



Ascension Lutheran Church

The Messenger

Volume 47, Issue 1

January 2026

Installation of Council Members:

Inside this issue:

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

The Congregation Council of Ascension will be installed as officers and ministers of our congregation on **Sunday, January 18th** and **Wednesday, January 21st**.

Serving the 2026 Calendar Year are:

President: Kris Yackel-Friend

Vice President: Lori Schultz

Secretary: Susan Kelley

Treasurer: Charleen Boland

Financial Secretary: Amy Fahrenbruch

Minister of Spiritual Health:

Stephanie Becker

Minister of Outreach: Joyce Berg

Minister of Congregational Care:

Kristin Kazmierski

Minister of Resource and Finance:

Gus Hendrickson

Synod Assembly Voting Members:
Amy Fahrenbruch and Lori Schultz;
Marissa Fahrenbruch (*youth/young
adult voting member*)



Please keep these leaders in your prayers and support them as we move forward in mission to boldly make Christ's vision known. Thank you to Celina Gottlieb for her faithful service as the Minister of Spiritual Health these past four years. Thank you as well to Susan Kelley who has served as Financial Secretary and Stephanie Becker who served as Secretary these past two years. They will continue to serve in other capacities.

Special Points of Interest

- * Lenten Worship
Planning 1/6 @ 7pm
- * Sewing Group 1/7 @ 9am
- * Decoration Take Down
1/10 @ 9am
- * ABC Breakfast 1/12 @
9am
- * Register for Summer
Camp NOW or you will
be waitlisted!

Ascension's Annual Congregational Meeting: February 15, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

Our annual report of the congregation will be held on **February 15, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.**

All ministry and team leaders are requested to submit their report to the congregational office by

**12:00 p.m. on Monday,
January 19, 2026.**

Let's celebrate our ministry in 2025 and commit to moving forward in our mission in 2026.

»»»»»»»»»»
ANNUAL
Ministry
REPORTS
««««««««««

A Message From Pastor Julie

Show Up

Woody Allen said, “Eighty percent of success is showing up.”

When I was working as a nurse, I created a habit of going to the gym before my shift started at 7 a.m. I was younger then, and I went because of the people who were there. It was right next to the hospital so I could get there at 5:30 a.m. and then shower to get to my unit for shift report. I think I had to move to a different shift for a while to work and so stopped going in the morning. For a while, I went at other times, but I really fell out of the habit. And when my shift returned, getting up to be at the gym at 5:30 a.m. seemed impossible. I’d rather stay in bed 30 minutes longer.

One day I went in to the gym at 5:30 a.m. not with a smile or any excitement, until someone who I recognized but didn’t know said to me—“so glad you are back, we missed you.” I really didn’t think anyone noticed. No one called—the people I knew well knew my shifts had changed so wouldn’t be coming. I had no idea anyone else even noticed I was there. But they did, and showing up makes all the difference.

Showing up refers to our ability to remain committed to and



consistent in our actions. For some, this is pretty easy, for others difficult. Sometimes we might wonder whether showing up will make any difference because there seems to be no tangible results from showing up.

Over the months and years, some of us have been showing up less and less to communal worship and activities. We might wonder if anyone notices. I can assure you, people notice. Even people who didn’t know my name noticed I was gone from the gym. People who you worship with may not know your name, YET, but they note when you are not here for a while.

Showing up matters. Failing to show up affects relationships at all stages of the relationship. We want to trust that people will be there for us when we need them, but how can they be there if they don’t know? In church, we often blame the other, we blame the church or the pastor because ‘they’ should know.

It is probably a common understanding that we only need to put 50% effort into our relationships and the other party should put 50% effort in too, after all, that seems fair, right? If that’s how you’re showing up, how are

your key relationships looking?

How would your relationships improve if you put 100% effort in? And really, isn’t this what we should be doing anyway? As humans, we automatically respond to the treatment we receive, whether that is positive or negative. Consequently, a 100% effort is likely to result in a reciprocal and much improved positive result.

In our relationship with God, God shows up 100% of the time. We just celebrated the birth of Jesus and the reality and trust that God is with us, Immanuel. God has put everything into our relationship with God. God went so far as to die to conquer sin and death forever.

Ascension is still here, though many faces have changed over time. We long to be a community that supports and encourages one another, which means that we all need to make the effort. We understand that circumstances may affect how you show up. Let us know—because we may not know. If your health is such that you can no longer attend, let us know because we can work with you. If you have moved or don’t consider yourself part of the Ascension community, just let us know. Showing up may look a little different today, but as Christ’s body here on earth, let us show up for each other.

Pastor Julie

Bible Study—Revelation: God's Persistent Promise

Same Study Offered Both Days:

- Sunday Morning at **9:15 a.m.** starting **January 11, 2026**
- Tuesday Morning at **11:00 a.m. on Zoom** starting **January 13, 2026**

Revelation is a wild and woolly text full of visions and beasts and dragons and fire and fear. But at its core, Revelation is a book of promise and hope. Don't let the angrier or louder voices in our culture take the book from

us. We invite you into a conversation about how the last book of the Bible might offer a beginning for us as people of faith.

With this video-based Bible study, you'll hear stories that invite you to see the promise of God calling from the pages of Revelation. You'll



build skills to read Scripture from its original context and in ways that resonate with our daily lives. With beautifully filmed videos and a helpful discussion guide, you'll have everything you need to hear a word of hope in a disorienting and chaotic world.

Bible Study—Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study

Mary to Martha is a group of women at different stages of our faith journey gathering together to learn more. You do not need to be a member of Ascension, all women are welcome. We'll be blessed by your presence and we'll have a meaningful time together.

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

Study materials are **\$10 per person**.

We will study Joanna Weaver's "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World".

Thoughtful and personal, practical and encouraging, this study looks at contrasting sisters of the Bible—Mary and Martha, the friends of Jesus—to gently show readers how they can deepen their devotion, strengthen their service, and experience less stress and greater joy.

Joanna Weaver is the bestselling and award winning author.

She and her husband John, have three children and live in Montana.

Please call or text Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 to secure your study materials.

Our next study will begin on Monday February 2, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Lenten planning-January 6, 2026

Are you interested in song selection for our Sunday services during Lent? We are going to meet as an interested group on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 on Zoom at**

7:00 p.m. Pastor can email resources or we can print them off for you. Some of you may have done this in Sunday School a while back.

We will walk through worship together. Please contact Pastor Julie if you are able and interested.

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—Edgewood Assisted Living Center, 4850 Gratiot Rd, Room D-1, Saginaw, MI 48638

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.

January 4th

Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Mt. Pleasant and Rev. Dana Hendershot

Ascension Families: Ashley Harrington; Debbie Harrington, Savannah & Zachary Maddox; Karen Hart & Jacob DeLaRosa

January 11th

First Lutheran Church in Muskegon and Rev. William Uetracht

Ascension Families: Steve, Lyric, Skylar Haupt; Donna Hayes; Danielle, Luke, Adalynn, Emerson, Lillian Hendrick

January 18th

Harbor of Grace Church in Muskegon and Rev. Jake Ferra

Ascension Families: Gus, Rita, Greyston Hendrickson; Nikki Herren; Jack Herren

January 25th

Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era and Rev. Sarah Samuelson

Ascension Families: Mark & Georgia Hickner; Nick, Jessica, Jayson, Emma Hoffmann; Dwayne, Melissa, Jacob Hostetler



ELCA Congregations of Saginaw County

For the last few years, Ascension has participated with other ELCA congregations in Saginaw County to promote the ELCA in our community, strengthen bonds, and promote our ministries together. Kris Yackel-Friend and Pastor Julie have been

serving with this team. More people are welcome to participate. This team will be hosting a joint worship service in September for all ELCA congregations in Saginaw County at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Bridgeport and Bishop Julie

Schneider-Thomas will be our guest presenter. If you have questions or just want to check things out, our next meeting is **TBD** at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter, Saginaw, MI 48603

January Birthdays

1st Marvin Burns, II
Andrea Kittle
3rd Mary Erskine
4th Ruth Howell
5th Jean Joslyn
Hunter Turner
Lindsay Walsh
7th Courtney Whelton
9th Malory Lopez
10th Phil Ballien
Mike Clifford
Collene Kolinski
13th Melissa Morgan
14th Elizabeth Clark
Jim Dankert
Zoey Kohnert-Pretzer
15th Marty Debozy
16th Laura Schian
18th Connor Webb
19th Ben Crump
Logan Dalton
20th Larissa Crook
Bob Darling

22nd Alisha Albrecht
23rd Cheryl Andrus
Judy Goschke
Danielle Hendrick
24th Gina Dillenbeck
25th Theresa Hamilton
Ariana Rodriguez
26th Alice Doerr
Nikki Whelton
27th Lisa Espinoza
28th Karen Hart
Alicia Leffler
29th Lillian Edsall
Amaya Favazza
30th Bob Aldrich
31st Dawn Earnesty
Maxwell Faerber
Leonard Howell
Rachel Joslyn
Ruth Schomaker

January Anniversaries

2nd Charleen & Carl Boland
17th Dave & Stephanie Becker
21st Casey & Emma Stadler
27th Nicole and Kyle Bieszk
29th Hunter & Alexis Turner



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 2026 flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room.

January 4th
available to sponsor

January 11th
In memory of Kay Ballien,
by Phil Ballien

January 18th
available to sponsor

January 25th
available to sponsor

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

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

Daily Bible Reading

Pastor is leading a Daily Bible Reading on YouTube to continue the habit of reading scripture. This discipline is important for those of us who follow Christ. Click [Here](#) or Scan the QR code.



Holiday Decoration "Take Down"

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



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 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, January 18th**



ABC Breakfast



Join Us For
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 **9:00a.m. at Riverside, 8295 Midland Rd. in Freeland on January 12th.** 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 February 2026 issue is:
Monday, January 19th at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

Articles may be hand delivered or emailed to:
ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Shhh...It's a Surprise!!

Ascension Family,
On Saturday, January 10th, Phil Ballien will celebrate his 90th birthday! This is an important milestone for Phil, and his family has asked to include his "church family" in his celebration.

Please join us **between services** on **Sunday, January 11th** to wish Phil a Happy Birthday (*and have a little cake too*). Phil has been a member of Ascension for a short 22 years and prior to that, a



member of Zion Lutheran Church in Saginaw.

Phil is involved in many activities still today at the church. You will

find him worshipping on Sunday's at 10:30a.m. He probably opens the door for you when you arrive. He attends the Sunday morning bible study and is part of Ascension's Grief Support Group.



Phil is a member of the Counter Team. He's at the church walking on Tuesday evenings and here Wednesdays during Advent and Lent. Phil is a member of our care team and visits those in the hospital, nursing homes, and in their homes. Phil is important part of Ascension's family and we honored to celebrate with him.

Remember to keep this gathering a surprise!

Library—Volunteers Needed

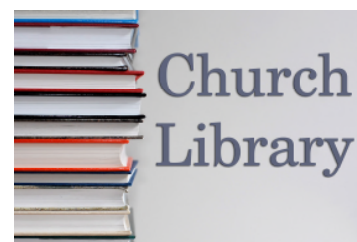
The library is looking for a few helpers!

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.



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.



Wellness Warriors Tuesdays 6:15pm

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.



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 to the right. 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.



**January 7th & 21st
February 4th & 18th
March 4th & 18th
April 1st & 15th
May 6th & 20th**

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.

"Connected"—2026 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly

Date: May 15-16, 2026

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church/Portage, MI

Early Bird Registration: February 17, 2026-March 20, 2026

Day One will include workshops, keynote speaker, dinner with celebrations of anniversaries, and Evening Prayer. (1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

Day Two will serve as the official Synod Assembly with the business meeting to address required business, elections, memorials and resolutions. (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Winter Wellness - Synod Connection Day

ALL are invited to our first-ever Synod Connection Day – a time for fun, worship, learning and fellowship! Come for as much as you're able and choose the activities that interest you.

Thursday, January 22

Outdoor Evening at Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park
6:00PM – Luge**, skate, snowshoe or cross-country ski at the Winter Sports Park

**Please note that the luge activity costs \$35 – RSVP will need to be

in by January 10

Indoor Evening Option

6:00PM – Worship at Frist Lutheran Church, North Muskegon, followed by a trivia night, dinner at 7pm

Friday, January 23

9:00AM – Morning worship followed by a Learning Session on Faith and Art

Early lunch on your own

12:00PM – Afternoon visit to the



Muskegon Museum of Art (\$12)

[RSVP Here](#)

Come connect, recharge and enjoy winter together! We hope to see you there!

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 setup or snacks for the March meeting at Ascension, please contact the church office or one of the members above.



ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The November 24, 2025 meeting was at Our Savior Lutheran Church @ 1:00 pm There were 18 in attendance. Approximately 550-600 Christmas cards were signed and will be delivered to the following facilities: Aleda E Lutz VA Hospital, Healthsource Rehabilitation Hospital, Community Village, Edgewood Assisted Living Center, Bickford, Barton Woods, Wellsprings, Great Lakes, Hoyt Nursing & Rehab Center, & Stonecrest Healthcare.

The group is collecting the following items for NEST; **shower curtain liners twin XL sheets and blankets, ladles, pizza cutters, potato mashers, and night lights.** 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>

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

The Meeting Dates for 2026 are:
All Meetings are at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Lessons & Carols—THANK YOU!!

Thank you to the following people who volunteered for the Lessons and Carols worship service. It was a beautiful service.

John Whelton—Older man
Susan Kelley—Angel
Charleen Boland—Wise person
Dave Becker, Jr—John the Baptist
Brooke Becker—Young woman
Amy Fahrenbruch—Shepherd
Lori Schultz—Narrator (*not pictured*)
Pastor Julie Bailey—Narrator (*not pictured*)



Recognizing a Scam



Did you know that the Federal Trade Commission estimates that older adults lose more than \$7.1 billion a year to financial scams. Here are 10 practices to protect yourself and your loved ones:

1. Spot imposters—Scammer create fake profiles, pretending to be someone you know. The email is so close to what you know, but they aren't the same emails. Do not respond, send money in any form, or give any personal information in response to an unsolicited request by text, email or phone. Be especially wary of gift card requests! These are usually scams (**and remember, neither Pastor Julie nor the church will ask you to purchase gift cards for us**)
2. Be tech security savvy—Do not share any passwords. Make strong passwords and consider a 2-step verification. Do not give control of your computer to anyone, or give personal information to someone claiming to be tech support.
3. Don't believe caller ID!—I don't know how, but scammers can fake caller ID names and numbers.
4. Hang up!—If you hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up. Scammers can record your voice and use it to impersonate you for future scams or criminal activity.
5. Do NOT pay upfront for a promise.—you don't pay upfront to win a prize or for debt relief, loans, or a job. They may tell you that you won a prize, but first you must pay your taxes! This is likely a scam.
6. Be cautious how you pay.—If you send money to a scammer, it is unlikely you'll get your money back. Legitimate organizations do not request reloadable cards, wires, gift cards or cryptocurrency as payment options.
7. Slow Down and Talk with someone you trust.—Before you send money or information, slow down and talk with someone you trust. Con artists will try to get you to make a quick decision, maybe even by threatening you. Slow down and don't be pressured.
8. Be skeptical of free offers—Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products or bill you monthly until you cancel. Review your monthly statements for charges you don't recognize and cancel any recurring charges.
9. Don't deposit a check and send money back—Scammers may give you a check to deposit and then ask you to wire a payment. By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If you deposit a fake check, you are responsible.
10. Be informed—Subscribe to Customer Alerts at ftc.gov/scams.

Reference: "Recognizing a scam can help you avoid becoming a victim. 10 things you can do to help protect yourself from scammers" © 2025 Wells Fargo. PM-09182026-7752254.1.1 IHA-8193608

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!!**



Church Office Closures

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



Children's Church/Sunday School

This year in Children's Church we are continuing to focus on learning Bible Stories. Please contact Dawn Earnesty (989) 506-2962 or wilcox4@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.

Confirmation Classes

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



Lock-in FUN!!

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!

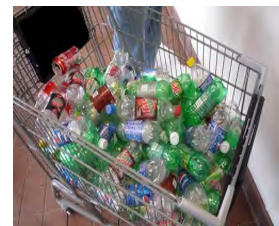
Youth Fundraising—Pop Can Returns

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.





Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:
 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
 The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

A) Creation
 B) Beginning
 C) Season
 D) Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

**Pull Out Your Bibles
 for this Quiz and Go
 To:
 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
 (Acts 6:7)

C _____ n P _____ e
 (1 Peter 2:9)

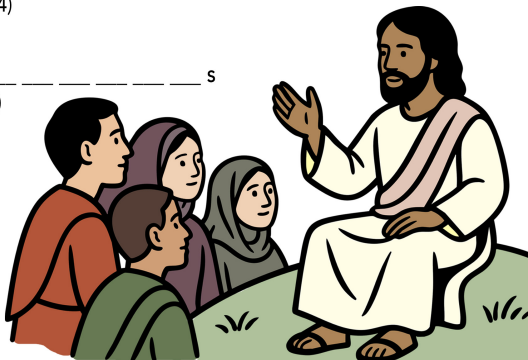
S _____ s of C _____ t
 (1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
 (Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
 (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
 (Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
 (Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

Snowflake SNACK CAKES

Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls

What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:
 Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike! (Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Serving in January

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
4	Joan Ford	Lori Schultz	4	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Whelton
11	Kris Friend	Linda Luplow	11	Lynn Schomaker	Chris Crump
18	Susan Kelley	Heidi Trepkowski	18	Susan Kelley	Heidi Trepkowski
25	Tom Page	Olivia Trepkowski	25	Tom Page	Amy Fahrenbruch

Sound Board Operators

4	†	Makena Whelton
11	†	†
18	†	†
25	†	†

Video Screen Operators

4	†	†
11	†	†
18	†	†
25	†	†

Head Ushers

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

Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

4	Hannah Wizner
11	Matti Wizner
18	Eliza Trepkowski
25	Hugh Carroll

Altar Guild

4	<i>Schedule not available</i>
11	<i>At time of printing</i>
18	
25	

Children's Church

4	Tony & Darren Dancer
11	Dawn & Ethan Earnesty
18	Stephanie & Hannah Wizner
25	Dave & Stephanie Becker

January Librarian: Marty Debozy

WEDNESDAYS 7pm

	Head Usher	Readers	Sound Board	Video Screen	Prayers
7	John Schroeder	John Schroeder	†	Celina Gottlieb	Celina Gottlieb
14	Glen Mack	Joyce Richardson	†	Kelly Phillion	Donna Malburg
21	Mike Clifford	Mike Clifford	†	Glen Mack	Mike Clifford
28	John Schroeder	Connie Dutcher	†	Connie Dutcher	Connie Dutcher




Ascension Lutheran Church - January 2026

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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Office Closed</i> 	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3
4 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church	5	6 10am-Staff Mtg 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 7pm-Worship/Planning- Zoom 	7 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	8 5:30pm-100+WoMen Mtg (FH) 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	9 <i>Office Closed</i>	10 9am-Decorations Take-Down 12:30pm-FH Rental
11 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 12pm-Confirmation	12 9am-ABC Breakfast (@ Riverside)	13 10am-Staff Mtg 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	14 11am-Weekend Food Bags 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	15	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 12:30pm-FH Rental
18 <i>BP Screening</i> <i>RaiseRight Due</i> <i>Council Installation</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/	19 12pm-Annual Reports Due to Office 12pm-Messenger Deadline 	20 9am-Pastor-Bay Area Conf. (Zoom) 10am-Staff Mtg 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	21 <i>Council Installation</i> 9am-Sewing Group 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	22	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24 12:30pm-FH Rental
25 8am-Worship/Communion 9:15am-Adult SS/Bible Study 10:30am-Worship/Communion/ Children's Church 12pm-Confirmation	26 1pm-ELCA Women of Saginaw (@Resurrection)	27 10am-Staff Mtg 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	28 11am-Weekend Food Bags 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	29 Pr @ Conference 1/29-2/3	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 12:30pm-FH Rental

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

Ascension Lutheran Church

8695 Gratiot Road
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Phone: 989-781-2170
www.ascensionlc.org

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Ascension Lutheran Church

STAFF

Julie Bailey, Pastor
Lisa Whelton, Parish Administrator
Jeff Whelton, Custodian
Rita Hendrickson, Parish Nurse

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kris Yackel-Friend, President
Lori Schultz, Vice President
Charleen Boland, Treasurer
Susan Kelley, Secretary
Amy Fahrenbruch, Financial Secretary

MINISTRIES

Kristin Kazmierski, Congregational Care
Gus Hendrickson, Finance/Resources
Joyce Berg, Outreach
Stephanie Becker, Spiritual Health

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.ascensionlc.org

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

YouTube: Ascension Lutheran Church

ELCA Saginaw Website: elcasaginawcounty.weebly.com

ELCA Saginaw Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/elcasaginawcounty

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday's: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday's: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9a.m.-2p.m.
