

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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FROM THE PASTOR

Here we are, at the end of the year that celebrated 500 years of Reformation theology! Throughout the 2017 newsletters we reflected on various aspects of Luther: his life, his faith, his family, his struggles and successes.

Standing at the threshold to the manger in only a few days, I decided to share a few portions of Luther's famous Christmas sermons. Luther loved Christmas and preached about the birth of Christ at every opportunity that presented itself to him. The following are precious passages from a number of different sermons.

Enjoy these words as you prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ-child! PZ+

"...but the birth itself is still more pitiful. There was no one to take pity on this young wife who was for the first time to give birth to a child; no one to take to heart her condition that she, a stranger, did not have the least thing a mother needs in a birth-night. There she is without any preparation, without either light or fire, alone in the darkness, without any one offering her service as is customary for women to do at such times. Everything is in commotion in the inn, there is a swarming of guests from all parts of the country, no one thinks of this poor woman. It is also possible that she did not expect the event



Pastor- Solveig A.H. Zamzow

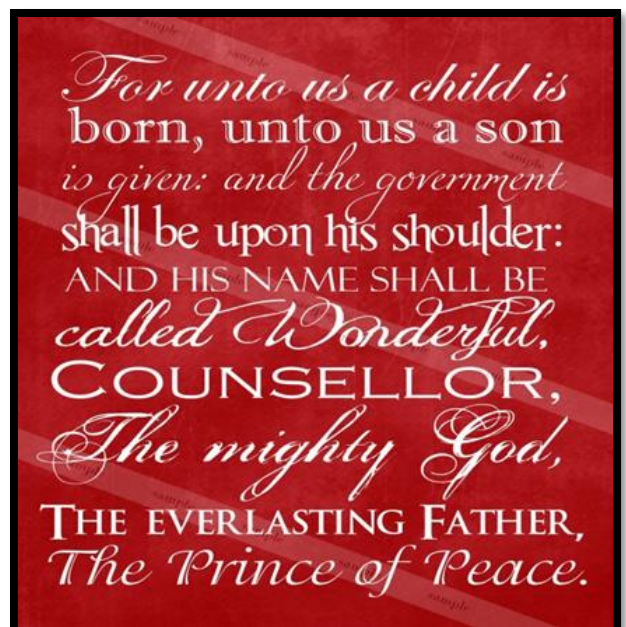
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December 2017

so soon, else she would probably have remained at Nazareth..."

"...Some argue as to how this birth took place, as if Jesus was born while Mary was praying and rejoicing, without any pain, and before she was conscious of it. While I do not altogether discard that pious supposition, it was evidently invented for the sake of simple minded people. But we must abide by the Gospel, that he was born of the virgin Mary. There is no deception here, for the Word clearly states that it was an actual birth..."

"...It is well known what is meant by giving birth. Mary's experience was not different from that of other women, so that the birth of Christ was a real natural birth, Mary being his natural mother



and he being her natural son. Therefore her body performed its functions of giving birth, which naturally belonged to it, except that she brought forth without sin, without shame, without pain and without injury, just as she had conceived without sin. The curse of Eve did not come on her, where God said: "In pain thou shalt bring forth children," Gen. 3: 16; otherwise it was with her in every particular as with every woman who gives birth to a child..."

"How could God have shown his goodness in a more sublime manner than by humbling himself to partake of flesh and blood, that he did not even disdain the natural privacy but honors nature most highly..."

...Behold how very ordinary and common things are to us that transpire on earth, and yet how high they are regarded in heaven. On earth it occurs in this wise: Here is a poor young woman, Mary of Nazareth, not highly esteemed, but of the humblest citizens of the village. No one is conscious of the great wonder she bears, she is silent, keeps her own counsel, and regards herself as the lowliest in the town. She starts out with her husband Joseph; very likely they had no servant, and he had to do the work of master and servant, and she that of mistress and maid. They were therefore obliged to leave their home unoccupied, or commend it to the care of others. Now they evidently owned an ass, upon which



Mary rode, although the Gospel does not mention it, and it is possible that she went on foot with Joseph. Imagine how she was despised at the inns and stopping places on the way, although worthy to ride in state in a chariot of gold. There were, no doubt, many wives and daughters of prominent men at that time, who lived in fine apartments and great splendor, while the mother of God takes a journey in mid-winter under most trying circumstances. What distinctions there are in the world! It was more than a day's journey from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in the land of Judea. They had to journey either by or through Jerusalem, for Bethlehem is south of Jerusalem while Nazareth is north. The Evangelist shows how, when they arrived at Bethlehem, they were the most insignificant and despised, so that they had to make way for others until they were obliged to take refuge in a stable, to share with the cattle, lodging, table, bedchamber and bed, while many a wicked man sat at the head in the hotels and was honored as lord. No one noticed or was conscious of what God was doing in that stable. He lets the large houses and costly apartments remain empty, lets their inhabitants eat, drink and be merry; but this comfort and treasure are hidden from them. O what a dark night this was for Bethlehem that was not conscious of that glorious light..."

"...If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in



a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now..."

"...The Son of God did not want to be seen and found in heaven. Therefore, he descended from heaven into this humility and came to us in our flesh, laid himself into the womb of his mother and into the manger and went on to the cross. This was the ladder that he placed on earth so that we might ascend to God on it. This is the way you must take. If you depart from this way and try to speculate about the glory of the Divine Majesty—without this ladder—you will invent marvelous matters that transcend your horizon, but you will do so at very great harm to yourself..."

"...There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Yes you

would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself..."



*Dear members and friends of Emmanuel,
This is our sixth Christmas in your midst!
While it is hard to believe that this much
time has gone by since we moved to
Grafton, it also continues to be a pleasure
living and being in ministry with you. What
a year it was, this 2017! We are glad we
got to share the joys, sorrows, frustrations
and fears it brought, with you. As we soon
will gather around the Christmas tree, we
are sending you best wishes and prayers for
a peaceful, blessed, joyous and healthy
Christmas and a good New Year. With the
first verse of one of my favorite modern
carols we greet you warmly. The verse
entails all our good wishes for you and your
loved ones:*

Holy Child within the Manger, long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger, come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

*May it be so - may it truly be so!
Merry Christmas
- Pastor Solveig and Michael Zamzow*

DID YOU KNOW?



...that the calendar is making our year-end financial accounting “interesting”? December 31st is on a Sunday. In order to get credit on your 2017 statement, all offerings must be at Emmanuel at 10:30 am on that day with checks properly dated for 12/31/2017. Any offerings received after that point in time, even if back-dated, will be credited to your 2018 statement.

... that we would like for you to be aware that our Advent and Christmas offering for 2017 will remain at Emmanuel. After serious contemplation we decided not to split the upcoming offerings as we have in the past but rather add them to our Current Fund in light of a relatively low working balance. It is our hope and intent to resume Emmanuel’s tradition of splitting the Advent and Christmas offerings in future years. Thank you to everyone who has been faithful and charitable in supporting our ministry this past year. We especially thank you for boosting our Building Fund and for the generosity you showed toward our Mission Fest recipient. May God bless giver and gifts.

-The Stewardship Board

...that Churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith-based community centers damaged in a natural disaster could be eligible for federal disaster relief funds under a measure approved by a congressional committee? The Disaster Recovery Reform Act, was approved



on 11/30 by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and will next move to the House floor for deliberation. The bill received strong support from both sides of the aisle despite objections that using taxpayer funds to rebuild houses of worship would violate the separation of church and state. Proponents of the measure argue that religious groups, which are often at the forefront of disaster relief efforts, are being unfairly disadvantaged.

...that, even if migration to Europe ceased, the percentage of Muslims in those countries would still rise over the next three decades? That is according to new projections by the Pew Research Center. As of mid-2016, Muslims make up nearly 5 percent of the population in the 28 countries of the European Union, plus Norway and Switzerland, according to the new Pew report. That is an estimated 25.8 million people. By comparison, Muslims make up about 1 percent of the population in the United States and could reach 2 percent by 2050.

...that after a 1993 fire, accidentally triggered by federal authorities, killed 75 members of an obscure Christian sect near Waco, Texas, one of the “lessons learned” was this: Call in religion experts in a crisis where faith is a factor? This month, nearly 25 years after the debacle now simply referred to as “Waco,” FBI officials and scholars from the American Academy of Religion gathered at Harvard Divinity School to reflect on how the crisis in

Texas led to a new relationship between them – and on the challenges ahead. Waco began when willing followers of self-proclaimed prophet David Koresh and his Branch Davidian sect barricaded themselves in a heavily armed compound. After 51 days, law enforcement moved to end the standoff by force. Since then, AAR scholars have advised the FBI’s Critical Incident Response Group when dissident religious groups that are not generally well-

understood come into conflict with law enforcement. Scholars also work with the FBI's National Academy to equip new agents with a wider range of religious understanding. "We don't have an excuse not to ask for advice," said David T. Resch, who was part of the FBI team at Waco and is now special agent in charge of the FBI National Academy. With the AAR, the FBI has "a mechanism to reach out of our comfort zone" in recognizing where offenders' and victims' actions are shaped by religious beliefs...However, it was noted, creating a "Religion 101" road map for current and future law enforcement officers is not so simple. Not everyone agrees on what the curriculum should be in our religiously diverse society.



The date is Sunday, December 10th and the presentation will begin at 3 pm.

Live Nativity 2017: We are in need of your help! There are places around the church where you can sign up to bring various "market items" which will be on display as people come to see the presentation. We are also looking for "a few good men" to help us set up the Bethlehem scene Friday, December 8th at 1:30pm. If you can assist, please let Pastor Z know. For those who are members of the cast: our rehearsal will be at 9am on Saturday December 9th.

Pastoral Acts



We welcome into the family of God's children and our faith community, Riley Troy Tourtellott and Harper Grace Schuttler. Riley, the son of Haley Tourtellott, was baptized on November 19th. His sponsors are Nicole Tourtellott and Jade Schurtz. Harper, the daughter of Jason and Nicole Schuttler, was baptized on November 26. Her sponsors are Kyle Schotanus and Gene Schuttler Jr. May Riley and Harper grow in the ways of the Lord and bring much joy to their families.



We will have two ADVENT SERVICES during the Advent season: this Wednesday, December 6th and on the 13th. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm and spend some time with one another singing and discussing Advent hymns. What is the message? Why do we sing them? How did they come about? Come and join us by the glimmer of candles as we contemplate God's Word in song.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

I found a wonderfully sweet but powerful reflection on Stewardship from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Here it is with thanks to the (unknown) author:

The Christmas story - the story of Jesus being born in a manger, shepherds coming to visit and kings following a star to find this infant child - is a story filled with Stewardship messages.

Lesson from the Infant Jesus: *There is no shame in being poor.* It is interesting to note that while throughout his adult life Jesus always taught us to give and to serve, He first came into this world as one who needed assistance. It was no accident that He was born without a place to lay His head. In coming to our world in this way Jesus shows us there is no shame in being poor. A risk we take when we practice Stewardship is that we may begin to think of ourselves as better or luckier than someone in need and consciously or unconsciously look down upon those who need our generosity. When we look down upon the poor we look down upon the infant Jesus Himself.

Lesson from the Shepherds: *We all have gifts to give.* The shepherds came from the fields bringing only themselves and their sheep. Yet their interest in Jesus was enough to win them a place in the Christmas story for all times. What is their stewardship message to us? Even if all we have to give is our interest, our caring, and our time to come and visit; those are important gifts to give.

Lesson from the Wise Men: *Just worshipping Jesus isn't enough.* The Wise Men present an entirely different message than the shepherds. Like most of us, these were men with many blessings. They are praised in the Christmas story not just for coming to worship Jesus but also for

bringing Him gifts. The lesson is that just going to church is not enough. We also are expected to bring our gifts with us.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Open House, Grafton Depot, Wed, Dec 6. The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be passing through Grafton (it will NOT stop). Drop in for cider and cookies.

You're invited to First Lutheran Church Women's Christmas program with "Witness 4", a musical group and luncheon to follow in St. Ansgar on Sat, Dec 9 at 10am.

Join us for a "Journey to Bethlehem" an Advent Experience at Bethel Church in Manly on Sat, Dec 9 & Sun, Dec 10 from 1-7pm.

THANK YOU STEWARDS

.... **to the November Hospitality Team:** Clarice Bartz, Virl & Bonnie Deal, Gary & Angela Backhaus, Val & John Bork, Greg & Shal Zillgitt, Sara Buechele, John & Sandy Duvall, JC & Sandy Dawald, Candi & David Feldt, Sharon Hulshizer, Corrie & Kim Kuntz, Ramon & Sara Kuntz

....**to Emi Kuntz and Val Bork** for serving on our Altar Guild for the month of November.

...**to everyone** who supported the collection for the Grafton Cemetery Association. \$630 were collected. Thank you one and all! Emmanuel continues to be a strong partner in taking care of the cemetery needs and it is much appreciated.

...**to all members and friends** who helped with the raising of funds for our 2017 Mission Fest recipient, FOOD FOR THE POOR. We collected \$2,688.00 and are forwarding the gift so it can soon make a difference in the lives of people. This is a fantastic offering! **Thank you one and all. We also express our thanks to the Stewardship Committee,** and all who attended, for their work on our nice potluck luncheon. Thanks to Pastor Z who once again hosted our Mission speaker.

...**to the ladies** who gather in the Fellowship Hall sewing quilts for those in need. At the recent sewing days 20 quilts were put together and now many busy hands will put the finishing touches on them. We are looking forward to seeing the results next Spring!

...**to Jody Hackbart** for once again leading the Operation Christmas Child efforts at ELC. We gathered and shipped off 23 boxes. Although that is less than in the past, 23 children will be blessed and the boxes they open most likely will be the only gift they receive. Blessings to all who participated.

...**to Betty Rosenberg, Carol and Linda Koschmeder and Doris and Albert Ralph** for decorating and un-decorating the church and/or Hall as we are switching from one season to the next.

TREASURY REPORT

Financial Balance Information for October 1-31, 2017

Current Fund

Beginning of month Balance: \$ 2,941.27

Interest: \$ 4.43

Deposits: \$ 8,651

Expenses: \$ 10,291.39

End of month Balance: \$ 1,305.31

Benevolence Fund

Beginning of month Balance: \$ 3,400.88

Deposits: \$ 822

Expense: \$697 (Hurricane Relief)

End of month Balance: \$ 3,525.88

Building Fund

Beginning of month Balance: \$ 19,554.46

Deposits: \$ 715

End of month Balance: \$ 20,269.46

Gifts and Memorials

Beginning of month Balance: \$ 26,702.76

Expense: \$ 319.90 (Altar Guild, Piano tuning)

End of month Balance: \$ 26,382.86

**Total of all funds in Emmanuel Lutheran
Church: \$ 51,483.51**



*Blessing of the Shoeboxes
for Operation Christmas Child*



Congregational Council Minutes for Oct, 2017.

Meeting called to order by: JC Dawald- President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, Merlin Bartz-
Evangelism, Neil Hackbart- Property, Amy
Edwards- Christian Education, Nicole Cole-
Youth, Jane Dalluge- Stewardship, Christa
Larson-Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Sharon Hulshizer- Lay Ministry

Devotions: Jane Dalluge

Education Segment: JC spoke about his time spent
as a volunteer in Rosenberg, Texas; helping
those impacted by Hurricane Harvey

Agenda review: M/S/C to approve agenda as
amended.

Minutes: M/S/C to accept Minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C to approve
treasurer's report as presented.

Bills to be paid: M/S/C to approve the bills to be
paid.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Zamzow thanked the
council and congregation for the anniversary
luncheon and celebration as well as her gift and
the kindness of everyone involved. Her guest
enjoyed the church's hospitality.
Pastor Z was able to see the wooden church
doors which are in the process of being fixed
and they are coming along nicely. Upcoming
events are: Annelise Tisdale's book reading,
Luther movie night as well as the Reformation
celebration to which she encourages the
council's participation.

Board Highlights: Noted as written

Employee Appraisals: Will be done on or around
November 1st

Membership review: None

Unfinished business:

- a) **500-year Reformation update-** Plans are
coming along and there are 8 congregations

gathering at Emmanuel for the celebration as
well as a mass choir and mass children's
choir. Someone from every congregation
will be helping at each station; cleaning,
serving food etc.

- b) **Update on wooden doors-** Pastor Z was
able to see them in process and they are
looking good. The paint has been picked up
for the doors and trim and they should be in-
stalled and painted by Oct. 29th.
- c) **Update on kitchen wall repair-** Colby
from North Iowa Wall Systems looked at the
kitchen wall and came up with an estimate
of \$2,000 to cover the floor and counters,
scrape off and patch in the plaster, prime
and paint. **M/S/C- to increase the estimate
to \$2,500 to include the kitchen closet and
space above the closet; which was not a
part of the original estimate.**
- d) **Update on food pantry distribution-**
Mitchell County food bank chose to receive
\$500 worth of food items from J-Mart and
chose to receive a cashier's check in the
amount of \$500 to buy non-food items on
their own. Worth County food bank chose
to receive \$500 in food items and \$500 in
non-food items from J- Mart.

New Business:

- a) **Sanctuary wall leak-** On Friday, Oct 6th
Pastor Zamzow was notified of water com-
ing in from the roof area onto the north wall.
On Saturday she walked into the sanctuary
and noticed a steady stream of water leaking
down the wall, onto the pews and carpet and
straight down to the Fellowship Hall. We
have a great property committee who
promptly showed up to assess the situation
and come up with a plan to stop the water
from entering the building.
- b) **Next meetings devotion's preparer-** Nicole
Cole
- c) Next meeting date and time is (Tuesday, No-
vember 14th @ 7:00 pm)

**M/S/C- Meeting adjourned with the Lord's
Prayer.**

-Secretary/Treasurer, Christa Larson



Women of the Church

Upcoming Dates:

1) TWC Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19th at 9 a.m. We will be finishing up the yearbook changes for the next year's printing and deciding on our end of the year disbursements as well as planning for the new year's activities. Please feel free to join us.

2) There will be no Bible Study or women's event for December. Take this time to enjoy family and the "Reason for the Season". Bible study will resume in January.

TWC (The Women's Council) November 28, 2017

Emi shared devotions with the theme of Thanksgiving-a reminder to thank God for our gift of life, our provisions, and everlasting life. Then to take it one step farther and ponder our blessings and delight in Him, knowing that he is God, good and perfect through all time. TWC was opened with the sharing of the purpose. Secretary minutes were read and approved from October. Treasurer's report shows \$6,061.06 in savings and \$4,369.64 in checking. The November bill at Jmart needs to be paid. A thank you was read from Annaliese Tisdale.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Clarice, with the help of two friends, has packed 95 school kits, which are finished and ready for shipping. Quilting days have been scheduled for November 29th and 30th. 2) A thank you

was sent to Sam Venechuk for his donation of 3 new roasters. 3) Yearbooks: TWC needs to finish looking over, make changes, and prepare for new ones to be printed.

New Business: 1) Dec 10th-the women have been asked to help serve the goodies after the Live Nativity at 3 p.m. that day. This will be our women's event for the month. A motion was made to accept responsibility to provide coffee and bars following the Live Nativity in lieu of a women's Christmas event. Motion carried.

Upcoming dates: TWC on Tuesday, December 19th at 9 a.m. No Women's Christmas event, no December Bible Study. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



**Please mark your calendar now for our
Upcoming Annual Meeting on Sunday,
January 28th, 2018 following worship.**

If you are the chair of a Board/Committee or have financial reports to present, please have your information to the church office not later than Thursday, January 11th, 2018 so we may have enough time to print the Annual Report. If you are not sure if that pertains to you or your group, give Pastor a call.



**Join the Sunday School children
on December 17th at 6:30 pm for their
Christmas Program Presentation *"Together at Christmas"*.**

**We are asking all parents to share
one dozen cookies for our little party afterwards.**



Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 3	9:30 am	1 st Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, December 6	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
Sunday, December 10	9:30 am	2 nd Sunday of Advent
	3:00 pm	Live Nativity Performance
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
Sunday, December 17	9:30 am	3 rd Sunday of Advent
	6:30 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 24	9:30 am	4 th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Night
Monday, December 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31	9:30 am	New Year's Eve Morning

December 2017

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship with HC 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	4	5 6:30 pm- Lay Ministry 7:00 pm- Stewardship	6 4:15 pm- Confirmation 7 pm- Choir & Advent Service	7 9:30 am- Bible Study	8 1:30 pm- Nativity Set-up	9 9:00 am- Nativity Rehearsal
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship with HC 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 3:00pm- Live Nativity	11	12 7 pm- Council Meeting	13 4:15 pm- Confirmation 7 pm- Choir & Advent Service	14 9:30 am- Bible Study	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship with HC 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 6:30pm- Sunday School Christmas Program	18	19	20 7 pm- Choir	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship with HC 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 6:30pm- Xmas Eve Service	25  9:30 am- Worship with HC	26 Office & Building will be closed.	27 7 pm- Choir	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30- Worship with HC 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	Office & Building will be closed. 					



December 2017

NON-PROFIT
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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Solveig A.H. Zamzow

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Address Service Requested

December 2017



Dec	Greeters	Organist	Acolytes
Sunday- 3 rd	T.B.A	Donna Schilling	Zach Badker
Wednesday- 6 th		Charlotte Cole	
Sunday- 10 th	T.B.A	Donna Schilling	Gabe Walk
Wednesday- 13 th		Charlotte Cole	
Sunday- 17 th	T.B.A	Marena Henkle	Emma Hicken
Sun- 24 th -Morning	T.B.A	Marena Henkle	Harmony Clark
Sun- 24 th -Evening		Donna Schilling	Brooklyn Hackbart
Sunday- 31 st	T.B.A	Charlotte Cole	Kaelee Hicken

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Team Leaders: Judy & Earl Trenhaile

Kyle & Amy Edwards

Mike & Mary Momberg

Duaine & Myra Dierks

Liz & Mike Schaub

Jaime & Brandon Trenhaile

Cory & Kim Hicken

Steve McCready

Rachel Rosenberg

Pat Clark

Todd Trettin

Coleen Trettin

Ben Tweeten

ALTAR GUILD

Candi Feldt

Kim Kuntz

LAY MINISTRY

Phil Hackbart

COUNTERS

Connie Rosenberg

Marlin Rosenberg

Belinda Borchardt

Mike Cole

USHERS

Mike Cole

Dave Feldt

Candi Feldt

Cole Feldt

Corie Kuntz

JC Dawald

PA

Mike Momberg

Darren Marsh