



Why do we take up an offering?

Why do we take up an offering? This is a question that gets raised from time to time, and in discussion with others I realize that maybe we don't know why we take up an offering. When asked—these are some responses, as well as others that I would anticipate:

We take an offering in order to:

Pay our bills and keep the church doors open

To pay for our pastor and staff

Because that is what we are supposed to do

It is like paying dues, and if we are a member we need to pay our dues.

Although there is some "truth" in the above statements (*except for "d" which I will argue is NOT a reason at all*), these are why we give. We may use some of the money that is offered, but it is not the reason we take up an offering.

"God of life, You have blessed us with every good gift. Open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name." This is our offering prayer this season. It is a reminder that we give back to God with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given to us. It is our financial gifts but it is so much more than that. It is our time, our own person, everything we have. We give as thanksgiving for everything we have."

Offering is given in the context of worship, the time set aside every week for giving thanks to God. In the worship context, it is part of the meal, when we are giving thanks not only for Jesus and giving himself to us in the bread and wine, but also a reminder that everything we have is given to us from God. We are returning a portion of what God has first given us—our money, but also our time, talent and possessions.

Offering is also about being part of the community that is called to proclaim Jesus to the world. We are called to be participants, and our offerings provide the resources in which this is made possible. Whether it is our money, our time, our gifts, or anything else, we are part of the mission to make Christ known.

When we live lives of thankfulness, we can recognize the abundance of what God has given. When we live lives of fear, worry and doubt, we don't trust that God will provide for us as God has said—and we hold things back from being shared with others.

Let us pray, God of abundance, please help me to experience the joy of gratitude. Please help those I love to also know gratitude and help us all to embrace a spirit of joy. Amen.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Bible Studies	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
Prayers	5
Announcements	6-10
Youth News	11-12
Children's Activity	13
Serving This Month	14
Calendar	15

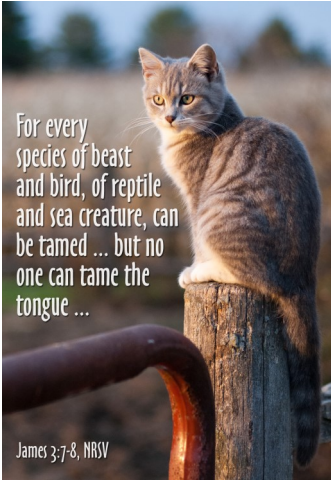
Special points of interest:

- Stewardship Campaign (pg 6)
- GriefShare-Mondays 6:30pm (pg 5)
- Craft Fair 11/1 (pg 7)
- Update Your Information (pg 8)
- St. John's scholarships & grants (pg 10)
- College Care Packages 11/23

Message from Pastor Julie

Words Matter

²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.



How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.—James 3:2-12

From the same mouth comes blessing and curse—and I have heard both come out of mouths whom I respect and love. As people of the Word, of Jesus, we know the power of words and we also know they hurt and they heal. We hear political leaders, religious leaders, young and old, everyone use language that is disparaging to others, labeling people, calling people names, gossiping and spreading accusations. Taking words of Jesus, maybe a bit out of context from Matthew 20:26—‘This is not to be so for us.’

People of God, friends, I implore us all to be aware of what comes from our mouths. If we want to see change in the world, we need to be the ones to set examples. We set examples for this change and living a life in Christ when we speak words of love and truth at home, at school, at activities, among our family and friends, everywhere. We can be a different example than those who get air space and social media space to call people out.

As a lover of Jesus, as one who believes that what God says is true and that we are to love all people, including those we disagree with or might even consider enemies, I am making it an intentional discipline to watch the language that I use, and in situations I am in, call out times when language is used as a weapon. We can speak truth without belittling or labeling others. I don’t expect perfection, but I do expect effort.

Let us use our words, as the Word Jesus himself does, in expressions of love and grace, as Jesus came into the world to save the world, not to condemn.

Pastor Julie

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 & Monday Bible Studies

Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing our Best Hand in the 21st Century



We continue study “Lutheran Trump Cards.” Each week we will study what a section of theology and discipleship and what it means to be Lutheran.

Sunday class will be in-person between services beginning at **9:15 a.m.**

Monday night will begin at **6:30 p.m.** via Zoom.

Updated Schedule

September 28/29: All the baptized have a vocation & The priesthood of all believers

October 5/6: Life is Sacramental and Worship is horizontal

October 12/13: Love the Bible without worshipping it

October 19: Perfection is not the point (**no Monday class**)

October 26/27: Respond with freedom and gratitude

November 2/3: Faith forms the church

November 9/10: We have an ecumenical heart

November 23/24: We are always watching for change

Click on: [Monday Class Zoom Invite](#)

Or go to: www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 869 6959 9117

Passcode: 879998

Mary to Martha Women’s Bible Study—Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

Our Fall Bible Study with the study of “Elijah” by Priscilla Shirer will end on November 3rd. We meet on **Mondays** at Ascension from **1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** We will meet in the Digging Dunes room.

Mary to Martha is a group of women at different stages of our faith journey. You do not need to be a member of Ascension to participate. All women are welcome. We’ll be blessed by your presence and have a meaningful time together. No class October 27th due to the ELCA Women of Saginaw County meeting.

Our next study is **The Marvel and Miracle of Advent** by Christine Caine & Lisa Harper. Join in this four-week Bible study and marvel together at the truth: the supernatural scaffolding of our belief system isn't a human construct but is instead a divine love story wherein the King of all kings willingly sets aside His scepter in Glory, takes on our like form, and condescends to be born in a trough in order to capture our distracted human hearts.

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent is a wake-up call to wonder and to a fresh experience of the gospel and the miracle of Immanuel-God with us. **Participant books are \$10.00.** Please call or text Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 to secure a book for the study.

Schedule:

- Nov 10th • Nov 17th • Dec 1st • Dec 8th •

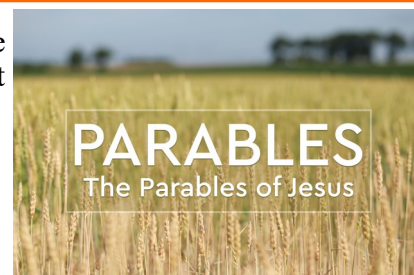
(No class on Nov 24th due to the ELCA Women of Saginaw County meeting)



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our **Tuesday** morning Bible Study is studying The Parables of Jesus. 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**



October Birthdays

1st	Felicity Potter Larry Preston	17th	Travis Lopez Will Salowitz
2nd	Paul Lopez	18th	Seraphim Darabos Mary Ecker
4th	Sawyer Gottlieb		Hunter Stoddard Halie Turner
5th	Abigail Kolb Sue Wiggins	20th	Sue Bailey Ella Bostwick
6th	Laura Mancini		Benny Houthoofd Madison Morgan
7th	Joshua Lopez Brant Wakeman	21st	Tom Bailey Raylee Darabos
8th	Shelly Dawson		Dwayne Hostetler
11th	Mike Faerber	24th	Sophia Burns Patricia Joyce
12th	Stephanie Becker Lori Latty Dietrich Mackel Susie Nielsen Olivia Wagner	25th	Lucas Dreyfus Amy Fahrenbruch Laraine Paquette
13th	Bonnie Cavendish Emma Frollo Tom Page Debi Pretzer Lee Turner Jeff Wenzel	26th	Mackenzie Dalton
15th	Brian Denman Norm Hamilton, Jr.	28th	Michael Clark
16th	Darcy Lobsiger- Braden	29th	Mitchell Andrus Rylan Awad
		30th	Traci Collier
		31st	Renae Dickie Jaina Kittle Noel Wagner Debbie Weadock

October Anniversaries

8th	Jenny and Lisa Maier
10th	Andy and Kris Friend Leonard and Ruth Howell Tom and Lori Page
11th	Dwayne and Melissa Hostetler
13th	Bryan and Sarah Carroll
15th	Logan and Samantha Dalton
20th	John and Barb Robishaw Mike and Debbie Weadock
22nd	Bob and Peggy Darling
26th	Lindsay and Dave Vanthof
29th	Nicholas and Jessica Hoffmann



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.

October 5th

In honor of Randy & Sue Yackel, by Kris & Andy Friend

October 12th

To the Glory of God, by Tom & Lori Page

October 19th

To the Glory of God, by Tom & Sue Bailey

October 26th

In honor of Nancy & Nelson Armstrong's anniversary, by Nancy Armstrong

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

DATES LEFT:

The only 2 dates left for 2025 are

**November 16th
December 7th**

Thank you for supporting this ministry each and every year!

Please Remember Those on Ascension's Care List

Nancy Armstrong—868 S Miller Rd,
Saginaw, MI 48609

Leonard and Ruth Howell—1410 Hess
Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601

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

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

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

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

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

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.

October 5th

Mamrelund Lutheran Church, in Kent City and Rev. Rob Johnson

Ascension Families: Andrew, Stephanie, Eric, Emily, Ellie Dunn; Connie Dutcher & Mike Romosier; Waylon, Dawn, Ethan, Nathan Earnesty

October 12th

Two Churches-Holy Cross Episcopal & Ascension Lutheran in Kentwood and Rev. Pauline Standley

Ascension Families: Mary & Bob Ecker; William, Emily, Collin, Lillian, Owen Edsall; Steve Elvin

October 19th

Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann and Rev. Rosanne Anderson

Ascension Families: Jason, Becky, Arlington, Hadley Enright; Tom & Mary Erskine; Ed & Lisa Espinoza

October 26th

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing and Rev. Matt Smith and Rev. John Burow

Ascension Families: Nick & Olivia Espinoza; David, Allison, Jacob, Max Faerber; Mike & Jan Faerber



GriefShare Support Group—Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Ascension's Grief Support Group meets on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** The program they utilize is called GriefShare.

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. **Participant books are free.**

If you have book from a previous session, you may use that book again for future sessions. We do have several people who have attended the sessions multiple times and have found them beneficial as each time they are in a different stage with their grief.

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.

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.

GriefShare®

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 Riverside, 8295 Midland Rd. in Freeland on October 13th**. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don't need to prepare anything or clean up, just show up.

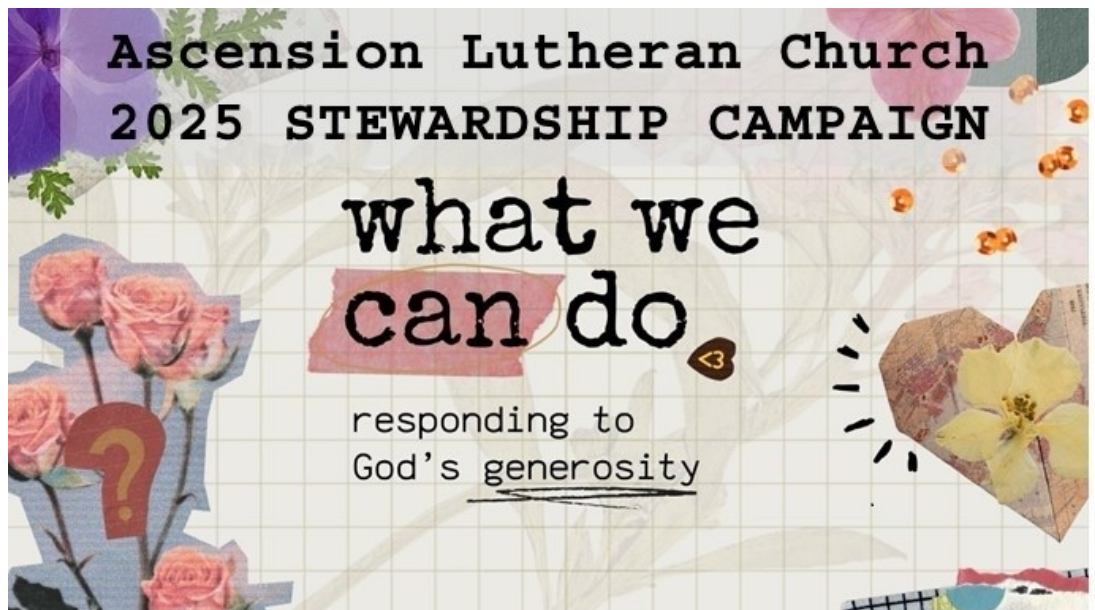


Stewardship Focus for 2025: What Can We Do—Respond to God's Generosity

What is possible for us to do in response to God's lavish generosity? God's gifts come to particular people, in particular places, in particular times. Because we are made in God's image, we, too, uniquely embody God's steadfast abundance, love, and mercy. We are equipped to be generous where we are. Drawn more deeply into the body of Christ, we are reminded of our belovedness, and we can respond with generosity, love, and service on behalf of our neighbors.

Our stewardship focus began **September 21, 2025**. As we engage and reflect upon the generosity of God, please explore your heart, dream dreams and see the vision God is making possible with Ascension and this community.

Fill out this card and bring it to worship prior to November 23rd to let Ascension know what your giving plans for 2026 are.



Yes, I want to Support our Ministry!

- Bring this card with you to worship on or before **November 23, 2025**
- Mail it to the church office (8695 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

General Fund Giving Gift Amount: \$ _____

Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Yearly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Other: _____

Building/Mortgage Giving Gift Amount: \$ _____

Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Yearly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Other: _____

Other(ministry): _____ Giving Gift Amount: \$ _____

Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Yearly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Other: _____



fall craft fair



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
8695 GRATIOT, SAGINAW 48609
(ACROSS FROM HOME DEPOT)
989-781-2170

REGISTRATION FORMS
AVAILABLE AT
ascensionlc.org
OR EMAIL
ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

NOVEMBER 1, 2025 10am - 3PM

CRAFT FAIR

25+ vendors! Support local talent and families to find a wide variety of unique gifts and crafts. Proceeds for communion supplies.

BAKE SALE

Enjoy a selection of cookies, bars, breads and snacks available for purchase. Proceeds to benefit the Youth of Ascension.

LUNCH / FOOD OPTIONS

Ascension is attempting to secure a few food trucks in the parking lot during the event for food purchases. INDOOR seating will be available.

Baked Goods Donations

Please sign up on the kiosk, to ensure we have enough items please let us know your baked good & approximate quantity. NEW THIS YEAR: They are asking that you prepackage your goodies for sale. The team will price based upon package size.

- Drop off bake sale items from **9am-2pm** or **3pm-7pm** on **Thursday, October 30th**

Volunteers

Youth Volunteers are needed for the Bake Sale

- preparation on **10/30** from **3pm-7pm**
- at the bake sale on **11/1** from **9:30am-3pm**

Adult Volunteers for the Craft Fair

- **10/31 5pm-8pm** for setup
- **11/1 8:30am—12:15pm** includes set up/vendor arrival
- **11/1 12:15pm—4pm** includes cleanup

All Sign up sheets are on the kiosk.

Altar Guild is sponsoring the craft fair and proceeds will be used for communion supplies. The Youth will receive the proceeds from the bake sale.

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.



Blood Pressure Screening

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee on the 3rd Sunday each month. The next date is **Sunday, October 19th**

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 below. 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.



October 1st & 15th • November 5th & 19th • December 3rd & 17th

The Sewing Group continues to need 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.

Please Update Your Information! (especially College Students)



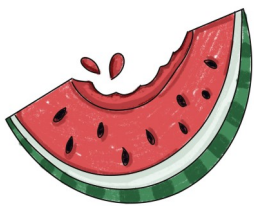
**New Number?
New Address?
New Email?
Let Us Know!**

College students and anyone else who has moved, changed their email, or phone number, or any other changes—please let the office know so we can update your information. We really want to know where you are!!!

VANCO-Online Giving

Ascension utilizes VANCO for online giving. They offer a mobile app that can be found in the App or Play store. You can also sign up online at <https://secure.myyvanco.com/YN7D/home>

If you have any questions about online giving, please contact Lisa in the office.



Watermelons Donated to Hidden Harvest

Ascension grew and harvested 238 watermelons in the patch this year! IT WAS A GOOD YEAR!! The watermelons were donated to Hidden Harvest for distribution. We had 3 winners from our Guessing Jar of “how many were in the patch”: Edna Bell 236, Susan Kelley 229, John Schroeder 227. Thank you to all the helpers who may have planted, watered, weeded and harvested!

The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the November 2025 issue is: **Monday, October 20th at 12:00 (noon).**
Articles may be hand delivered or emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The ELCA Women of Saginaw County are collecting **toasters, cookie sheets, bus passes, and gas gift cards** for the NEST. There is a collection box in the gathering area. If you would like to learn more about the NEST program go to: <https://saginawpartnershipcenter.org/the-nest-program>

The leaders for this group are: Gina Dillenbeck, Chair & Betty Nagel-Cribbens as Co-Chair. There is still an open position for a Secretary. Hopefully someone will come forward.

The Meeting Dates for 2025/2026 are:

October 27, 2025 1:00 pm - Faith
November 24, 2025 1:00 pm - Our Saviour

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

January 26, 2026 1:00 pm - Resurrection
February 23, 2026 1:00 pm - Zion
March 30, 2026 1:00 pm - Ascension
April 27, 2026 1:00 pm - Faith
May 18, 2026 1:00 pm - Our Saviour (week early due to Memorial Day)

Ascension's church contact is Gina Dillenbeck. Feel free to reach out to her with any questions!

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



free to call the office.

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

If you would like to help with the March meeting, please contact one of the team members listed above.

News/Events from the Saginaw County ELCA Churches

Our Saviour, 2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603 will be hosting the Habitat for Humanity Quilt Show and Auction on **Friday, October 10th 10am-6pm, Saturday, October 11th 10am-6pm, and Sunday October 12th 11am-2pm.**



Resurrection is collecting coats/outer garments and household linens for distribution **October 24th-25th**. They are collecting new or in good condition used coats for all ages and sizes; kids, men's and women's. New or used towels, sheets and blankets are also being collected. Office hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-1pm for drop off at 2110 Brockway St., Saginaw, MI 48602.



Zion, 545 7th St., Freeland, MI 48623 is hosting their Harvest Bazaar on **Saturday, November 8th from 9am-3pm**. The bazaar includes vendors, a Zion Craft Booth, luncheon, baked goods(cookie walk), some produce, popcorn wagon, freewill rummage, and basket raffles.



Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Report

This year the Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Committee awarded \$19,950 to fund various ministries in Saginaw County for the 2025-26 ministry year. The grants range in amounts from \$500 to \$6,000 and touch the lives of residents in Saginaw County in a variety of ways.

Those ministries included funding for the following projects:

Ascension Lutheran, Shields – Weekend Food Backpacks for students
Center of Hope, Saginaw – Food purchases & Operating Expenses
Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center, Bridgeport – Coats and Winter garments
Our Saviour Lutheran, Saginaw – Personal Needs Pantry items
Resurrection Lutheran, Saginaw – Coat Giveaway Program
Resurrection Lutheran, Saginaw – Personal Needs Distribution Program
St. Matthew's Lutheran, Bridgeport – Bridgeport High School Care Pantry
St. Matthew's Lutheran, Bridgeport – Mitten Tree for Bridgeport students & Underground Railroad
St. Matthew's Lutheran, Bridgeport – Linens for The Well for homeless men in Saginaw
Zion Lutheran, Freeland – Backpacks for K-12 students in Freeland
Faith Lutheran, Saginaw – Personal Needs Giveaway Program

Our thanks to the representatives from each of our ELCA Saginaw area churches for donating their time to meet, distributing information, and promoting the Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment program. God's Work and Our Hands is truly evident in the Saginaw Area.

In Christ,

Jean Schluckebier, Chairperson

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund

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

Ascension will serve at the Center of HOPE Food Pantry, 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607 on **November 12th**. Arrive at **8:30 a.m.** and 8-10 volunteers are needed. The next Truck Unload & Pantry Shelf Stocking is **October 1st at 8:30 a.m.**

Beginning in 2026, Ascension will no longer have a scheduled day and an organized group serving at the food pantry. If you want to volunteer, please contact Dewey Burke directly at dewburke@hotmail.com for the 2026 dates.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Class



All incoming 6th graders and above are invited to join us for Confirmation. If you didn't attend the first class or two, that is ok, there is still time to catch up. Confirmation is a time to learn more about our faith and make it our own. This includes those youth who completed their first year in the spring.

This year, all classes will join into one class and we will learn about the Lord's Prayer and many aspects of discipleship like worship, vocation, stewardship, and what it means to be a member of the church.

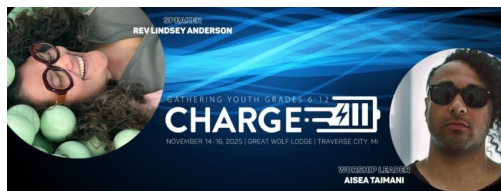
Classes will be held after worship on Sunday's along with planned retreats/lock-in's. We will provide a brief lunch and then class runs from **12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Upcoming Lessons take place on **9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 12/7**. Refer to the full schedule with events on ascensionlc.org.

Fall Lock-in, October 24th-25th at Zion Lutheran Church-Freeland

Ascension Youth are invited to participate in a Lock-in at Zion in Freeland. All students in 6th-12th grades are welcome. We will start with dinner at 6 p.m. During the evening and night we will play games, have snacks, watch scary movies (*simultaneous –PG, R with parent permission*), candlelight worship, and getting to know each other and have fun. The Lock-in will end Saturday morning with a breakfast for youth and parents. If you are interested, please let Pastor Julie know.



Charge—November 14th-16th—Middle & High School Youth



Once again we will be attending CHARGE, a youth event offered for Middle and High School Youth at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. The cost of \$195 covers the event and for the hotel room. Food costs will be covered by the church youth fund. Youth may participate in fundraising activities, including returning pop cans where ½ of the money will be deposited into the youth account to be used for events

like this, and the other ½ will help cover scholarships and other costs of events beyond the registration fee. Registration is complete and hotel rooms are booked. **Final balances are due by October 5th.**

College Care Packages—November 23, 2025

On **November 23rd, time TBD**, all Middle and High School Youth are invited to gather for fun and fellowship, as well as assemble College Care Packages for our young people in college. These will be mailed to our college students to show our love, care and support of them through the holidays and preparing for finals.

Youth and congregational members are invited to provide items to be placed in the care packages. Items may include individually wrapped food for snacks, inspirational cards, self-care and personal care items or anything small you think college students need and would appreciate. Additional details will be forthcoming.



Children's Church/Sunday School



As we begin this new year of Children's Church, we are going to focus again on learning Bible Stories. We are looking for parents and other adults who are willing to lead and facilitate these lessons. All are prepared for you, and require minimal preparation. Many of us learned a lot about the Bible stories when we were in Sunday School. It's a great opportunity to learn and to share God's story with the next generations. Please contact Dawn Earnesty (989) 506-2962 or wilcoxd4@msu.edu if you are able to teach or have questions. There is a rotating schedule, so this does provide the opportunity to worship most Sundays with the congregation in the Sanctuary.

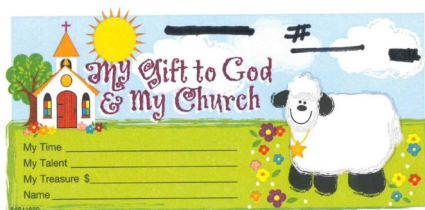
What is Children's Church?

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. The youth & teachers will then return to worship as an entire congregation during the peace

Please complete the **Registration Form** on the kiosk or at ascensionlc.org and return to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Earnesty or Pastor Julie.

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.

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.



Bible Quiz

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).

Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:
Jonah 1:9-15

THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

PUZZLE

JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY
BETHLEHEM
BETHSAIDA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI
CANA
CAPERNAUM
DECAPOLIS
EGYPT

EPHRAIM
GALILEE
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JORDAN RIVER
JUDEA
MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES
NAZARETH
PEREA
SAMARIA
SIDON
TYRE
WILDERNESS

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

Serving in October

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
5	Charleen Boland	Marvin Burns	5	Susan Kelley	MJ Burns
12	Marty Debozy	Lori Schultz	12	Lynn Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
19	Tom Erskine	John Whelton	19	Ruth Schomaker	Amy Fahrenbruch
26	Joan Ford	Lisa Whelton	26	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton

Sound Board Operators

5	Jeff Whelton	Makena Whelton
12	Kris Friend	Makena Whelton
19	Jeff Whelton	Makena Whelton
26	†	Makena Whelton

Video Screen Operators

5	Laura Schian	Marissa Fahrenbruch
12	Kris Friend	Marissa Fahrenbruch
19	Charleen Boland	Marissa Fahrenbruch
26	Charleen Boland	Marissa Fahrenbruch

Head Ushers

5	Kelley	Friend/Beyerlein
12	Schomaker	Dalton/Whelton
19	Roth	Earnesty/Wizner
26	Kelley	Dawson/Mossner

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

5	Matti Wizner
12	Alex Becker
19	Hannah Wizner
26	Hugh Carroll

Altar Guild

5	Kris Friend
12	Kris Friend
19	†
26	†

Lawn Mowers

Dalton/Aldrich
Howe/Blehm
Hendrickson/Ecker
<i>Done for the season!</i>

Children's Church

5	†
12	Dawn & Ethan Earnesty
19	Dave & Stephanie Becker
26	Stephanie & Hannah Wizner

October Librarian: Marty Debozy

WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
1	John Schroeder	John Schroeder	†	Glen Mack	Donna Malburg
8	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Kelly Phillion	Mike Clifford
15	Glen Mack	Connie Dutcher	Mike Romosier	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher
22	John Schroeder	Kristin Kazmierski	†	Celina Gottlieb	Celina Gottlieb
29	Glen Mack	Glen Mack	†	Kelly Phillion	Donna Malburg

Ascension Lutheran Church - October 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 8:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	2 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	6 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom 6:30pm-GriefShare Grief Support	7 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	8 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	9 5:30pm-100+Women Mtg (FH)	10 <i>Office Closed</i> Our Saviour Quilt Show 10/10-10/12	11
12 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 12pm-Confirmation	13 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Riverside (Freeland) 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom 6:30pm-GriefShare Grief Support	14 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	15 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	16	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 FH Rental
19 <i>BP Screening RaiseRight Due</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church Pr. Julie at Conference in Traverse City 10/19-10/21	20 12pm-Messenger Deadline 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-GriefShare Grief Support	21 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	22 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	23	24 <i>Office Closed</i> Resurrection Coat Distribution 10/24-10/25 Youth Lock-in @ Zion Freeland 10/24-10/25	25
26 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 12pm-Confirmation	27 1pm-ELCA Women of Saginaw (@Faith) 6:30pm-Bible Study-Zoom 6:30pm-GriefShare Grief Support	28 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	29 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	30 9a-2p Drop Off Baked Goods 3p-7p Drop Off Baked Goods 3p-7p Youth Bake Sale Prep	31 <i>Office Closed</i> 5p-8p Craft Fair Setup	

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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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.