



Budget and Election Meeting—December 14th

Our Congregational Budget and Election Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 14th at 11:30 a.m.** (following our 10:30 a.m. worship service).

We will vote on a budget for 2026, elect members to fill council vacancies, and vote on the Constitution changes that were made to congregational constitutions at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

Please prayerfully discern the nomination of members to serve on our Congregation Council. Positions currently available are:

- President—Kris Yackel-Friend
- Secretary—Susan Kelley
- Financial Secretary—Amy Fahrenbruch
- Minister of Spiritual Health—Stephanie Becker
- Minister of Finance & Resources—Gus Hendrickson
- Voting Members for Synod Assembly
 - 2 adults—*volunteer needed*
 - volunteer needed*
 - 1 youth/young adult (age 14-30)—*volunteer needed*

If you are interested, have questions, or would like to nominate someone please see a member of the nominating committee, including Gus Hendrickson or Tracy Aldrich.

***Voting Members as defined by the Ascension Lutheran Church Constitution: 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.*



BUDGET and ELECTION MEETING



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Special points of interest:

- Office Closures (pg 4)
- Blood Drive Dec 11th
- Band Concert Dec 13th
- Gift Card Purchases by Dec 14th
- Bring Personal Care Items by Dec 18th
- Youth Lock-in Dec 19th-20th
- Year-end Deadlines Dec 29th

Message from Pastor Julie

We Are the Church

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.—Preamble to the Constitution for Ascension Lutheran Church.



We are the church together! All of us. The mission of the church is the responsibility of all of us, not just the pastor, or elected leaders, or paid staff!

At Ascension, we aim to empower and equip people to use their gifts in service to the church and to the world. We are gifted differently, and this is a gift in and of itself, because we don't need everyone to do the same thing. We do this work Jesus work together.

Our constitution identifies that a congregation council leads our governance.

The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

The council for Ascension includes the Pastor, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary as the executive team, as well as the ministers of each of our initiatives—Minister of Spiritual Health, Minister of Outreach, Minister of Congregational Care, and Minister of Resource and Finance. We meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for about 90 minutes or longer if needed. Each office serves a two-year term, and can serve two consecutive terms in a position. The council is not to do all the work of our ministry together, but to help organize, assist, support, and encourage the work of our congregation.

We will be electing a President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, the Minister of Spiritual Health and the Minister of Resource and Finance at our Congregational Meeting on December 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. If you would like more information please contact one of our current council members: Pastor Julie, Kris Yackel-Friend, Lori Schultz, Stephanie Becker, Charleen Boland, Susan Kelley, Celina Gottlieb, Joyce Berg, Kristin Kazmierski, or Gus Hendrickson.

Pastor Julie

The Advent of Our God

There is a hymn we sang every year during advent while I was growing up. To my surprise, it didn't make it into the newer hymnal, so it often doesn't get sung. It is a song about Advent, about preparing with prayer and preparing to meet Jesus when Jesus comes. The first verse reads like this:

The advent of our God
shall be our theme for prayer;
come, let us meet him on the road
and place for him prepare.



As Lutherans, we teach that Jesus comes to us, we don't go to God. In the study we just completed, "Lutheran Trump Cards," the ace of hearts is that there is no way to God. This means God always goes first, God is the initiator, God comes to us. From the beginning God made the world, and from Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, and ultimately in the coming of Jesus to the earth—God comes down to us. We have no way to get to God on our own, and once we discover that and stop trying to figure out what will get us there, we can simply be here to watch and wait for God's coming.

It seems to be part of the human condition that we seek to find the latest and greatest of something. Advent reminds us that the latest and greatest is here, not out there for us to discover. Jesus has come to us. As we prepare this Advent season, I hope prayer and watching will be part of your journey. Jesus meets us on the road in expected and unexpected ways. Come Lord Jesus, be born in us today.

Holiday Worship Schedules

Wednesday Worship During Advent

As we prepare for the coming Christ child and Christ to come again, join us at Ascension on Wednesday nights for special Advent services. Our theme will focus around the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

- **December 3rd:** Nothing will be impossible with God
- **December 10th:** My soul magnifies the Lord
- **December 17th:** God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly



Christmas Worship Opportunities



Christmas Eve Worship—**Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.** as we remember how God comes to us in Jesus.

Christmas of Lessons and Carols—**Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.** to hear again how Christ comes to us and to sing favorite Christmas songs. This is a casual worship service and we welcome and encourage people to wear "appropriate" holiday (or regular) pajamas, comfy sweats, or the relaxing clothes you may wear gathered around the Christmas tree.

Come on **December 21st at the 10:30 a.m.** worship service to hear our Elementary Youth share the story of Christmas through the presentation of "*The Mystery of the Missing Manger*".

Please note there is NO worship on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.



Organized Bible Study Breaks

- Our Sunday morning Adult Bible study will be taking a break and return again **January 4, 2026**.
- The Monday evening study has ended & another session is not scheduled at this time.
- Our Tuesday morning study has been discussing the Parables of Jesus and will finish **December 2, 2025** and then take a break until **January 6, 2026**.
- The Women's Bible Study continues in December on Monday afternoons (*below*).

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

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. We meet on **Mondays** at Ascension from **1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** We will meet in the Digging Dunes room.

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



Schedule:

- Dec 1st • Dec 8th • Dec 15th •

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.

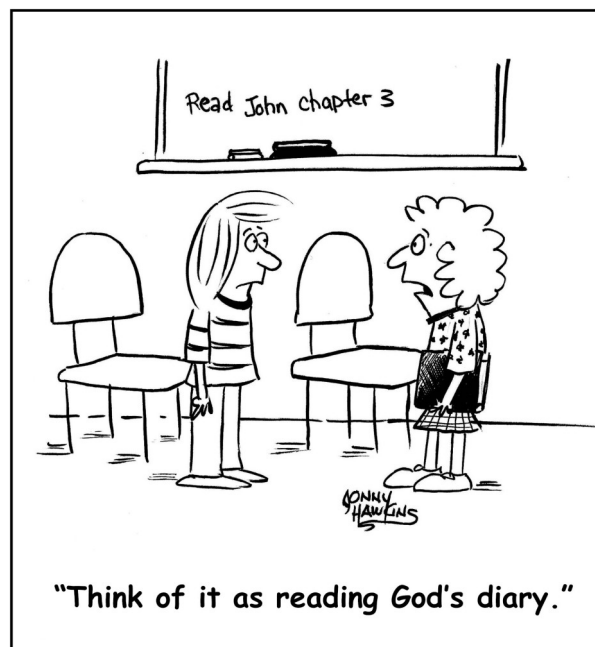


Church Office Closures

The church office will be closed on the following dates:

- December 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th
- January 1st

(Lisa will be in the office on December 18th)



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.***

December 7th

All Saints Lutheran Church, in
Mason and Rev. Gerald
Ferguson

*Ascension Families: Aaron,
Kristy, Dylan, Sawyer Gottlieb;
Celina Gottlieb; Michael
Gottlieb*

December 14th

Christ Lutheran in Michigan
Center and Rev. Robert Martin
*Ascension Families: Nathan,
Katica, Alice, Thomas, Gottlieb;
Lynda Goward; Sandy Graham*

December 21st

Trinity Lutheran Church in
Midland and Rev. Jeffrey
Gramza

*Ascension Families: Sara
Gregor; Jeannie, Emily
Hamilton & Mikey Falkenburg;
Norman Sr & Theresa Hamilton*

December 28th

Trinity Lutheran Church in
Millersburg and Rev. Mary
Hughes

*Ascension Families: Norman Jr
& Mary Hamilton; Rick Sr &
Patty Hamilton; Rick Jr,
Allison, Chase, Julia Hamilton*



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

Ascension's Grief Support Group meets on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m., through
December 1st.**

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®

December Birthdays

2nd	Josh Crump	Dan Roth	
	Jennifer Mayou	Brynn Wakeman	
	Sarah Wagner	14th Lynn Schomaker	28th Lisa Randall
	Ginny Whelton	16th Braxten Mack	28th Robert Beyerlein
4th	Bari Clauss	Genevieve Potter	Joan Ford
	Emmett Dalton	Penelope Potter	Lori Page
	Jacob Dawson	Alexis Richardson	30th Bobbi Tilley
	Adam Robishaw	18th Sue Denman	30th Madilyn Dalton
	Stephanie Wizner	Bryce Druelle	Patty Hamilton
5th	Charleen Boland	Jacob Moore	31st Jack Richardson
	Chris Crump	19th Hannah Webb	Louise Roby
	Carol Lange	Joscelyn Whelton	Melissa Turner
	Brooklyn McKenzie	20th Megan Wakeman	
6th	Brayten Mack	21st Austin Mayou-Rodriguez	
7th	Bruce Collier	22nd Judi Minster	
	Steve Elvin	23rd Melissa Briggs	
	Donna Hayes	Amora Dreyfus	
	Jon Leffler	Nicholas Hoffmann	
8th	Don Arndt	24th Pastor Julie Bailey	
	Nancy Bacon	25th Alexandria Randall	
10th	Elaine Clifford	26th Jacob Hostetler	
12th	Sarah Carroll	27th Peyton Collins	
13th	Scott Blehm	Melanie Dancer	
	Wayne Mayou	Colton Kittle	



December Anniversaries

9th	Bob & Cathy Watz
12th	Tom & Mary Erskine
13th	William & Emily Edsall
	Dave & Pat Marceills
21st	Mitchell & Amber Andrus
28th	Paul & Susie Nielsen
	Jack & Joyce Richardson

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.

December 7th

In memory of Lisa List and Floyd List, by Celina Gottlieb

December 14th

In memory of John Cavendish, by Bonnie Cavendish

In honor of Joscelyn's birthday, by The Whelton Family

December 21st

To the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley

December 28th

In memory of Earl R Weathers, by Heather Nevarez

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

You Can Help Us Out

If you are bringing something into the church building to share with someone specific, such as a note, a mailing, or a physical item that is to be given to an individual, please include your name and the name of the receiver. Then, if there are questions, we know who we can check with.

This will save Pastor and the office time in trying to figure out what we are to do with the items.

~Thank you





Household & Personal Care Items Collection

We will once again collect household and personal care items for Christmas. This year the items will be shared with those who are served with the **East Side Soup Kitchen**. Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, laundry soap, dish soap, dryer sheets, fabric softener, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, lotion, body wash, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, deodorant, etc. Items must be received **by December 18, 2025**. You may begin bringing items in at any time and place them in the Holiday decorated boxes with the “Personal Needs Donations” sign.



Getting Ready for Christmas Shopping? Order Your Gift Cards Through Ascension

Consider using Raise Right gift cards for your shopping this year. Raise Right is a fundraising program that Ascension participates with. All you do is purchase the gifts cards through Ascension (*order form on the Kiosk*) and we will order the cards for you—at no extra cost. You can use these cards to give as gifts or use them to purchase whatever it is you wish to buy. December orders must be received by **Sunday, December 14th**. (*orders on Monday “usually” come in Thursday*)



How does it work?—If you order a \$50 gift card from one of the stores you pay \$50, and the church receives \$1.25—at 2.5% interest. Some have much higher return. That may not seem like much, but every little bit helps. If you have questions see Pastor Julie or Lisa in the office.



Poinsettias

If you purchased poinsettias for the altar, the plants will remain on the altar through Advent and then can be picked up after Christmas Eve to brighten your home.



Holiday Decoration “Take Down”

The holiday decoration “take-down” is **January 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** Many hands make light work.

Thank you to all those that volunteered on November 29th in putting up the decorations.





Year-End Deadlines

December 29th will be the last deposit of 2025, please make sure your giving is in the office **by 9:00 a.m.** this day if you would like it to be recorded for 2025.

December 29th is also the last day to submit expense receipts that need reimbursement. After this date, receipts for 2025 will not be reimbursed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charleen Boland.

2026 Giving Envelopes

2026 giving envelopes can be picked in the Gathering Area. They can also be picked up at the church during office hours; Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Please contact the office to make other arrangements, if needed.



Blood Drive—December 11, 2025

Did you know donated blood can be stored for 42 days, and one donation can save up to three lives? The blood you give will help local families have a happier holiday season.

Give the gift of blood: https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11616616

Ascension Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall, **December 11, 2025, 2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

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, December 21st**



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 December 8th**. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don't need to prepare anything or clean up, just show up.

The MESSENGER is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Deadline for the January 2026 issue is: **Monday, December 15th at 12:00 (noon).**
Articles may be hand delivered or emailed to: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Library—Volunteers Needed

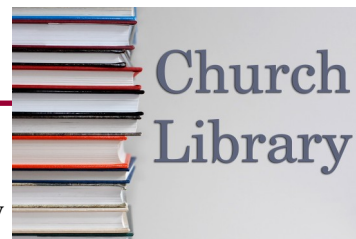
The library is looking for a few helpers!

The time commitment is an hour or two (*if special events*) per month and a few team meetings per year. The time commitment is flexible.

The duties include: Shelving return books/materials and straightening shelves.

Special Duties might include the team working together to move books or to decorate for a holiday or season.

Contact Marty Debozy 989-642-8135 or the church office if you have any questions.



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.

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.



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.



December 3rd • January 7th & 21st • February 4th & 18th

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.

ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The ELCA Women of Saginaw County October 27th meeting was held at Faith Lutheran Church. There were 19 women in attendance. The group is collecting the following items for NEST; **pot holders, small dish soap, colanders, and cheese graters**. Please place items in the 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 Meeting Dates for 2025/2026 are:

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



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.

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



Thrivent Choice Dollars—We Are the Church!

Are you a member of Thrivent—you have an insurance policy or an IRA or some other account? If so, you could designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to a non-profit of your choice. It doesn't take anything away from your account, and if not designated it often doesn't get used.



To donate or see if you have dollars to donate:

- sign into your Thrivent account
- click generosity

This will take you to a page to donate and it is easy. If you have problems, Pastor would be happy to help you or call your Thrivent agent whom we are sure will be willing to help as well.

Reminder as well that you can support a ministry by receiving a \$250 Thrivent grant. Each Thrivent member is allotted 1-2 per year. Ascension members have used their grants for the weekend food bags, the former Back to School Fair, summer youth programming, filling the college baskets, sewing group, and so many more. We have so many more resources that we are likely not tapping into. Let's be the church together!

Mid Michigan Brass Band Presents their 2025 Christmas Concert



Celebrate the holiday season with
joyful music, laughter, and cheer!

Quinton Larion, Director

13 DEC
2025

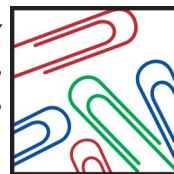
7⁰⁰
PM

FREE
ENTRY

Ascension Lutheran Church
8695 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48609

Office Door Closed During Office Hours

Please note that during the colder months of the year, the office door may be closed when Lisa is in the office. Please feel free to enter the office, knocking is not necessary. The door is closed simply to retain warmth, **Come On In!!**



Office Open



Camp 2026—Registration Open—Register now to secure your spot!

Week 4: July 5-10, 2026—Sunday-Friday for those entering grades 3rd-12th.
July 5-8, 2026—Sunday-Wednesday for those entering grades 1st-3rd.

Each youth must be registered. When close to capacity, youth will be waitlisted and notified if a spot is open. Please do not hesitate!!!

To register (ONLINE ONLY)—<https://elcalivingwater.com/campprograms>

Pricing Options for 2026 include:

- No Price
- Half Price: \$175-\$250 (varies by program)
- Full Price: \$350-\$500 (varies by program)
- Support Price: \$475-\$700 (varies by program)



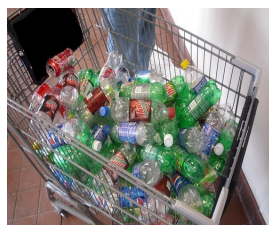
Selecting “Full Price” covers the majority of the expenses for a week at camp. Selecting the “Support Price” option is an investment in LWM helping to sustain this ministry and make camp possible for others. With this pricing structure, we hope to balance the realities that camp does take financial resources to occur, with our desire to make camp financially inclusive to everyone!

Together, we’re building a community that reflects God’s radical welcome, generosity, and love through camp.

Living Water Ministries extends a Welcome to All!



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.

Charge: Identity

From November 14-16, 2025, 280 youth and adults gathered at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City for our annual Charge Event. This years' theme was Identity. Each session we addressed issues such as Be Human (be who you are), Belong, Beloved, and Be Dreamers. Through worship, games, small group studies, congregational time, and play we learned what it means to be who we have been created to be and how all of God's humanity is intended to belong, be loved, and that we must dream and imagine before something can be a reality.



Youth Lock-in—Middle and High School Youth

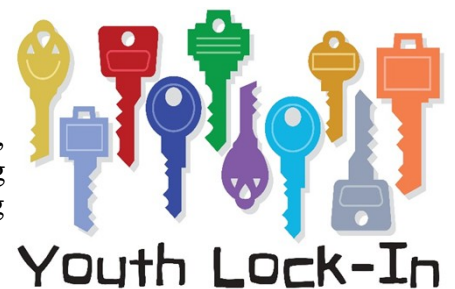
Friday, December 19th, 7p.m. *(have your dinner before you arrive)*
thru Saturday December 20th, 9a.m. *(breakfast provided)*

We will meet at the church at 7p.m. and have an evening of games, fellowship, worship, a movie, and some sleep *(cross your fingers)*. Bring snacks to share, your own drinks labeled with your name, games, sleeping bag or blanket, pillow, pajamas/comfy clothes, and toiletries, if needed.

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.

Needed: Adults to chaperone through the night
Breakfast preparers.



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Class



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 **12/7, 1/11/26, 1/25/26, 2/8/26** Refer to the full schedule with events on ascensionlc.org.

Christmas Program—Practices

Our young people will share the story of Christmas on **Sunday, December 21st**. All elementary youth are invited to participate. Middle school youth who would like to play a part are also invited. Please contact Makena ASAP if your middle school youth has interest in being in the program. You can reach her phone at 989-980-7029 or email makleighwhelton72@gmail.com. Thumb drives of music are available, as well as the script with the words to the songs. These will be distributed in Children's Church.



Practices will be held: **9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. 11/30, 12/7, 12/14**
During Children's Church at 10:30 a.m. service: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14
9 a.m.—12/20—Dress Rehearsal

I am super excited to be doing the program this year! Sophia Burns will be my assistant director, and I think this will be a fun program. This year's program is called *The Mystery of the Missing Manger*.

Children's Church/Sunday School



This year in Children's Church we are going to focus again on learning Bible Stories. Please contact Dawn Earnesty (989) 506-2962 or wilcox44@msu.edu if you have questions.

What is Children's Church?

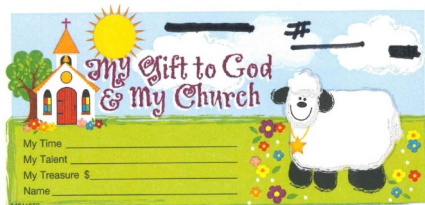
With our commitment to assist parents in their baptismal covenant to teach their children, the "Children's Church" model will continue this year. The **youth, 4 years old through 5th grade**, will begin the 10:30 a.m. worship service with their families, and after the Children's Message, be dismissed 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.



Bible Quiz

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

A. Zechariah
B. Gabriel
C. Simeon
D. Joseph

Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To:

Luke 1:26-32



Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)

Christmas Card treasures

Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

— James 1:17 (NIV)



Merry Christmas



Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

(1) TGLBEHHEME _____

(2) NEAGLO _____

(3) NRMEDAG _____

(4) ODEKSNY _____

(5) AMGYR _____

(6) OHESJIP _____

(7) EFJSUS _____

(8) ITEENMSW _____

(9) SPHHDSREEO _____

(10) EMCFAL _____

(11) TLSRA _____

(12) CSSNUEO _____

(13) HEVSPE _____

(14) ENIN _____

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love

Serving in December

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

7 Charleen Boland
14 Marty Debozy
21 Tom Erskine
28 9:30am †

10:30am

Donna Frolo
Linda Lentner
Not Needed

Prayers 8am

7 Tom Page
14 Lynn Schomaker
21 Ruth Schomaker
28 9:30am †

10:30am

MJ Burns
Dawn Dalton
Chris Crump



Sound Board Operators

7 Kris Friend
14 Jeff Whelton
21 †
28 9:30am Makena Whelton

Makena Whelton
Makena Whelton
Makena/Lisa Whelton

Video Screen Operators

7 Kris Friend
14 Kris Friend
21 †
28 9:30am Ginny Whelton

Ginny Whelton
Ginny Whelton
†

Head Ushers

7 Schomaker
14 Roth
21 Kelley
28 9:30am Kelley/Friend/Beyerlein

Dalton/Whelton
Earnesty/Wizner
Dawson/Mossner

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

7 Hugh Carroll
14 Matti Wizner
21 Nathan Earnesty
28 9:30am †

Altar Guild

7 †
14 †
21 †
28 9:30am †



December Librarian: Marty Debozy

Children's Church

7 Christmas Program Practice
14 Christmas Program Practice
21 Christmas Program during worship
28 9:30am *No class*

Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

	Ushers	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers	Acolyte (2)
4:30 pm	<i>Volunteers should sign up on kiosk</i>	Dick Schomaker	Makena Whelton	†	†	†, Alex Becker
7:30 pm		Lori Schultz	†	Kelly Phillion	†	†



WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
3	John Schroeder	Connie Dutcher	†	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher
10	Mike Clifford	Kristin Kazmierski	†	Celina Gottlieb	Celina Gottlieb
17	Glen Mack	Glen Mack	†	Kelly Phillion	Donna Malburg
31	<i>NO WORSHIP</i>	<i>NO WORSHIP</i>	<i>NO WORSHIP</i>	<i>NO WORSHIP</i>	<i>NO WORSHIP</i>

Ascension Lutheran Church - December 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 1pm-Women's Bible St 6:30pm-GriefShare Grief Support	2 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 5pm-Pr @ Synod Council 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	3 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	4 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	5 Office Closed	6 FH Rental
7 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Christmas Program Practice 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Christmas Program Practice 12pm-Confirmation	8 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Riverside (Freeland) 1pm-Women's Bible St	9 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	10 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	11 10:30am-Pr @ Bay Area Conference Mtg 2:30-7pm-Blood Drive (FH)	12 Office Closed	13 FH Rental 7pm-Mid-Michigan Brass Band Concert
14 <i>RaiseRight Orders Due</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Christmas Program Practice 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Christmas Program Practice 11:30am-Budget/Election Mtg	15 Office Closed 12pm-Messenger Deadline 1pm-Women's Bible St	16 Office Closed 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	17 Office Closed 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	18 Household & Personal Care Items Due	19 Office Closed	20 9am-Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
21 <i>Children's Xmas Program @ 10:30am</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion	22	23 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	24 Office Closed 4:30pm-Christmas Worship 7:30pm-Christmas Worship	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:30am-Lessons & Carols Worship/Communion	29 9am-2025 Offering Due 9am-2025 Reimbursements Due	30 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors Messenger Mailed	31 6:30pm-Scouts			

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

8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: (989) 781-2170

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.