

# The Messenger

Ascension Lutheran Church

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



## Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Table

The ELCA churches of Saginaw County invite you to a special event...

**Sunday, September 22, 2024**

10am - Noon

Horizons Conference Center  
6200 State St, Saginaw, MI 48603

Worship, Lunch, Education and Fellowship  
Cost: approximately \$15/person for lunch and beverages  
(this will fluctuate based on potential grant funding)

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What does it mean to be ELCA?  
How are we different?  
How can we work together to spread Christ's love to our community?

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PLEASE LET YOUR CHURCH KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND  
BY AUGUST 4, SO WE CAN GET AN APPROXIMATE HEADCOUNT  
NO MONEY IS DUE AT THIS TIME

*NOTE: Nobody will be excluded based on financial need. Please see your Pastor or church council president for details, or assistance.*

Volume 45, Issue 8  
August 2024

### Special points of interest:

- Youth Nights, 8/4 & 8/11
- ABC Breakfast 8/12
- Grief Support 8/12 & 9/9
- Acolyte Training 8/18, 8/25
- 1st Communion Class 9/21
- Food Pantry 9/25
- Pr. Julie Vacation 10/17
- Craft Fair/Rummage/Bake Sale 11/2

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Sign up on the Kiosk at Ascension if you think there is a possibility that you can attend! The August 4th date is just the first *approximate* head count. **THANK YOU!!**

## Message From Pastor Julie

### I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE



Beginning July 28<sup>th</sup> and throughout August, our readings all come from the gospel of John, chapter 6. As a preacher, I am already thinking how much can I talk about bread? Then again, it also means that this is an important chapter of scripture as it applies to faith!

July 28<sup>th</sup>—We begin with the feeding of a crowd. The crowd was following him because they had seen the signs he was doing for the sick. Two things come to mind as I begin to prepare. First, how many people hunger for this bread of life, and second, how there is more than enough for everyone!



August 4<sup>th</sup>—The crowd is still looking for Jesus, and they still want more signs. Jesus tells them that the food that he fed the crowd perishes, but the Son of Man is the food Jesus gives; a food that will not perish. This bread is the bread of life, and when you eat of it, you will never hunger or thirst again.

August 11<sup>th</sup>—We begin where we left off last week, I am the bread of life. Whoever believes in Jesus, the bread of life has eternal life. Our reading this week from Ephesians will help outline what this life looks like.

August 18<sup>th</sup>—I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. Today's reading connects Jesus' teaching to the sacrament of Holy Communion, where we receive the real presence of Jesus in bread and cup. Again, this brings life, now and for eternity.

August 25<sup>th</sup>—Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. They recognize the difficulty of this teaching. It can even be offensive to some of those following and so they turned away and no longer went with him. Simon Peter will say these words of truth: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."



As we come to the end of summer, I pray that we as a community will feast on that which gives life, sustains life, not only now but for eternity. And to remember our call, to share Jesus with all those who hunger, as there is always more than enough!

## Pastor Vacation

Pastor Julie will be out of the office for vacation

**October 17<sup>th</sup>—November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Please call the church office (*or voicemail after hours*) for emergency contact numbers.



## President's Message



Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world” ~ Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The archbishop, when speaking of this may have taken his inspiration from the European folk tale “Stone Soup”. This parable is about the value of **sharing and working together** and the **use of wit and ingenuity** to get something to eat. The concept of sharing and working together is obviously not new and over the ages it has held true that “many hands make light work”, that we are stronger together than when we stand alone. We here at Ascension are often at our best when we come together to get things done, solve a problem and have a common goal. The use of wit and cleverness, thinking outside the box is often helpful in solving problems. I want to highlight a couple of these values at work amongst us.

Many may know that our sound system that allows us to worship together and share His message with those outside our walls, especially our shut-ins has essentially died. Our system is made of two technical parts, one which is 20 years old and the other 15 years. On July 7, 2024, at special meeting called by the Council two motions were presented the first motion: “that Ascension Lutheran Church purchase a new sound system for the sanctuary at the cost of up to \$16,873.63, through the services of Simoni Systems Inc.”, passed with overwhelming support. The second motion presented, “The Congregational Council moves that fundraising efforts in the congregation begin to raise at least 50% of the funding needed” also passed.

Although we have monies in savings the council doesn't feel it is the wisest plan of action to deplete them to pay for the entire system. This is where wit and ingenuity are at work. We are working on a diverse source of funding including but not limited to grants, fundraising, memorial funds, to name a few. We are working on fundraising efforts as I write this; so be on the lookout for them. We have had a few generous pledges so far, among them an individual in our congregation who has pledged a challenge amount- if the congregation can raise \$8,000, they will contribute \$3,000; that gives us more than half the project. Now most of us cannot underwrite the entire kettle of soup, but if each of us gives what we can; a carrot, a stalk of celery, a pinch of salt, or a potato or two, we just like those in the fable will enjoy an amazingly delicious pot of soup or in this case a worship experience to feed our souls.

Sharing and working together, not a novel concept, but for the ELCA churches in Saginaw County it has taken some time and continues to be a work in progress. Gus Hendrickson, Pastor and I started meeting with a group of individuals representing most of these churches well over a year ago. ANYONE of you is welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**, at home/Ascension. We have been working on ways to work together but admit this has been a very slow and painful process at times. We finally have something to show for our time and are excited to invite everyone to join us for a joint worship service on **September 22, 2024**, at the Horizon's Conference center, 10 am to noon. This includes lunch. Please sign up as soon as possible for catering purposes. Our theme is “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Table”, what it means to be ELCA Lutheran. This is meant to inspire, meant for us to get to know one another and to share the love of Christ together! We are using our ingenuity to help defray costs of lunch; please reach out to Pastor if the cost would prevent you from attending. We will see that everyone who wants is able to.

Final takeaways: 1). We have commissioned Simoni to begin building our new sound system although we haven't raised all the monies for it as this process takes 5 weeks. 2). By **sharing our vegetables** (to stick with the theme) **and working together**, we will be able to lessen the financial burden of the project and ensure financial security here at Ascension. 3). **Sign up** for worship with the ELCA Saginaw County churches on 9/22/24, 10am-noon at Horizon's includes lunch. We, okay, I want to see Ascension shine brightly at this event. Yes, for those who may not know I am a bit competitive!!!

In Christ's Service,  
Kris Yackel-Friend, Council President

## Sunday Adult Study

The Sunday morning adult bible study will return in September. More information to come on what will follow.

## Monday Women's Bible Study

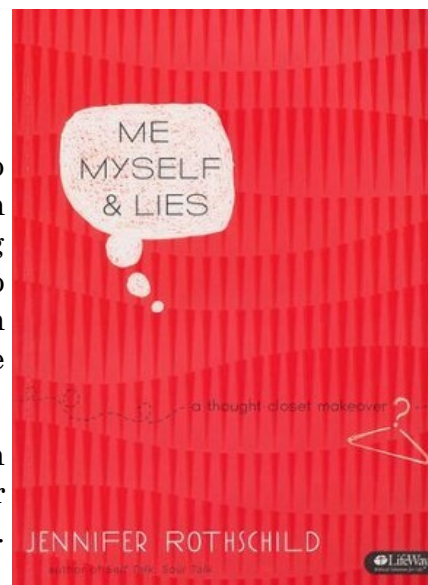
Words are powerful. Especially the words women speak to themselves. All too often, what they say to themselves when they lie in bed at night or look in the mirror in the morning is not even close to the words God wants them to speak to their souls. This 7-session study will encourage you to clean out the junk in your mind and replace hidden negative thoughts with positive truths from God's word.

The Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study will run **September 9—October 21, 2024** with Jennifer Rothschild's "Me, Myself, & Lies" at 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. every Monday.

Jennifer is a nationally known author and teacher known for her substance and a down-to-earth teaching style.

**Participant books are \$10.00 per person.** Please call or text Joyce Richardson at 989-274-6787 by August 28th to secure a book. Questions can also be directed to Joyce.

Our Mary to Martha Women's Bible Study is open to women of all ages, and stages of faith, members & non-members, as we seek a closer relationship with our Lord. We know that you'll be blessed by God's Word and fellowship with other women, and we'll be blessed by your presence.



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study resumes August 6, 2024

After taking a break during July, our Tuesday morning Bible study will resume on Zoom **August 6<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin by reading through Ephesians, moving on to 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and then 1 & 2 Timothy.

All are welcome to join us.

[www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)  
**Meeting ID: 871 0929 4561**  
**Passcode: 099583**



Enter the code for the zoom meeting or let Pastor Julie know and she can email or Facebook message you the invite.



**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  
 Connie Dutcher, Treasurer  
 Stephanie Becker, Secretary  
 Susan Kelley, Financial Secretary

**MINISTRIES**

Glen Mack, 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](http://www.ascensionlc.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionsaginaw) (Group Name: Ascension Lutheran Church of Saginaw (ELCA) Group)  
**YouTube:** Ascension Lutheran Church  
 ELCA Saginaw Website: [elcasaginawcounty.weebly.com](http://elcasaginawcounty.weebly.com)  
 ELCA Saginaw Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/elcasaginawcounty](http://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.



1st Brittany Aldrich  
 Michelle Midcalf  
 2nd Kristen Huebner  
 5th Karen Luplow  
 6th Jennifer Deaton  
 8th Jeff Crook  
 Tera Weber  
 10th Kim Anderson  
 Allison Hamilton  
 Dorothy Leppert  
 Linda Luplow  
 11th Adam Clauss  
 Mark Hickner  
 13th Liam Kittle  
 14th Arlington Enright  
 17th Pierce Doerr  
 Samantha Hamilton  
 Julie Stroebel

18th Hadley Enright  
 Tim Wilson  
 19th Meredith Friend  
 Sandy Graham  
 21st Marie Stuart  
 Lisa Whelton  
 23rd Madison Stoddard  
 24th Declan Denman  
 Henry Salowitz  
 25th Renae Goschke  
 Michael Randall  
 Trudy Ryder  
 26th Bob Dillenbeck  
 27th Ron Leonard  
 28th Marilynn Christensen  
 Tony Dancer  
 Rick Hamilton, Sr.  
 Marissa Toupin  
 29th Collin Edsall  
 30th Cathy Wight  
 31st Mark Girardin



2nd Dave and Shelly Dawson  
 Tom and Jennifer Deaton  
 Mary and Norm, Jr. Hamilton  
 8th Ron and Donna Fries  
 Barry and Sue Wiggins  
 11th Spence and Tammy Webb  
 12th Wade and Andrea Kittle  
 15th Rob and Jean Joslyn  
 Nelson and Lynn Ann Staples  
 19th Mike Romosier & Connie Dutcher  
 20th Cary and Chris Trier  
 22nd Waylon and Dawn Earnesty  
 23rd Cody and Melissa Briggs  
 25th TJ and Michelle Midcalf  
 26th Brian and Wendy Awad  
 Hugh and Jennifer Dickie  
 Michael and Marissa Toupin  
 Jeff and Vicki Wenzel  
 27th Carolyn and Tom Ballien  
 Matt and Jessica McRae  
 28th Jack and Renae Goschke  
 Nathan and Katica Gottlieb  
 29th Jared and Heidi Trepkowski  
 31st Dave and Barb Huston

## Please Remember Those on Ascension’s Care List

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

Bob Bolger—Edgewood Assisted Living, 4850 Gratiot Rd., Room B12, Saginaw, MI 48638

Dick Chilton—17935 Roosevelt Rd, Rm #5, Hemlock, MI 48626

Pat Joyce—8044 Winchester Ct. Saginaw, MI 48609

Peggy Lockhart—6143 Longmeadow Blvd. North, Saginaw, MI 48603

Esther Mack—285 S. Miller Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609

Marie Myers—11145 Morningstar Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609

Jackie O’Dell—108 Fulton Street, Apt 405, St. Charles, MI 48655

Joyce Storm—181 Evelyn, Saginaw, MI 48609 *(At Wellspring Rehab-Superior 5, until mid-August)*

Lee Turner—6371 Birchview Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609

Dan Wenzel—9065 Bray Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609

Barry Wiggins—1202 Weiss St, Room 305, Saginaw, MI 48602

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

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



## Prayers of the Week

Our partner prayers are included in The Messenger each month.

***As Jesus calls us to be one even as he and the Father are one, please remember these congregations, leaders, and families in your prayers.***

### August 4th

Peace Lutheran Church, South Haven, MI and Rev. Travis Wilson  
*Ascension Families: Amy, Russ, Abigail, Carlie, Elizabeth Kolb; Collene Kolinski; Diane, Michael Kolinski*

### August 11th

Peace Lutheran Church, Sparta, MI and Rev. Julie Winklepleck, Supply Pastor  
*Ascension Families: Nancy Kozak; Ali, Mike, Logan Krzyzaniak; Carol Lange*

### August 18th

New Life Lutheran Church, Spruce, MI and their Supply Pastors  
*Ascension Families: Chuck & Lori Latty; Alicia, Jon, Samantha Leffler; Linda Lentner*

### August 25th

Spruce Lutheran Church, Spruce, MI and Rev. Leslie Nye, Contracted Supply Pastor  
*Ascension Families: Marv Lentner; Ron & Marie Leonard; Dorothy Leppert*

PRAYING  
FOR YOU

## 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 2024 flower chart is posted on the door of the Acolyte room and dates are available.



August 4th In memory of John Cavendish’s birthday, by Bonnie Cavendish  
August 11th To the Glory of God, by Susan Kelley  
August 18th In memory of Kay Ballien and Janet Bain, by Phil Ballien  
August 25th To the Glory of God, by The Blehm Family



## Linked to Love

What a phenomenal week we had at camp. I have to say, we have great leaders in our youth and in our adults. We talked about how love, acceptance, grace, truth, and being present with others is acting in love. We had one first time camper who stayed half the week, but we know she would have been able to stay a whole week—she rocked it. Our elementary campers participated with other elementary campers from around Michigan, learning about love, playing games, and making relationships. They also got to go to Lewis Farms. The confirmation campers did a Bible study with myself and Pastor Kevin Sullivan from Faith in Grand Rapids, where we met his confirmation youth as well. Pastor Kevin has a great way of telling stories. We developed relationships in our Bible study, and as we worked as a group on low ropes, and challenged ourselves on the high ropes. Our high school camper did Bible study with his group, and they got some time just hanging out as high schoolers'. They canoed across the lake for a picnic and time away.

Thank you Ascension's parents, youth and the entire congregation for your support of this ministry. I will be participating in a fundraiser to help make camp available for all beginning in August. I will be playing camp bingo. So watch for opportunities again to make love, grace, acceptance, presence and truth known.

—Pastor Julie Bailey

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## Prayer Chain/Reader Contact—Phone Number Change

Barb Van Marter has eliminated her land line and is using her cell phone, 989-525-4603. If you are part of the Prayer Chain or a Reader, please update this number in your contacts. THANK YOU!

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## Looking for Reliable Resources?

Have you ever needed to find someone to help with a problem (*plumber, electrician, housekeeper, roofer, etc.*) and didn't know how to find someone reliable? The solution may be found in a list of reliable businesses recommended by people you know.

There is a notebook of reliable business recommendations now in the library on the shelf below the book return box.

A few recommendations have already been put in the book. Please feel free to add as many as you have. The recommendation forms are in the pocket on the inside front cover of the notebook. It would be nice to have a number of entries in each category—either your own business or ones you have successfully used. Feel free to add notes or endorse entries already included.

If you have any questions, contact Marty Debozy (989-642-8135) or Lori Schultz (989-239-3076)

## Grief Support Group—Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Ascension's Grief Support Group is meeting informally on **August 12th**. This session is a No Requirements, No Pressure, Relaxed & Informal, Come and just listen or you may share session. **Everyone is Welcome!**



## New 13 Week Session beginning September 9th

Ascension's Grief Support Group will begin a new session on **Monday, September 9th at 10:30 a.m.** The program they follow 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 \$20.

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 place 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](mailto:linda.lentner@gmail.com).

## Sound System—Capital Expenditures Fundraisers

**Can You Hear Me Now??!!** - An envelope fundraiser is on the table outside of the library to raise funds for the new sound system\*. To participate, take an envelope, fill in the blanks, place envelope in the offering plate or the church office.

**A Craft Fair, Bake Sale, & No Clothes Rummage Sale** will be held at Ascension on **Saturday, November 2nd**. Additional details will follow, so watch the announcements and kiosk for sign ups and flyers. We will need baked good donations, rummage items, and workers to help at bake & rummage sales and in the kitchen for the "light lunch" offered for a nominal fee.

This will be an "inside" No Clothes Rummage Sale, so please bring your clean, gently used items to church August 18th-September 20th. You can stop by during office hours Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm, bring when you come for worship on Sundays or Wednesdays, or contact Lori Schultz at 989-239-3076 to arrange a drop off time. Items will be collected and sorted in the Education Hallway rooms labeled "Rainbow Reef" and "Tree Top PC".



\*Any funds raised in excess of the sound system will be applied to future capital expenditures (such as video projector, furnace, parking lot, flooring, musical equipment, etc.).

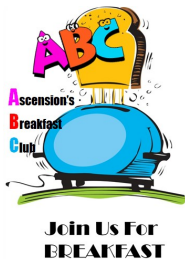


## Wellness Warriors—Tuesdays 6:15 p.m.

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.



## Ascension Breakfast Club (ABC)—August 12th



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 Family Restaurant at 8295 Midland Rd., in Freeland** in August. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. You don't need to prepare anything or clean up, just show up.

## Sewing Group

Ascension's sewing group will return in September. Watch next month's Messenger for return date details.

## Bishop's Newsletter

The bishop's newsletter for August can be found here:  
<https://www.mittensynod.org/resources/publications/>



## RaiseRight Orders Due August 18th

How Does It Work? Buy a gift card from the church and the church earns a percentage of the value. Order forms are on the kiosk and the church's website. Payment to Ascension Lutheran Church is due with the order.

## Trunk or Treat



Pastor Julie will be on vacation on October 31st and will not be here to plan and participate in Trunk or Treat. If you are interested in volunteering to run this event, please contact her directly. This is a "light work" event.

## Please Remember Your Congregation Over The Summer!

Many of us are blessed to go north or travel during the summer. Statistics show giving goes down when people aren't in church. Please remember our ministry continues during the summer. Consider mailing your offering to the church, or you can give through Vanco, our online giving program. <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN7D/home>

## Blood Drive



Our next blood drive of 2024 will be held on **Thursday, September 12th from 2:30 - 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Every unit counts! Choose your appointment online or contact Lisa in the church office. Walk-ins Welcome!

## Do You Have an Idea for an Article??

Many members are not aware that any member can submit an article for the newsletter. If you are part of a ministry within the church, feel free anytime to submit something for us to include. Updates are great!!

You can also come across

articles that may be helpful to our members.

In the past there have been health articles, financial articles, educational information. You can also submit thank you's; examples of these are after an illness or death, when



additional attention was provided. Articles can be submitted on paper or sent via email to [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net). If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask Lisa.

## Eyeglass Recycling—Partnership with the Shields Lions Club

Since 1925, Lions International has been a champion in helping combat vision impairment and blindness.

Ascension now has a box where you can donate your older prescription eye glasses to help those who could benefit. This is one way to express your love and care for the other in need. The box is located in the gathering area, near the library. Thank you in advance for your donations, we filled the box once already & they've emptied it.



## Giving Envelope Accuracy

To help ensure you are accurately credited for your giving **please fill out your envelopes clearly with the amount, breakdown, and name.** If you forget your envelope, no problem, we have extras near the sanctuary entrance for you to use, but please remember to put your name on them. We have had some instances where people think they know their envelope number and they are close but not correct. Your name is a good idea to ensure accuracy.

## Blood Pressure Screening

Mark your calendar for blood pressure screenings by the Parish Health Committee on the 3rd Sunday each month. The next one will be held on **Sunday, August 18th.**



## Online Giving through VANCO

Ascension utilizes VANCO. Members can use VANCO to give on a regular schedule or for single donations. If you have any questions or trouble with logging in, please contact Lisa at the office for assistance.

VANCO's website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN7D/home>



## Food Pantry

There is a Truck Unload and Shelf Stocking the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome, the next date is **August 7th at 8:30 a.m.** at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

Ascension is providing



workers for the Center of HOPE Food Pantry on **September 25th.** Volunteers should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** at the pantry at 723 Emerson, Saginaw, MI 48607.

If you have questions about volunteering, Amanda Doerr, is our "in church" contact person. Please give her a call at 989-798-3241.

**The Food Pantry continues to collect clean plastic & cloth grocery bags & manual can openers.**

If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry to purchase food through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, donations can be sent directly to: FBEM, 2300 Lapeer Rd, Flint, MI 48503. Checks must include in the memo line: Center of Hope Food Pantry/Saginaw P-981.

## Spaces to Be

Sometimes we find ourselves at the church building and just need a moment or space away. We have some of those rooms available.

**Library:** Here is a place where we have books to look at, comfortable seating, and floor chairs that the young people really love. If you take a book off the shelf, and are not planning on taking it home with you to read, please replace the book where you found it.

**Nursery:** We are not currently staffing the nursery but it is still available. We ask that young children not be left unsupervised. It is expected that the room will be picked up prior to leaving. I still encourage parents to have their children in worship, but if you need to change a diaper or are too distracted yourself, feel free to use the nursery during worship to decrease the stimuli.

**Youth Room:** The youth room is for those **6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade**. It has couches and chairs for the young people to go in and relax, read, and talk. This room is to be kept in some order, so pick up trash and put things away when you are done.

As with everything, please pick up after yourselves (coffee cups, candy wrappers, food crumbs) so that all can enjoy the spaces we have available.

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## ELCA Women of Saginaw County

The women of the ELCA in Saginaw are committed to grow in faith, to support one another in their endeavors, to engage in ministering to those in need of help, and to promote fellowship in the group, the churches, and the community. The next meeting will be in **September**, watch for upcoming dates/times.

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## Conversations in Caregiving—At Our Saviour



If you are, have been, or going to be a caregiver, come join the discussion at 1:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Our Saviour Lutheran Church (2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603). Next meetings, **Tuesdays, August 6th & 20th**. Questions can be directed to Linda Grindahl or Arletta French. Contact Our Saviour (989) 799-5470 for their phone numbers.



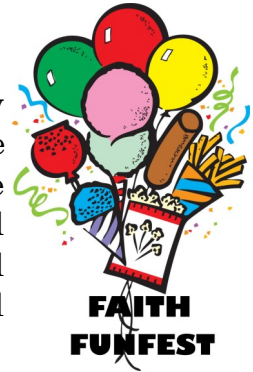
## ELCA Saginaw County Group Website/Facebook/YouTube

The ELCA Saginaw County group has a new website! Please check it out at <https://elcasaginawcounty.weebly.com/>. People visiting the website has a positive impact on the search engine optimization, so please check it out. You can also link to the Facebook and YouTube pages through the website!



## Faith Funfest

Faith Lutheran (4432 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw) has planned a fun family event for **Saturday, September 7th, from 11:00 am to 2:00pm**. The community and area ELCA churches are invited! This event will have many fun activities, so bring your family, grandkids, neighbor kids and friends. The goal this year is to have so many people we need to expand it next year. So put September 7th on your calendar. Any questions, call Paul Hudson (989) 860-3237.



## Harvest Bazaar At Zion Freeland



Zion Freeland, 545 S. 7th St, (at Powley Dr, next to Pat's Food Center) is having a Harvest Bazaar, **Saturday, October 19th 9am-3pm**. Come enjoy the many crafts and vendors.

## Coat/Outer Garments/Household Linens—At Resurrection

Coat/Outer Garments/Household Linens are being collected for a coat/linen distribution on October 25th-26th by Resurrection Lutheran Church. If you have clean outer garments/linens in your home, please bring to Resurrection, 2110 Brockway St, Saginaw, MI 48602 for distribution in the fall. Questions directed to Resurrection, 989-792-7135.



## First Communion

Remember, there is not an age that a child must be to take first communion at Ascension. We commune when the child, parent, and pastor feel they are ready. This is a meal that brings us together, and how it all works is a mystery. It isn't just about understanding all the details, but a reminder that they are part of this great community bound by Jesus. It is also a meal that strengthens us as we continue to grow in our faith. If you have questions or you feel your child is ready please contact Pastor Julie.



We will plan on our young people receiving their First Communion on **Sunday, October 6th or Wednesday, October 9th.**

In preparation for this day, I will be holding a First Communion class on **Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m.-12 noon.** Please mark these dates on your calendar.

## Acolyte Training

Acolytes are generally elementary age through confirmation and can participate once a parent feels they are responsible to carry the flame into and out of the service. They also assist with offering, communion, baptisms, and extinguish the candles. A specific service can be selected and participation ranges from monthly to bi-monthly depending on the number of acolytes. One or two acolytes are needed at each service. This is one of the first ministries that our youth participate in and is essential in engaging them in volunteering in the future.

We are looking at **Sundays, August 18th and 25th** at either 9:15 a.m. or after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for the training.

Lisa Whelton will be training new acolytes. It can likely be completed in about 30-40 mins. The kids will practice acolyting as part of the training and will be paired up with an experienced acolyte during their first time in worship (and 2nd time, if you think it would be helpful or they are still unsure). Once they are confident that they can acolyte on their own, they can also acolyte at the 8am service or 7pm on Wednesdays (if they or you desire).

They will learn:

- about the Acolyte Room (the robes & ties, signing in, the candle lighter)
- when to enter service to light the candles
- the order the candles are lit
- when to snuff the candles
- the order the candles are snuffed & carrying the light out of service
- how to assist during the service (offering and communion)



A parent or an adult needs to stay for the training.

Please let Lisa in the office know if you have a student interested in becoming an acolyte and which date and time work for you.

## Confirmation Classes Resume Sunday, September 8th 4:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.



We are planning to run two classes on Sunday for confirmation. One class will include the students who are returning for their second year of instruction, and a new class will begin for those just beginning the instruction. You are to be in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above. If a youth is planning on attending, please let the church office know so I make sure we have the necessary supplies to start.

You will note I made the class 90 minutes instead of one hour. This is to give us a bit of time to stretch if a lesson needs more time, but more often an opportunity just for relationships and fun afterwards. Classes will still last one hour, but as you can imagine, sometimes settling down to do them takes a bit longer than expected.

The actual schedule will be posted as soon as finalized.

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a time when a person affirms their own faith and their responsibilities, those that were made by their parents, sponsors, and congregation in baptism. Ascension currently is using a 2-year program that meets about twice a month and studies Luther's Small Catechism and discipleship practices. It is also known as Affirmation of Faith—and this is the way one becomes a voting member of a congregation.

### What about Adults?

I am wondering if there is interest in starting an Adult Affirmation of Faith program.

Contact Pastor Julie with any questions.

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## 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.

## Middle & High School Youth Nights



Youth Nights for our **Middle and High School youth** will continue in **August**. We will meet on Sunday's at the pavilion from **6p.m. — 9p.m.** Come join other youth (6th-12th grade) and **Bring friends!**

**August 4th**—Paint the Gaga Ball Pit (wear old clothes)

**August 11th**—Tie Dye (**Bring an item to tie dye**), Finish Gaga Ball Pit (wear old clothes). We will have Ice Cream Sundae's! **Bring a topping** that starts with the first letter of your name! (Example: Julie brings Jelly Beans) Ice Cream will be provided. We will have fun & also talk about the fall!

Ascension requires 2 adults be present at youth events, please contact Pastor Julie if you can be a parent volunteer either of the nights.

## CHARGE—Middle & High School Youth Event



Once again we will be attending CHARGE, a youth event offered for Middle and High School Youth. The registration fee for weekend event will be \$195, which includes the cost of the event and for the hotel room. Scholarship money may be available. Food costs will be covered by the youth account.

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 scholarship and other costs of events beyond the registration fee.

Registration forms will be available on the kiosk or online. Registrations fill up quickly so please don't delay! Please pay deposit of \$100 by September 30th, with balance by October 31st.

Adults, if you are willing to attend please let me know. I need to place one adult in each room so gender balance is important as well.









## BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



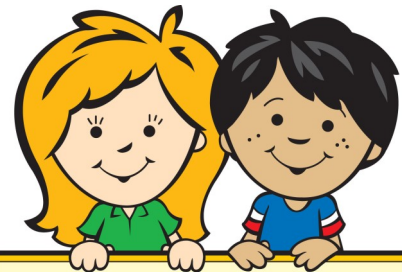
DASN  
LHSELS  
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BHECA  
LALUBMER  
WRTEA  
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How many are your works, LORD!  
In wisdom you made them \_\_\_\_;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
There is the \_\_\_\_, vast and spacious,  
teeming with \_\_\_\_\_ beyond number —  
living things both large and small.  
*Psalm 104:24-25, NIV*

Answers: sand, shells, sun, seaside, beach, umbrella, water, surf, waves, all, sea, creatures



## KIDS PAGE



You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

### What you need:

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



### What you do:

1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



## Bible Quiz

What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Pull Out Your Bibles for this Quiz and Go To: **1 Kings 17:2-6**

## Serving in August

*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	Marty Debozy	Chris Crump	4	Tom Page	Lisa Whelton
11	Tom Erskine	Barb Van Marter	11	Lynn Schomaker	Heidi Trepkowski
18	Joan Ford	John Whelton	18	Ruth Schomaker	Lisa Espinoza
25	Kris Friend	Amy Fahrenbruch	25	Susan Kelley	Dawn Dalton

### Sound Board Operators

4	Madison Morgan	Makena Whelton
11	†	Makena Whelton
18	†	Makena Whelton
25	†	Makena Whelton

### Video Screen Operators

4	Mackenzie Morgan	Marissa Fahrenbruch
11	Kris Friend	Ginny Whelton
18	Susan Kelley	Marissa Fahrenbruch
25	Kris Friend	Marissa Fahrenbruch

### Head Ushers

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



### Acolyte 10:30 a.m.

4  
11  
18  
25

*Volunteers welcome, no assignments for the summer!*

### Altar Guild

4	Sue Bailey	Howe/Blehm
11	Ruth S/Pat M	Hendrickson/Ecker
18	Ruth S/Pat M	Becker/Becker
25	Kris Friend	Crump/Wilson

### Lawn Mowers

### Children's Church

4  
11  
18  
25

*Summer Break!  
Join us for the Children's  
Message at 10:30 a.m. and pick  
up a children's bulletin as you  
enter the sanctuary.*

**August Librarian:** Joyce Berg



### WEDNESDAYS 7pm

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

## Ascension Lutheran Church - August 2024






8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609 (989) 781-2170

Email: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net) Website: [ascensionlc.org](http://ascensionlc.org)

Church Office hours: Mondays—Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

If you plan to meet for one of our Ministries in the church, please let the church office know.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm-Trustee Mtg	2 <b>Office Closed</b>	3 
4 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6-9pm-Youth Night (Pavilion)	5 6:30pm-ELCA Saginaw County Mtg (@Ascension) 	6 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	7 8:30am-Food Pantry Truck Unload 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	8	9 <b>Office Closed</b> Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	10
11 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion 6-9pm-Youth Night (Pavilion)	12 9am-ABC Breakfast @ Riverside-Freeland 10:30am-Grief Group	13 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	14 <i>Lisa in Late</i> 12pm-Council Reports Due 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	15 <b>Office Closed</b>	16 <b>Office Closed</b>	17
18 <i>Raise Right Due BP Screening</i> 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion Acolyte Training 11:30am-Youth Gathering Debrief	19 12pm-Messenger Deadline	20 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors 6:30pm-Council Mtg	21 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion	22 	23 <b>Office Closed</b>	24
25 8am-Worship/Communion 10:30am-Worship/Communion Acolyte Training	26	27 11am-Bible Study-Zoom 6:15pm-Wellness Warriors	28 6:30pm-Scouts 7pm-Worship/Communion Messenger Mailed	29	30 <b>Office Closed</b>	31 

Prayer Chain requests should be called to Barb Van Marter at 989-525-4603 **\*\*NEW NUMBER\*\***

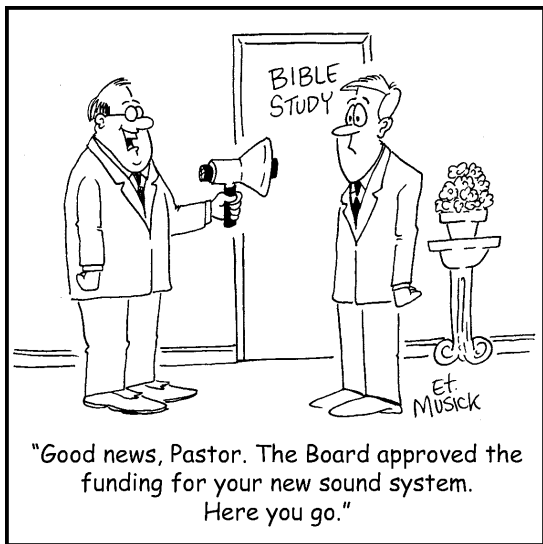
# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Saginaw, MI 48609

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www.ascensionlc.org

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In honor of our recent sound system woes, I bring you these cartoons. We have to smile and be positive through this time!



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**The MESSENGER** is published monthly by Ascension Lutheran Church. Deadline for the September 2024 issue is: **Monday, August 19th at 12:00 (noon)**. Articles may be emailed to: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)