together in worship and in fellowship, sharing in communion, and encouraging one another in our faith journeys. Discipleship is about showing up, engaging, growing, encouraging. As we continue our journey to the cross, and as we will hear the best news ever—“Christ is Risen,” death does not win!, how might you and I be more intentional on our journey and inviting others who are already part of Ascension and those beyond to join us in this journey.

Pastor Julie



Noisy Offering-Living Water Ministries

We raised **\$523.01** in the Noisy Offering for Living Water Ministries on March 16th. A huge thank you to Dan Carlson, Director of Programs & Partnerships for discussing Love and the programs that they offer.

(Pictured Left: Dan Carlson with the members of Ascension who were present at 10:30a.m. and have attended camp or Charge)

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

- **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 with "Four Emphases of the Church."

Daily Bible Reading

Pastor is leading a Daily Bible Reading on YouTube to get into the habit of reading scripture. This discipline is important for those of us who follow Christ. Next we will read through the gospel of John.

Click [Here](#) or Scan the QR code.



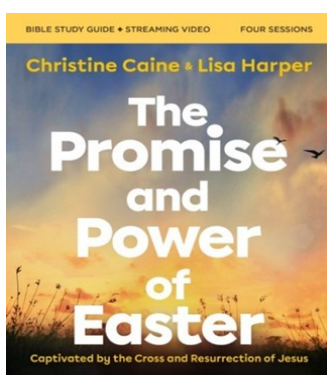
Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study

Our study "Luke" by Lisa Harper will end on April 7, 2025.

Our next begins on **Monday, April 14, 2025.** It will be "**The Promise and Power of Easter**" by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper.

The study will last four weeks and we meet on **Mondays, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.** in the Digging Dunes Room at Ascension Lutheran Church, 8695 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609.

The only thing that truly changes the trajectory of any of our lives is realizing the magnitude of



what happened on the Cross. This study invites us to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and the transformative power at His resurrection

Christine Caine is a speaker, activist, and bestselling author. She and her husband, Nick,

founded the A21 Campaign, an anti-human trafficking organization. They also founded Propel Women, an initiative that is dedicated to coming alongside women all over the globe to activate their God-given purpose.

Lisa Harper has 30+ years of church ministry and leadership. She has authored multiple books and Bible studies.

We invite you to join us for this short, but meaningful study time together. Please call or text Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 to secure your book for the study.



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

April Birthdays

1st Thomas Deaton
Thomas Mitchell
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

16th Marissa Fahrenbruch
18th Dave Becker, Sr.
Courtney Wardlow
19th Chris Howe
Pam Mackel
20th Ryann Kittle
21st Eliza Trepkowski
23rd Steve Haupt
Kathy McNally
24th Jack Goschke
Sara Gregor
25th Breana Mack
28th Susie Long
Harbor Weber
29th Bryan Carroll

April Anniversaries

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



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

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

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

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 6th

Grace Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI and Rev. Max Miller
Ascension Families: Jeff & Vicki Wenzel; Tamera Wenzel; John & Ginny Whelton

April 13th

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Edmore, MI and stated supply pastor, Rev. John Autio
Ascension Families: John, Nancy, Johnny, Josh, Nikki, Courtney Whelton; Jeff, Lisa, Joscelyn, Makena Whelton; Barry & Sue Wiggins

April 20th

Calvary Lutheran Church, Elk Rapids, MI and Rev. Zac Nelson
Ascension Families: Cathy Wight; Donald Wight; Ruth Williams

April 27th

Trinity Lutheran Church, Frankfort, MI and Rev. Richard Stieve
Ascension Families: Tim & Carol Wilson; David, Sara, Max Witker; Matt, Stephanie, Hannah, Matti, Ellie Wizner



Updating Membership

The congregation council has approved a plan to address to review our current “membership” rolls and to update them as needed. Currently, our records show that we have 536 members, 90 of which are children (baptized, not confirmed).

The last time we intentionally reviewed membership was in 2018. Because of COVID and the hesitation of people returning to public worship, we postponed reviews. Our plan is to address membership annually, as defined in our constitution:



C12.07. The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

Per our constitution:

***C8.02.** Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

If our records show that you have not satisfied the basic standards of voting membership, communed and have a contribution on record in the current or preceding calendar year, you will likely receive a letter from the congregation to clarify your membership. We will be requesting a response of whether you wish to remain a member and plan to participate more actively in the congregation, whether you are worshipping elsewhere or wish to have your membership removed for other reasons. We understand that we may be unaware of health or other issues that may prevent you from attending. If so, we want to be aware of needs and you can make us aware of those needs. And it is possible, our information may not be correct.

Please make note of the following information about membership as well:

***C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

***C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with Chapter 20 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.



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.

April 6th
available to sponsor

April 13th
In honor of Marissa’s birthday, by Amy Fahrenbruch

April 20th
available to sponsor

April 27th
In honor of Olivia Trepkowski and Brooklyn Becker’s confirmation by Dave and Dot Becker.

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.



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*) or warm (*and very warm*) months, our heat (or cooling) is escaping at a rapid rate, not only cooling/heating the inside, but also increasing our energy bill as the furnaces/air conditioning 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/cool 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/>

The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church. Deadline for the May 2025 issue is: **Monday, April 21st at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be hand delivered or emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

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.

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. Due to Easter, the next one will be held on **Sunday, April 13th**

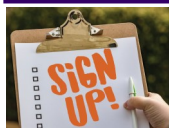


Blood Drive

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** Sign Up By 3/30



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.

Thank you for the rides, food, visits, and prayers during this time of need. They are much appreciated. It's great to have these relationships with our church family.

Ron & Donna Fries.



ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The February 24, 2025 meeting was at Faith Lutheran Church @ 1:00 pm. There were 26 in attendance including the guest speaker, Kathy York, leader of the 100+ WoMen Who Care local chapter. Kathy explained how she became involved with this group. Easter cards were signed and donated to local nursing homes. There was a discussion about a nominating committee for start up meetings starting in September 2025 through May 2026. Melinda Klopfenstein, Laura Yelsik and Gina Dillenbeck have volunteered for this committee. The next meeting will be at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway St., Saginaw, MI 48602 on **April 28th at 1:00 pm.**

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.

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, April 7th at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 6065 King Rd, Bridgeport, MI 48722

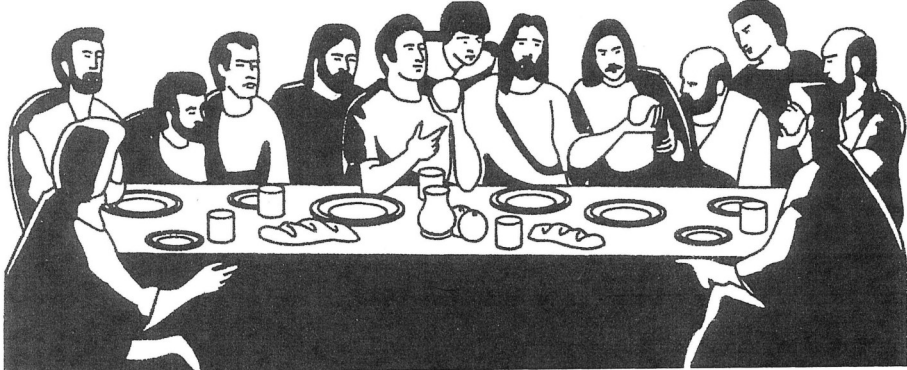


A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper

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

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+,

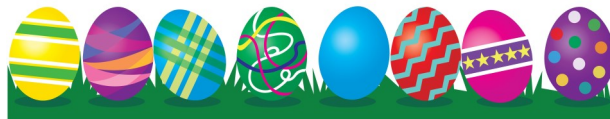
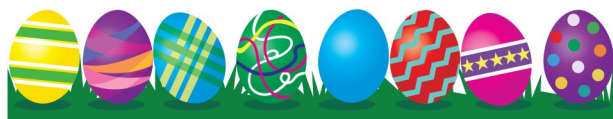
who are a confirmed member/employee of one of the ELCA churches in the Saginaw area and attending K-12, Jr College or University, or payment on their student loan.

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.



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 **April 2nd 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: \$ _____ Check Enclosed

Please accept this donation on behalf of

Agency Name: Center of HOPE Food Pantry-Saginaw MI Agency Acct #: P981

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, 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**

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

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.

**April 2nd & 16th
May 7th & 21st**



Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC) April 14th



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.

Affirmation of Baptism—April 27, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.



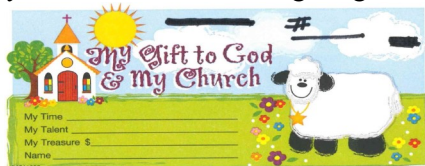
Seven youth of our congregation are preparing to affirm their baptismal covenant during worship on April 27th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. These youth have participated in class work and will have completed the expectations set to take this step in their faith.

Affirmation of Baptism, also known as Confirmation, is the intentional act in faith to confirm the promises to continue in faith, the same promises made by their parents, guardians, sponsors and congregation when they received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Reminder to parents and youth—your final papers are due April 8, 2025. I will then present your names to the congregation council and inform them that you have met the requirements to be confirmed. As these youth are confirmed, they will become voting members of our congregation. We pray for these youth, their parents, and our congregation as we continue to support each other as we grow together in faith.

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.

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

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

- Apr 6th
- Apr 27th Confirmation



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!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

- Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4
- Birds lay these in a nest 5 6 7 8
- A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13
- These bloom in spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
- Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

J 5 8 31 20 8 2 3 32 ... " I 2 30

2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29

F 2 23 10 18 26 2 4 32 29 16 22 1

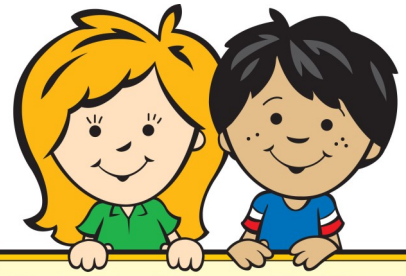
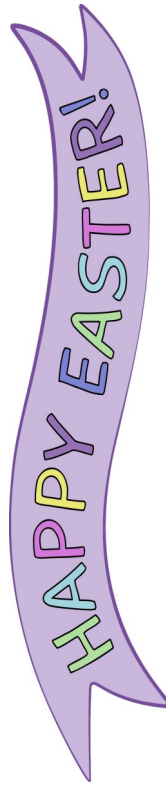
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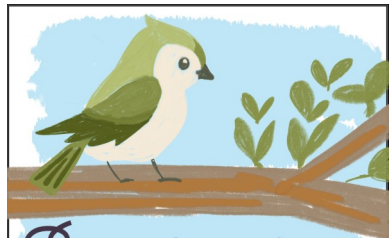
John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has _____ !

Answers: rain; eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud; Jesus said, "... I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!



KIDS PAGE



Springing
to
LIFE



New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



Bible Quiz

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- "I thirst!"
- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- "It is finished!"

Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:

**Matthew 27:46,
Mark 15:34,
Psalm 22:1**



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
6	Dan Roth	Chris Crump	6	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
13	<i>No Reader Needed</i>	<i>No Reader Needed</i>	13	Ruth Schomaker	Amy Fahrenbruch
20	Susan Kelley	Lisa Whelton	20	Susan Kelley	Lisa Whelton
27	Dick Schomaker	Barb Van Marter	27	Tom Page	Chris Crump

Sound Board Operators

6	Jeff Whelton	†
13	†	†
20	†	Makena Whelton
27	Kris Friend	†

Video Screen Operators

6	Susan Kelley	Ginny Whelton
13	Kris Friend	Ginny Whelton
20	†	†
27	†	†

Head Ushers

6	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
13	Wilson	Dawson/Mossner
20	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein
27	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

6	Hannah Wizner
13	Nathan Earnesty
20	Ethan & Nathan Earnesty
27	Ethan Earnesty

Altar Guild

6	Kris Friend
13	Kris Friend
20	All
27	†

Lawn Mowers

Dan Roth
Dalton/Aldrich
Howe/Blehm

Children's Church

6	Amanda Doerr
13	<i>No Class—The Ragman Drama</i>
20	<i>No Class—Easter</i>
27	<i>No Class—Confirmation</i>



April Librarian: Marty Debozy

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
4/17	Susan Kelley/†	Connie Dutcher	Mike Romosier	Connie Dutcher	<i>No Prayers Needed</i>
4/18	Mike Clifford/Susan Kelley	Kristin K/Amy F/Lori S/ Dick S/Mike C	†	†	Ruth Schomaker

WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
2	Glen Mack	John Schroeder	†	Kelly Phillion	<i>No Prayers Needed</i>
9	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Celina Gottlieb	<i>No Prayers Needed</i>
16	<i>No Worship</i>	<i>No Worship</i>	<i>No Worship</i>	<i>No Worship</i>	<i>No Worship</i>
23	John Schroeder	Glen Mack	†	Glen Mack	Donna Malburg
30	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	Mike Clifford

Ascension Lutheran Church - April 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 thru April 30th—Details on Page 10 of April Newsletter</i></p>		<p><i>1</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5:15pm-Weekend Food Bags w/Girl Scouts 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p><i>2</i> 8:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:00pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p><i>3</i> 2:30-7pm-Blood Drive (FH) 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg</p>	<p><i>4</i> Office Closed</p>	<p><i>5</i> Pr @ Synod Council Mtg</p>
<p><i>6</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Children's Church 4:30pm-Confirmation Class</p>	<p><i>7</i> 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw (St. Matthew's Bridgeport)</p>	<p><i>8</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors Confirmation Exams Due to Pastor Julie TODAY!</p>	<p><i>9</i> 8:30am-Serve @ Food Pantry 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:00pm-Soup Supper 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion</p>	<p><i>10</i> 5:30pm-100+Women Mtg (FH) 7pm-Ecumenical Choir practice (1st United Methodist)</p>	<p><i>11</i> Office Closed</p>	<p><i>12</i> 7pm-Living Portrayal of Last Supper (@Zion Freeland)</p>
<p><i>13 Palm Sunday</i> <i>BP Screening</i> 8am-Worship/Communion/Ragman Drama 10:30am-Worship/Communion/Ragman Drama</p> 	<p><i>14</i> 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Sullivan's 1pm-Women's Bible St</p>	<p><i>15</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg</p>	<p><i>16</i> 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts NO WORSHIP</p>	<p><i>17 Maundy Thursday</i> 7pm-Worship/Communion</p> 	<p><i>18 Good Friday</i> Office Closed 11am-Ecumenical Choir practice 12pm-Ecumenical Worship at 1st United Methodist 7pm-Worship</p> 	<p><i>19</i></p>
<p><i>20 Easter</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion</p> 	<p><i>21</i> 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline 1pm-Women's Bible St</p>	<p><i>22</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p> 	<p><i>23</i> 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion</p> 	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i> Office Closed</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>
<p><i>27 Confirmation Sunday</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion</p>	<p><i>28</i> 1pm-Women's Bible St 1pm-ELCA Women of Saginaw (@Resurrection)</p>	<p><i>29</i> 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors</p>	<p><i>30</i> 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed</p>			

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

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.ascensionlc.org

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Lisa Whelton, Parish Administrator
Jeff Whelton, Custodian
Rita Hendrickson, Parish Nurse

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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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Website: www.ascensionlc.org
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.