



The Messenger

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

Worship in the Park—June 22, 2025 at 10am

The ELCA congregations in Saginaw County will worship together on Sunday, June 22nd at Haithco Recreation Center, beginning at 10 a.m. Worship will be followed by a picnic—hotdogs will be provided. We ask that people bring a lawn chair, place setting, beverage (non-alcoholic) and dish to pass. We ask you to sign up to ensure we will have enough hotdogs. We are also purchasing t-shirts for the event that day (not required). If you want one, see page 10 of this newsletter. **There will not be worship at Ascension on June 22nd**



WORSHIP

IN THE PARK

Join the Saginaw County ELCA churches for **worship TOGETHER** at Haithco Recreation Area!

BRING a camp chair, place setting, dish to pass, and beverage of choice.
(No alcoholic beverages are permitted.)

Hot dogs will be provided.





SUNDAY,
JUNE 22, 2025



AT 10:00 AM



**2121 SCHUST
ROAD; USE
MCCARTY
ENTRANCE**

WORSHIP

EDUCATION

GAMES

POTLUCK

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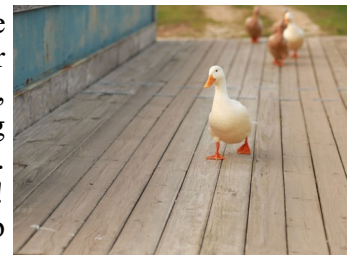
Special points of interest:

- *New Members, pg 6*
- *Children's Church Celebration May 11th*
- *Spring Cleanup May 17th*
- *Weekend Food Bags Updates, pg 8*
- *Women's collection for the Nest, pg 9*
- *ELCA Saginaw County T-shirts, pg 10*
- *Office Closed May 26th (Memorial Day)*

Message from Pastor Julie

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

One of my favorite sermon illustrations that I didn't use this year tells of some ducks who worshipped on Easter Sunday. The duck family waddled to Easter services, and they were enthralled by the beauty of the flowers, singing of Alleluia, pews filled with ducks. The duck preacher told the congregation that everything was changed because Jesus had died and is now alive; Jesus is risen from the dead. Do not go back to life as usual, live into the resurrection. You can fly, you can fly! And the duck congregation shouted Amen, Amen! And at the end of the worship service, they all waddled home.



I hope you are laughing a bit, but there is some truth in this story. Like those disciples of Jesus' day, we are perplexed and amazed that death did not have the final say. They went to the tomb expecting to find Jesus' dead body, but he was and is not there! Life conquers death! Alleluia!

If we return to life as usual, with the harried schedules that don't make room for us to engage in our relationship with Jesus and with the body of Christ, we fail to live into this new life that is offered, has been ushered in, and renews the joy, the amazement, and the awe of life in Jesus the Christ.

Because of Jesus, we have confidence in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We will continue to pronounce Alleluia! Christ is Risen! This confidence in new life gives us the hope to see Jesus in the best and worst of times. As we grieve the death of loved ones, we hear the hope and promise that Jesus says we will be with him, that though we die we live. We hear that in Jesus the suffering, disappointment, and pain will be put to death by Jesus. We trust that even in a world that is all messed up, Jesus will right the world and invites us to be part of this in how we live out faith in a world that will scoff and mock us.

This is a time of renewed fervor. This is not the time to lock ourselves away in fear or forgetfulness. This is the time to renew our faith, our promise to live with Jesus each and every moment of life. We must not put it off for a later time, for a rainy day, when life calms down—because as I am learning, it never will. Jesus tells us we can fly. Jesus offers life, eternal life. Eternal life begins now!

Over the next weeks, there will be times that we can renew the covenant that God made with us in baptism, as we remember that we have died and have new life in Jesus. Seven of our young people will affirm their faith the end of April. We have several people who desire to join with us at Ascension to grow in their faith and to live out their faith in our community, by affirming their baptisms.

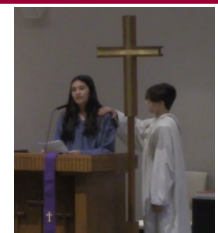
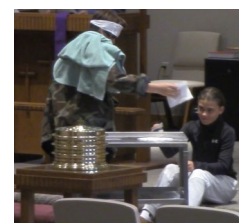
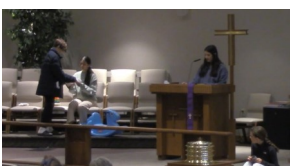


Renewed fervor requires participation and investment. New life comes at a cost, most notably the death and resurrection of Jesus. How will you participate with the body of Christ to grow in faith, to renew your trust, to gather with others as we hear the teachings, break bread, and share what we have? What investment will you make to enable Ascension to be a mission outpost to proclaim the confident message of Jesus with each other and with our community?

May you being each day—Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Pastor Julie

Thank you to our Youth who performed The Ragman Drama on Sunday, April 13th



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



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



During May, our Sunday morning Bible Study will look at Four Emphases of the church:

- **May 4th:** We are Church
- **May 11th:** We are Lutheran
- **May 18th:** We are Church Together
- **May 25th:** We are Church for the Sake of the World.

We will take a break from Sunday morning studies during the months of June and July.

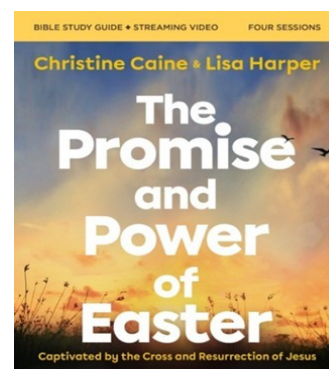


Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study

Our four week study "**The Promise and Power of Easter**" by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper will end on May 12th.

We will meet on **Mondays 5/5 and 5/12, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.** in the Digging Dunes Room at Ascension Lutheran Church, 8695 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609.

Please call or text Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 with any questions.



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

*No classes on
May 13th & 20th*

May Birthdays

1st	Lyric Haupt	19th	Jennifer Salowitz
	Josh Wardlow		Beau Turner
2nd	Mikey Falkenberg	21st	Elizabeth Kolb
	Breanna Kocsis		John Robishaw
	Maija Preston	23rd	Mackenzie Morgan
	Lisa Stadler	26th	Samantha Dalton
3rd	Lauren Huebner		Victor Mancini
	Amy Zeitler		Carole Soule
4th	Nicki Bieszk	27th	Allison Faerber
	Marie Myers		Marv Lentner
5th	Joshua Lopez	28th	Ashley Blehm
7th	Brian Awad		Sharon Boyd
	Emily Dreyfus		Eric Dunn
8th	Dorothy Mayou	29th	Tanya Blehm
9th	Mary Collison		Heather Darabos
11th	Lynn Staples		Susan Kelley
13th	Kathy Fleming		Heidi McGrandy
	Georgia Hickner		Don Mossner
16th	Cathy Watz	30th	Bryn Carroll
17th	Craig Ford		Cheryl Huebner
	Leslie Soyster		Matt Wizner
18th	Katelyn Arndt	31st	Maverick Toupin

May Anniversaries

1st	Scott and Tanya Blehm
2nd	Patrick and Bonnie Dalton
3rd	Michael and Lisa Randall
5th	Robert and Heath Darabos
	Donna and Duane Malburg
	Craig and Bobbi Tilley
7th	Brent and Natalie Fleissner
11th	Terry and Jamie Waters
16th	Brian and Lisa Stadler
17th	Steve and Kathy McNally
25th	Bob and Debbie Beyerlein
	Josh and Malory Lopez
28th	Mark and Georgia Hickner
30th	Adam and Chelsea Houthoofd



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.

May 4th

Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland, MI
and Rev. Kevin O'Bryan
*Ascension Families: Samantha Wright;
Barb Yancer; Jayme York*

May 11th

Edgewood Lutheran Church Fruitport,
MI, Rev. Ellen Schoepf
*Ascension Families: Kathy York; Sally
York; Alisha & Todd Albrecht*

May 18th

Peace Lutheran Church, Gaylord, MI
and Rev. Megan Crouch
*Ascension Families: Bob & Tracy
Aldrich; Brittany Aldrich; Kim & Scott
Anderson*

May 25th

Christ the King Lutheran Church,
Gladwin, MI and Rev. Emily Olsen-
Brandt
*Ascension Families: Amber, Mitchell,
Charlie Andrus; Cheryl & James
Andrus; Nancy Armstrong*



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.

Desiring Membership with Ascension

Have you been worshipping with Ascension and desire to intentionally join our ministry together? We are receiving information on people who wish to join Ascension Lutheran Church. To join one needs to be baptized, and we can discuss and arrange that if desired. Forms to complete may be found on our website (www.ascensionlc.org) under forms. We also ask that you complete a Time and Talent form for each family member to help us involve you in our ministry. Together we encourage one another to become the disciples God calls us to be in our world and community.



Voting members are confirmed members who have during the current or preceding calendar year communed in this congregation and made a contribution of record to this congregation. New members join by Affirmation of Faith, which is "Confirmation."

Spring Cleanup—May 17th



The Annual Church Spring Cleanup will be held on **Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m.** Please consider helping as there are many tasks to be completed. Please sign up on the kiosk at church if you can help!! Contact Tom Bailey 989-239-3928 with any questions.

Tasks to be Completed:

- Pavilion Cleanup - Powerwash/scrub building, tables and concrete floor
- Courtyard - Powerwash sidewalk and patio, place bench (stored in garage for winter)
- Entrance Door Urns - Add plants
- Trash Pick Up - Ditch and around building
- Branches/Sticks - Pick up all downed branches/sticks around all trees (see if member can take home for yard waste pickup)
- Pine Cones - Rake up cones around all pine trees (see if member can take home for yard waste pickup)
- Flower Beds - Cut back grasses, prune shrubs
- Wash Windows - Inside and Outside Sanctuary, Choir Room, Youth Room, Nursery, Gathering Area, Entry Way, Library, Education Hall Rooms, Fellowship Hall rooms, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- Clean and Check Lights - Wipe out and remove bugs-Nursery, Youth Room, Choir



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 to 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.

May 7th & 21st

The group does not meet Jun-Aug



The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the June 2025 issue is: **Monday, May 19th 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, May 18th



ABC Breakfast



Ascension's Breakfast Club—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.

Next Date: May 12th

Blood Drive—WE DID IT!!!!

It takes a community - and you all came through. Our first blood drive of 2025 was a success! Ascension had a goal set by Versiti of 15 units. We were able to provide a total of **16 units** of blood on Thursday, April 3rd during our drive. Thank you to all who came out to donate. I know there were a few who were unable to donate. Each and every one of your efforts are deeply appreciated.

Our next drive of the year is scheduled for **June 26th, 2:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** If you would like to reserve your donation spot now, please sign up using [this link](#). You may also call the church office to reserve a time.

~Rita Hendrickson, Parish Nurse



Soup Supper Update

thank you

Thank you to everyone who brought soup, bread, salad, and desserts for this year's Lenten Soup Suppers. Thank you to the youth and their parents for set up, serving, and clean up. Over the season, the youth received \$806 for our youth ministry activities. And we had great food and fellowship.

Junior League of the Great Lakes Bay Region Grant Received for the Weekend Food Bags

The Junior League of the Great Lakes Bay Region awarded their Community Impact Grant of \$7,500 to the Weekend Food Bags program. The focus of their grant is to those who are committed to Food Security. The JLGLBR intends to partner with or provide support to local non profit agencies in the form of "Time, Talent and Treasure" to further the objective. Sue Bailey made a presentation on the Weekend Food Bags program at the JLGLBR April membership meeting.

Bertha Wilson Grant Received for the Weekend Food Bags



The Bertha Wilson Family Trust Fund has awarded the Weekend Food Bags project a check for \$2,250. The following note was received from Bob LaDuke on the committee:

This note is to inform the ELCA churches in Saginaw County that the annual Grant Distribution process for the Bertha H. Wilson Fund has been completed for 2025. This year we had a total of \$12,500.00 available for grants. We received grants from 5 of the 6 churches in Saginaw county totaling \$15,250.00 requested. All churches that submitted grant applications received at least 75% of their requested amount. The grants received were put into classifications and they were 4 grants applied for help with Food, 3 grants for caring for the needs of others, and 1 grant geared

toward Discipleship. We encourage all churches to begin thinking about the 2026 grant process for the Bertha H. Wilson Fund and how your church can make an impact for those who can benefit from a hand up. Thank you for your participation and communication of this Grant process each year. We look forward to helping out in the future as we can.

Farm Bureau Michigan Agent Charitable Fund Grant Received for the Weekend Food Bags

The Weekend Food Bags was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to fight food insecurity in the community by the Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan Agent Charitable Fund(ACF). Ascension is one of ten organizations throughout the state to receive a Feeding the Future Grant from the ACF in April. Organizations are nominated by a local Farm Bureau Insurance agent and then selected by a committee. Farm Bureau Insurance agent Jennifer Howie nominated Ascension for the grant. Jennifer brought her Girl Scout Troop from Shields Elementary to assist filling food bags on April 1st.

Weekend Food Bags Program Update

Joyce Berg, Minister of Outreach, has worked many hours securing grants for the Weekend Food Bags program. We thank Joyce for the hard work she has committed to securing this program's future at Ascension. Not all members are aware, but the requests for food bags has increased in all three school districts.

In the 2023-2024 school year, we donated 66 food bags per week for 39 weeks. This school year, 2024-2025, food is provide for 87 students per week for 35 weeks. The cost is approximately \$7-\$7.15 for each food bag. Total for the year is \$22,000.



Ascension provides for two meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with snacks. We strive to provide healthy food an elementary child can prepare. Hidden Harvest is able to provide leaves of bread, seasonal fruit, and various snack items. We purchase milk, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pudding, applesauce, chef boyardee single servings, mac and cheese, cup of noodles, granola bars, cheez-its, fruit snacks, cheese crackers and fruit juice boxes. We deliver the food in recycled plastic or donated cloth grocery bags.



Our goal is to never turn a child away and to continue this program as long as we can obtain funding. In addition to the grants noted in this newsletter, the program has also received grants from the Grace Lutheran Endowment and the North/West Lower MI Synod Publicly Engaged Church. Ascension members and community members support the program through individual donations and the program is included in Ascension's budget. We thank and appreciate everyone who donates their time and talents to this program.

ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The March 24, 2025 meeting was at Our Saviour Lutheran Church @ 1:00 pm. There were 23 in attendance including the guest speaker.

Amy Bartels Roe, representative from the Mustard Seed was the guest speaker. Amy told us that the Mustard Seed was founded in 1995 and that since 2002 they were located at 1325 Cherry St. in Saginaw. The program was started by the Catholic Diocese. The Mustard Seed is a welcoming shelter for women and children providing shelter, clothing and other needs. They service between 35-40 every night. They are always in need of volunteers, if interested reach out to Amy at 989-295-08392. The Nest was started by Mustard Seed then later was taken over by the Partnership Center.

Nominating Committee: Melinda Klopfenstein, Laura Yelsik and Gina Dillenbeck, with Betty Nagel absent met on March 11th. Titles have been changed from President to Leader, Vice President to Co-Chair & Secretary. Felt that there is no need for a Treasurer at this time. Betty Nagel will run as Co-Chair. Leader and Secretary needs to be filled. Gina Dillenbeck said she would take a position.

The group voted at their April meeting to collect **Cheese Graters, Night Lights, Measuring Spoons, Brooms, Swiffer Wet Floor Mops, Can Openers, Standard Size Pillow Protectors** 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](#)>.

The next meeting will be at Zion Lutheran Church in Freeland on **May 19th at 1:00 pm**. The meeting will include a potluck luncheon of Salad & Desserts. ~ Gina Dillenbeck

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.

Center of HOPE Food Pantry

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. **June 11th • July 23rd • September 10th • November 12th**. The next Truck Unload & Pantry Shelf Stocking is **May 7th at 8:30 a.m.**

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.

ELCA Saginaw County T-shirts

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to share in proclaiming the loving message of Jesus alongside our siblings in the other ELCA congregations of Saginaw County. We believe when we work together, we can do even greater things.

We have designed T-shirts that are available to purchase. When you wear them, it provides a launching point for a conversation when someone asks you about what that means.

The ELCA congregations in Saginaw County are:

- Ascension Lutheran Church/Saginaw
- Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church/Saginaw
- Our Saviour Lutheran Church/Saginaw
- Resurrection Lutheran Church/Saginaw
- St. Matthew's Lutheran Church/Bridgeport
- Zion Lutheran Church/Freeland

T-shirts must be ordered by **June 1st**.

Cost is **\$20** (for **ALL** sizes)

Crew neck and V-neck are available for adults in sizes XS-4X

Crew neck only for youth sizes XS-XL

Fabric is 50/25/25 poly/combed ring spun combed cotton/rayon (District Brand)

(A sample is at Ascension)



Please complete the order form, the payment is made to Ascension Lutheran Church at the time of ordering.

If you order the shirt, you are encouraged to wear it on June 22nd when we worship at Haithco Park. Shirt is not required for attendance, attendance is not required to purchase a shirt!

ELCA Saginaw County T-shirt Order Form

Orders Due by June 1st w/ Payment

Checks Payable to Ascension Lutheran Church

Name: _____

<u>Adult Crew Neck</u> (indicate # of each)	<u>Adult V-Neck</u> (indicate # of each)	<u>Youth Crew Neck</u> (indicate # of each)
____ XS	____ XS	____ XS
____ Small	____ Small	____ Small
____ Medium	____ Medium	____ Medium
____ Large	____ Large	____ Large
____ X-Large	____ X-Large	____ X-Large
____ 2XL	____ 2XL	
____ 3XL	____ 3XL	
____ 4XL	____ 4XL	

Office Use Only: Paid by ☐ Cash ☐ Check, Check # _____ Date: _____

Affirmation of Baptism / Confirmation

The following young people affirmed their baptism:

- April 27th: Rhys Awad, Brooklyn Becker, Greyston Hendrickson, Henry Salowitz, and Olivia Trepkowski
- April 30th: Olivia Bostwick and Ella Bostwick

We give thanks for their commitment to faith in Jesus and for their participation in our life together. Please continue to hold them in their prayer as they continue their journeys of faith.

2025 Confirmation Faith Statements:

Rhys Awad: Faith means to me is if I trust God in his ways, He will guide me through life. As I get “older” I will understand faith more because I will be more knowledgeable through studies and repetition. Jesus has influenced me in choices most of the time. If I want I really want to do something but I know it won’t be the best, I won’t do it. I only ever learned faith through church and the Bible, nothing specific lessons come to mind.

Brooklyn Becker: Faith means to me, to teach others about God and to show God that I care about Him. It means to share the light of Jesus with all people. As I am getting older I am learning more about God every time I go to church. I am learning that Jesus is very important to me. I am thinking more about how I treat others and being kind because God has shown me how important it is to be kind to others. Being kind shows them Jesus’ love for them. Jesus encourages us to be the light in the world. He wants me to show my light and goodness to others so that they might come to church and know Him. When I make decisions I ask God for help and He gives me that help. God created the world and everything good in it. I see God in the sunshine. I see God working in the world when someone gives me a hug, or smiles at me. The thing that has really helped me in my faith has been music. Singing at camp, in church, and at Charge has helped me learn about God and express my feelings and love for Him.

Greyston Hendrickson: To me faith is believing in something that you don’t know if what you believe in is true. If you asked me three years ago if God exists I would say of course. But if you asked me right now I would say “I don’t know.” But I do know if God and Jesus are up there waiting for me they have helped me many times and will many more.

Henry Salowitz: Jesus has had an impact on my faith by teaching me what faith is and what it means to be a true Christian. Faith encourages you to become who you are called to be by showing you that you can be more than you think. It informs how you make decisions because you may put your trust in God when you make a decision. God is at work in our world by constantly making it better.

Olivia Trepkowski: My faith means a lot to me. If I didn't have faith I would be lost, in a way. Jesus saved me from my sins. He gives me grace. Without grace I would not have a second chance. Faith is very important because God has Faith in me. He is helping me along my journey in Christ. God has faith in me, he is forgiving me for all the times I've wronged people. He gives me and others the grace to change. To wrap it up, faith is very important to me because God has faith in me to become the person I'm on my way to right now.

Olivia Bostwick: I believe Jesus has been at work in my life thus far by blessing me with a loving and caring family/community. He has given me strength in tough times and even throughout my life. Faith encourages me to become who I am called to be by following the path God has for me. It encourages me to be strong. Faith informs how I make my decisions because every time I make a decision I think: What would Jesus do? Would he be proud of me if I make this decision? Is this decision faithful? God is at work in our world by blessing the world and giving people faith that everything is ok and it will get better. Everything is in His hands.

Ella Bostwick: My faith has influenced my life a lot, and has provided guidance, mostly about how I treat other people. I feel I have grown a lot in my faith and have learned many new things, which has caused me to be more committed to my beliefs. Jesus has been at work in my life by providing motivation. His forgiveness has motivated me into being more than I expected to be. Whenever I need to make an important decision in my life, my faith has guided me. I think of the expectations God has for me and has encouraged me to act with kindness. God is at work in our world constantly, he provides hope and faith whenever people are going through trouble. He heals and strengthens people to provide good throughout the world. My experiences at church have deepened my understanding of God, his love, and how to provide the same amount of love he gives us.

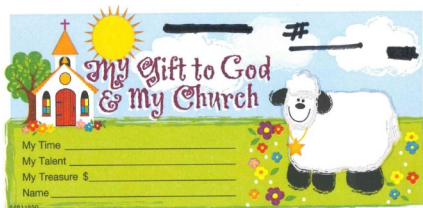


Children's Church/Sunday School End-of-Season Celebration!!

Don't forget our End-of-Season Children's Church Celebration is coming up **Sunday, May 11th**. Join us during the **10:30 a.m. worship service** as we wrap our with fun, faith, and a few special surprises for the kids!



Elementary Youth Giving Envelopes



You can continue to use the Youth Giving envelopes during the summer months. Envelopes can be picked up in the Children's Church classroom. Each youth has their own giving number. 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.



Youth Lock-in—May 9th—May 10th

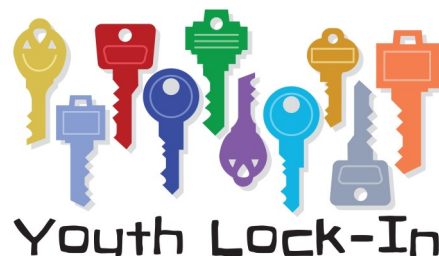
Ascension is hosting a Youth Lock-in for youth in our congregation and their friends on **Friday May 9th to Saturday May 10th**. The Lock-in will run from **6pm Friday to 9am Saturday** for our **Middle and High School Youth**. Our Elementary Youth are invited for dinner and activities from 6pm-9pm Friday evening only. Dinner Friday and Breakfast Saturday is provided. Friends are welcome if permission slip is received.

This event is designed for everyone to have fun and build relationships, electronics and phone time will be limited at times during the event.

Sign up on the kiosk. Permission slips are at church and must be completed. They can be turned in early or upon arrival on Friday.

Bring the following:

- Pillow
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Pajamas
- Sweatshirt and outside clothes for a bonfire (weather permitting)
- Snack to share
- Your own drink(s)-labeled with your name
- Open Mind
- Willingness to let go and have fun
- (Optional) board games/cards, air mattress or cot



First Communion—July 20th & 23rd

We will be celebrating First Communion on **Sunday, July 20th** at both the **8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** worship services and on **Wednesday, July 23rd at 7 p.m.** First Communion class will be held **Monday, July 14th at 6 p.m.** for those youth who wish to receive their First Communion and a parent/guardian.

At Ascension, First Communion is offered when the child, parent, and pastor believe the child is ready. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie.



Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)	6 11
NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)	14
RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7)	18 3
KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)	16 5
EHLA (Genesis 30:14)	1
CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)	7 12
MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)	10 17 13
RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)	8
AMYR (Matthew 2:11)	2
ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)	9 15 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		G		F		F				G	!
13	8	14	15	4	16	10	17	3	18		

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth; A mother's love is a gift from God!



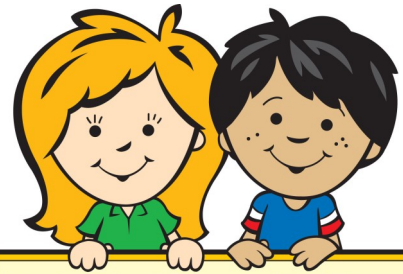
Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna



Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:
Acts 16:11-15, 40



KIDS PAGE



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



Serving in May

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

4	Edna Bell
11	Marty Debozy
18	Charleen Boland
25	Tom Erskine



10:30am

John Whelton
Amy Fahrenbruch
Marissa Fahrenbruch
Donna Frollo

Prayers 8am

4	Charleen Boland	Lori Schultz
11	Tom Page	Amy Fahrenbruch
18	Susan Kelley	Chris Crump
25	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza

Sound Board Operators

4	Jeff Whelton	†
11	Kris Friend	†
18	Jeff Whelton	†
25	Kris Friend	†

Video Screen Operators

4	Susan Kelley	Ginny Whelton
11	Tom Page	Marissa Fahrenbruch
18	Laura Schian	Marissa Fahrenbruch
25	Kris Friend	†

Head Ushers

4	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
11	Schomaker	Dawson/Mossner
18	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein
25	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

4	<i>Volunteers welcome, no</i>
11	<i>assignments May-August!</i>
18	
25	



Altar Guild

4	<i>Schedule not available</i>
11	Carol Wilson
18	Carol Wilson
25	Kris Friend

Lawn Mowers

Hendrickson/Ecker
Becker/Becker
Crump/Wilson
Dan Roth

Children's Church

4	<i>No Class Today</i>
11	<i>All Teachers—End of year Celebration</i>
18	<i>Summer Break!-Join us for the Children's</i>
25	<i>Message at 10:30 a.m. and pick up a</i>
	<i>children's bulletin as you enter the sanctuary.</i>

May Librarian: Marty Debozy



WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
7	John Schroeder	Melissa Pretzer	†	Celina Gottlieb	Celina Gottlieb
14	Glen Mack	John Schroeder	†	Celina Gottlieb	Donna Malburg
21	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford
28	John Schroeder	Connie Dutcher	Mike Romosier	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher

Ascension Lutheran Church - May 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
				1 	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3
4 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion	5 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw (Zion/ Freeland)) 	6 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	7 8:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	8 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	9 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm-9am Youth Lockin →	10 3pm-Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet (FH)
11 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church Celebration 	12 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Sullivan's 1pm-Women's Bible St 5:30pm-Endowment Mtg 6:30pm-St. John's Mtg (Our Saviour) Pastor Julie out of office for Continuing Education May 12-15 →	13 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	14 8:30am-Serve @ Food Pantry 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	15	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 9am-Spring Cleanup
18 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> <i>BP Screening</i> <i>RaiseRight Due</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion Pastor Julie & Members at Synod Assembly May 18th-20th	19 10:30am-Grief Group 12pm-Messenger Deadline 1pm-ELCA Women (Zion Freeland)	20 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	21 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	22	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24
25 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/	26 <i>Office Closed</i> 	27 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	28 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	29 	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 Pavilion Rental

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

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road
Saginaw, MI 48609
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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastoral Emergency: (989) 574-5663

Email: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Email: pr_julie@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.ascensionlc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw

(Group Name: Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw (ELCA) Group)

YouTube: Ascension Lutheran Church

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.

(please plan ahead, the office will be closed June 20-29th for Jeff & Lisa's vacation)