

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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Pastor- Solveig A.H. Zamzow

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JUNE/JULY 2021

SPONSORED BY: Sheila Lundon

**In honor of Bonnie & Virl Deal's
25th anniversary on June 8th and
in loving thanks to Pastor Z for her years
of service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

FROM THE PASTOR

Final Words

So, here it is: my last newsletter. I actually remember the first one I wrote. I remember it because I was asked why I was so keen on getting a newsletter out. My answer is the same today as it was in September of 2012: so that the most people can get the most information in the most reliable, regular manner AND because it is an Evangelism tool to reach even those who do not show up in worship. Nothing has changed. Even with all the neat things we now have to help us communicate with one another, I still think THIS here, our *Epistle*, has value. With this final letter, I wish to make only two points: thanksgiving and forgiveness.

Thank you
for:

...letting me
into your
lives

through conversations, laughter and tears

...giving me the privilege to baptize, preside at
weddings and conduct funerals of your beloved

...receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord from
my hands



...welcoming me into your homes, at hospital beds,
nursing home rooms and wherever we met
...attending meetings because I thought they were
important

...agreeing to try new things 'we never have done'
just because I made a strong case for them

...listening to me as I did my utmost best to preach
the Gospel of Christ Crucified and Risen

...indulging me when I thought whatever ideas you
had were not as great as you thought

...putting up with my impatience, strange humor
and sometimes sparks of anger

...letting me say what I thought and think what I
said – and always mean it

...sharing your children with me if even for a few
moments of great joy – I will miss them most

...accepting my gifts and talents, my failures and
idiosyncrasies and still coming back each week

...sending me cards and thoughtful presents and
speaking such kind words I barely deserved

...asking about my loved ones and treating them
with goodness and grace

...letting me think that I actually know what I am
talking about

...singing hymns you did not appreciate but knew
that somehow they were 'good for you'

...opening your minds and hearts to various
liturgies I wanted to implement

...attending our Thursday Bible Study and letting my heart sing by all your questions
...keeping me in your prayers as I kept you before the Lord

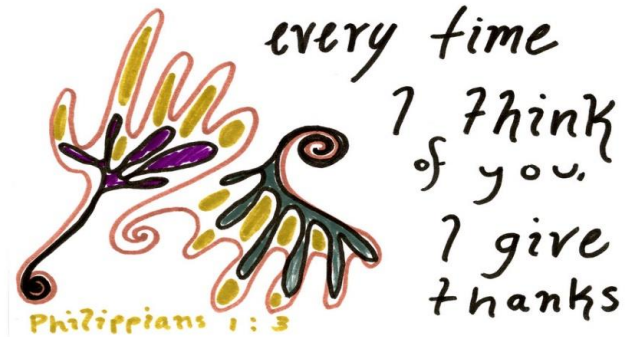


With the
same heart-
felt sincerity
I ask your
pardon for:

...all the times I was impatient, harsh, rude, unkind and not Christ-like
...all the times I ignored your requests, your questions and concerns
...all the times I should have called, visited or inquired and failed to do so
...all the times I did not respect your opinion as much as my own
...all the times I spoke the truth but not in love
...all the times I was a disappointment to you rather than a bearer of love and mercy
...all the times I did not do my utmost best in teaching and preaching
...all the times you could not hear in my words that you are beloved by God
...all the times that I negated grace and mercy for the sake of correctness
...all the times when my European heritage did not make sense to American ears
...all the times when I worked so hard but did not do what was truly needed
...all the times when I should have asked your forgiveness but moved along
For all this and whatever other sins I committed in word and deed, knowingly or with complete ignorance, I most humbly apologize and ask for your forgiveness and, most of all, beg the eternal pardon of our God.

Dear friends in Christ, be blessed, be well, be safe. You already know how I feel about this special place with all of the glorious potential to make a significant difference in this corner of the world. You also know where I see dangers of carelessness and complacency that will not serve you going into the future. Thank you for letting me share part of this journey with you. It has been my deep pleasure and joy. I am so glad you called me! I will always look fondly at our time together.

Thank you for being 'you' and 'us'! I will hold you close to my heart and in my prayers - together with all the other special places where God allowed me to serve Him and His people. Michael most certainly joins me in giving thanks and praise for our time in your midst. Thank you, indeed.



While many pastors have come and gone since 1883 when Emmanuel became a congregation, there has always been one who remained constant: Jesus Christ. Through his presence we have seen many blessings, accomplished much and prevailed in trials. Without Jesus as our guide, none of that would have been needed, possible or of value. Jesus can be counted on for all the days yet to come! Therefore, together let us give honor and glory to God in Christ for this ministry we shared and for the path ahead. My love will accompany you until our heavenly Father calls me into the Church Triumphant.

The Lord be with you – Your Pastor,
Solveig A. H. Zamzow +

P.S. For those who asked, our new address
is:

Michael and Solveig Zamzow
619 Elm Avenue # 309
Story City, IA 50248

solveigzamzow@gmail.com 641-903-9416
zamzowm@gmail.com 641-903-9415

Pastoral Acts:



Olga Borchardt, who died on November 9th, 2020 was buried on May 8th following her Memorial Service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Pastor Zamzow conducted the Burial Service for **Becky Dalluge** on Saturday, May 22nd. Becky had been called to her eternal rest on February 12,

2021 in Rochester, MN.

Beatrix Lenora Sloane Henkle, the daughter of Cody and Marena Henkle, was baptized on May 23rd. Her godparents are Will and Brittany Bartz and Sam and Stephanie Beaver. Congratulations to the Henkle and Bartz families.

May Trixie grow to know and love her Lord who has called her into the family of God.



Funeral services for **Chrystal Braun**, who passed away in the evening hours of May 19th, were held at Emmanuel on May 29th. May God Comfort all who mourn!

Joys and Sorrows



We extend our Congratulations to Marissa (Hulshizer) and Taner McClure on the birth of a son, Cael Dean, on May 20th. May God bless the new family!

We remember... the loved ones of all Covid-19 victims. May God comfort and strengthen all sad hearts and may the promise of the Resurrection shine brightly into the lives of all mourners near and far.



Notwithstanding an increase in infections which would force us to change course, starting on June 6th, we will resume Coffee Fellowship after worship and will no longer require masks in the building and/or during worship. Of course, you may feel free to wear your mask! Please use your own good judgment as you have in the past. Likewise, following Pastor's last service at Emmanuel on June 13th, we will NOT record worship services except Holy Communion services! Such will be the case until further notice. For any questions, please see a member of the Council.

All Are Invited...



to Gracie Urbatsch's Graduation Party on Saturday, June 5th from 4-8 p.m. at her home at 506 2nd St in Grafton.



A Farewell Reception will be held for Pastor Z following worship on Sunday, June 13th, in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for refreshments and a time to visit and reflect on the past 9 years PZ has been in our midst.

Thank You Stewards

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole and Donna Schilling for their faithful service and special music.
 ...to our Share Shoppe volunteer, Linda Koschmeder.
 ...to our May counters: Belinda Borchardt and Connie Rosenberg.
 ...to our Lay Ministry steward, Janice Nelson.
 ...to Charlotte Cole and Janice Nelson, our May Altar Guild stewards.
 ...to our PA operator, Darren Marsh
 ...to our Ushers: Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, Calvin Thompson, Troy Tourtellott, and Gregg Urbatsch.
 ...to Renae Kroneman who manages our website.
 ...to Orland Bartz, Emi Kuntz, and Charlotte Cole for heeding the call to pull weeds at Emmanuel.
 Thanks so very much for the labor of love.
 ...to TWC for organizing the reception for our High School graduates as well as for our seven Confirmands. It certainly was much appreciated.
 ...to our Sunday School teachers and substitutes Brittany Bartz, Tammy Borchardt, Abbie Steinberg, Emma Hicken, Jamie Trenhaile, Kristy Arzberger, Mary Jo Urbatsch, Marena Henkle, Liz Schaub and Christa Larsen-Trenhaile. This was a truly tough, tough year with very low attendance and lots of unused preparation due to lack of students present. Our teachers deserve our thanks for faithfully fulfilling this task for our community of faith.

Plans are under way for our 2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL the first week in August (3rd through 5th).



Brittany Bartz will prepare and lead the preparations this year. Thank you, Brittany. If YOU can help out with teaching or as a 'gopher' or with preparing the suppers that will precede each class: please speak with Brittany. The planning for VBS is very, very involved and the quicker we can find helpers the easier the task will be. Also: the BOLAN ECUMENICAL VBS will take place the week of **June 21st from 9:00 – noon**. If you can help or wish to enroll your children, please contact Lori Willert at 641-903-9472. Because of Pastor Zamzow's vacation days at that time, we will not be able to offer rides to and from Bolan. These are two great opportunities to share the faith with your children and to be engaged in the faith formation of our youngest charges. Don't miss it ☺



On their last day of Sunday School on May 23rd, the kids made tie-dyed shirts with their teachers



STEWARDSHIP MUSING

We have moved before. Several times. Once across the ocean with two little children and all of our belongings in a container. That time we didn't have all that much to speak of. Giving up a couch that sprinkled sea grass all over the living room floor didn't break our hearts. We were young, much of life was ahead of us, we were used to pinching pennies and life could only get better.



Downsizing

Well, it didn't – at least not for a long, long time and before it got better, it got much, much worse. But, forty-five years later we have more than we need.

Well, I talk a good line...

I don't want to give up what we have and neither does my husband. But – in order not to live in a warehouse-style-condo, we realized that 80% of all we have has to go. That's a lot. I always had compassion for people who had to down-size but now I can really relate.

Of course, emotions run high. It took a while to make Michael understand that his books are no realistic substitute for having a table, chairs and a bed. I had to bite my tongue many times as I decided that indeed some of the pictures and wall hangings would never find a place in our new home. So we 'purged' and gave away and continue to burn, rip apart and 'bless' the world with what we once thought made our lives rich and meaningful. It hurts. Lots of memories down the drain. Things for which we saved like crazy now given away for pennies.



Our "Junk" waiting to be crushed

So, we are learning with each passing day what really is important to us and to life. It forces us to focus. Moving is always an exercise in letting go. Some things that we once deemed so vitally important are now in the 'whatever' category. A few years ago I wrote an article in this publication about Marie Kondo – the decluttering guru who suggests that you give away everything that does not bring you joy and to say 'thank you' to each item you throw out. Well, in some cases I did not just say 'thanks' but walked away sobbing. Not sure if that counts? Of course, we know that we do not need all the things we have – BUT!!!

In a way we are preparing for our deaths, you see. Now, we are not planning on joining the fox farm any time soon, but indeed, we are ever more so reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Sooner or later. With or without all the 'stuff' around us. Death ultimately means to give up things.



Eventually we will have to give up everything – home, health, community, family. Maybe a little practice run can't hurt. Maybe we will be more ready for death after we have lost much already and the rest will be a bit easier. I don't know. I doubt it. We always cling to everything until the last minute, we human beings. Perhaps that is good and gives honor to the life God has given us – abundant life, to be sure. More than fits into our Condo in Story City. Yeah – good to realize.

With all of that comes grief. It comes in stages. Today I can talk about giving up my beloved living room couch and chair. I won't tell you of the nights I sat in them, crying. I also won't tell you that I felt treated unfairly in having to give up 'that'. We will leave a piece of our hearts in this parsonage and our memory of what we had to leave behind will tug on our hearts for a long time to come. Grief. We can't avoid it. We should not avoid it. Jesus did not deny it.



When we move, especially away from life as we know it, we all turn into mini versions of Abraham and Sarah; leaving what we know and love, marching toward a place that God will show us. Not knowing what to expect only trusting that God knows and

will guide us. As the famous prayer says: *“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”* Stewards in the hands of a merciful and all-knowing God. Maybe we truly do not need the majority of our stuff after all. PZ+

Did You Know...

...that Pastor's moving day will be June 23rd? She will be available for emergencies through June 22nd. Please feel free to call the parsonage (641-748-2050) or her cell phone (641-903-9416). For all other non-emergency concerns, please connect first with Sharon at the office (641-748-2736). The Church Council is looking for local pastors willing to serve in this capacity after June 22nd and that information will be put into the church bulletin. You are asked to *Be assured* that we will do our very best to assist all members as quickly and efficiently as absolutely possible.

...that some studies suggest the pandemic has increased our forgetfulness? The long-term stress and anxiety effects areas of the brain that controls executive function and memory. Ah, what a great excuse why we can't remember the reason for walking into the kitchen!

...that the escalation of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is dismaying American Muslims and Jews who've been working to build bridges between their communities and are now struggling to quell fear and anger in their own circles? "We're heartbroken," said Muslim attorney Atiya Aftab, the New Jersey-based co-founder of a major interfaith group, the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom.

She added that the situation threatens to derail the group's work. The organization, which seeks to build trust and friendships between Muslim and Jewish women and teenage girls, issued a statement regretting the "violent response" by Hamas, the Islamic militant group ruling Gaza, but was more expansive and forceful in condemning actions by Israeli security forces. "The Israeli government has a responsibility to stop settlers and extremists from taking over the land and allow those who live in East Jerusalem to rightfully live there in peace," the group said. "As Muslim and Jewish women of faith ... we have a responsibility to rise up and respond to injustice and prejudice."

...that The Rev. Megan Rohrer has been elected as a bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, becoming the first openly transgender person in the U.S. to do so in a major Christian denomination? Rohrer will serve as bishop of the Sacramento-based Sierra Pacific synod, which encompasses close to 200 congregations in Central and Northern California and northern Nevada. Rohrer was elected to a six-year term. Rohrer, 41, currently serves as a pastor at San Francisco's Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and as a community chaplain coordinator for the city's police department. She is also well-known for her advocacy work with homeless and LGBTQ communities in the Bay Area and on a national level.

Thank you Emmanuel

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all our friends and family for their kindness and sympathy following the death of Chrystal, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

We are grateful for the memorial gifts, cards, flowers and food. Thank you to those family and friends who were so kind to call her, or send a note or letter. These she especially cherished. Special thanks to Schroeder & Sites Funeral Home, Pastor Zamzow, and those at Emmanuel Lutheran Church who helped with services.

-The family of Chrystal Braun



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
April 13th, 2021**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson - President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, JC Dawald- V President, Marena Henkle and special guest, Trixie Henkle- Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt-Evangelism, Abbie Steinberg-Christian Education, Will Bartz- Youth, Michael Cole- Property, and Sharon Hulshizer, Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: Emi Kuntz-Lay Ministry

Devotions: Abbie Steinberg

Education Segment: The Four Core Values of the NALC 1. Christ Centered. 2. Mission Driven. 3. Traditionally Grounded. 4. Congregationally Focused.

Agenda review: M/S/C to approve agenda as amended: adding under New Business: a) Manna Board Representative and b) Constitution.

Review Printed Minutes: M/S/C to accept minutes from March as written.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report received.

Pastor's Report: Written report submitted: has been a very busy month for Pastoral duties, continuing to be mindful of COVID 19 numbers and restrictions. 1) Concerns regarding social distancing in church as more people attend. Suggestions for dealing with that issue were discussed. Council agreed that signs separating pews will be removed from one side of the church and not the other. 2) Letters to inactive members will need to be put on hold for the new Pastor or Interim. 3) Parsonage bathroom remodeling is scheduled to be finished today. 4) A book repair vendor has been located for our Altar Service Book and Record book, will continue to communicate with them on the details before submitting books. 5) Reception of Confirmands and Graduates will be on April 18th. High School Graduates: Ryan Cole, Brooklyn Hackbart, and Gracie Urbatsch, will be recognized during worship.

6) Seven students are presented for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on May 2nd: Camden Trenhaile, Weston Paulson, Madison Edwards, Gus Walk, Sophia Urbatsch, Kenzie Sorenson, and Kaelee Hicken. M/S/C to accept the list of Confirmands.

Board Highlights:

Stewardship- No action needed.

Lay Ministry- no report.

Evangelism- Has not met since the first of the year. Get well and sympathy cards are being sent out to members.

Y& E: **Youth:** Easter breakfast was cancelled due to lack of participation/interest. 2) Connection Group has met 4 times, using "The Chosen" video and discussion materials as the Bible study. It is going well. **Education:** Is gearing up for the Craft show on the 24th, concession stand fundraiser from 9-3 to raise money for the Campership Fund. Issues with finding families to help.

Property- 1) Kitchen wall repair is completed, painting is being done. 2) Parsonage bathroom repair is completed.

Membership review: none

Unfinished business:

a) Call Committee: needs to be elected by Congregational vote. This will be done on Sunday, April 25th, following worship. Voting will be done by ballot with names of the candidates Council is recommending, listed. All candidates have been asked and have accepted. Sharon will make the ballots, voting quorum is 20 voting members, measure must pass by 51% of the vote. Mark will check with ushers to help hand out and count ballot results.

b) Coronavirus/Worship decisions: already addressed during Pastor's report.

New Business:

a) Manna Board Representative: with Pastor Z leaving, the Manna board will need a new representative. Currently JC Dawald and PZ serve. It is a "working board" and meets about 8 times per year. A note will be put into the bulletin about this position.

b) Constitution: All Council members have received a copy of the current church Constitution, by-laws were given out earlier in the year. Vice President, JC Dawald suggested that members become familiar with the Constitution; particularly Chapter 12.09: duties of the Church Council and Chapter 4:05: Mission statement.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Sharon Hulshizer
Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for April 1-30, 2021

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$29,032.84

Interest: \$7.12

Offering Revenues: \$11,555.00 (including
Maundy Thurs/Good Friday)

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$11,832.12

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$40,864.96

Expenses: \$12,515.17

End of month Balance: \$ 28,349.79

Encouraged:

**Sponsors for future Epistle newsletters.
\$90/month-Thank you!**

**Thank you to those who have donated both past
and present -we currently have sponsorships
through September!**

TWC (The Women's Council)

*Women's
Ministry*

May 18th, 2021

Clarice shared devotions which focused on Galatians 5:22-23 and Kindness, a fruit of the Spirit. Each fruit empowers us to live in ways pleasing to God. There are two types of kindness: 1. Acts of kindness and 1. Kindness as a way of life. A good reminder during the season of Pentecost as we think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us. TWC opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes were approved as read from April. Treasurer reports \$2,780.72 in Checking and \$6,509.73 in Savings. There are a few outstanding bills. Correspondence was shared from LSI, a Thank you for the quilts shared with them; and a card from the WELCA regarding a thank you and information regarding the LWR pickup in the Fall.

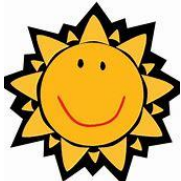








Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Discussion of actual cost to ship items to LWR is greater than what we typically donate-in the future, we may need to do some fundraising or ask for donations to help with this. Clarice has applied for Thrivent Action Team monies and has been approved-the money will be used for batting and sheets for quilting. 27 quilts have been put together. Betty Rosenberg has donated money for thread and we thank her for that donation! 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: We will meet with the Property Board to discuss what needs to be done to keep moving forward with our Kitchen Remodeling, appliances can be ordered, and a down-payment has been approved by the Church Council for Arne Luckason to use for the cabinets.

New Business: 1) SS teacher gifts: Sharon will find something to give to the SS teachers for this year. 2) Hospitality teams: Fellowship will resume in June, Charlotte's team was slated to do that month and we will continue with the schedule set up from there. Discussion of how and what to serve. 3) Congregational Workshop: is set for Sunday, June 27th, following worship. This is part of the Call process for a new Pastor. A lunch will be served: discussion as to what to serve and what time, based on the other activities that go along with the workshop. 4) Pastor's reception: Following worship on June 13th. Discussion of numbers of people and what to serve: We will serve desserts, coffee and water.

















Upcoming Dates: June 13th: PZ Farewell reception;
June TWC meeting: Tuesday, June 15th at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

June 2021 (All events subject to COVID19 Restrictions)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 PZ in Office	2 	3 Call Committee meets with Pastor David Wendel (NALC) via zoom 7 p.m.	4	5 
6 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	7 	8 PZ in Office Church Council 7:00 p.m.	9	10 	11	12 
13 <i>PZ's Last Sunday</i> 9:30 Worship w/HC <i>Farewell reception in Fellowship Hall afterwards</i>	14 	15 TWC (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	16 	17	18 	19 
20 <u>Father's Day</u> 9:30 Worship led by Mark Borchardt	21 	22 PZ's last day as Emergency Contact	23 PZ's moving Day!	24 	25	26 
27 9:30 Worship led by Pastor Jack Miller <i>Congregational Workshop with Dean Staley (NALC) 10:30-3:30 Lunch included</i>	28 	29	30 			

July 2021 (All events subject to COVID 19 Restrictions)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3 
4 <u>Independence Day</u> 9:30 Worship with Merlin Bartz	5 	6 	7	8 	9 Sharon out of office until 20 th	10
11 9:30 Worship with Pastor Paul Weeg (Holy Communion)	12	13 Church Council 7 p.m.	14 	15	16 	17 
18 9:30 Worship with Pastor Jack Miller	19 	20 TWC (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	21	22 	23 	24
25 9:30 Worship with Marjean Gordon	26 	27	28 	29	30	31 

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June/July 2021

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Solveig A.H. Zamzow
641-748-2736

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PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Address Service Requested

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>		<u>Greeters</u>		<u>Organist</u>	
Sunday June 6th	Sunday, July 4th	Gus Walk	Sophie Urbatsch	Christa Larson Family	Sally Mayer family	Marena Henkle	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, June 13th <i>PZ's last Sunday</i>	Sunday, July 11th	Kenzie Sorenson	Weston Paulson	Sheila Lundon	Steve McCready	Charlotte, Donna, Marena, & Jeremias Zamzow	Marena Henkle
Sunday, June 20th	Sunday, July 18th	Madison Edwards	Emma Hicken	Cody Marsh family	Dean & Mardine Meyer	Charlotte Cole	Marena Henkle
Sunday, June 27th	Sunday, July 25th	Camden Trenhaile	Ryan Hackbart	Darren & Lori Marsh	Jerry Navratil	Marena Henkle	Donna Schilling

FELLOWSHIP RESUMES JUNE 6TH!! June- **Team IX: Charlotte Cole** July- **Team I: Lori & Darren Marsh**

Ushers (June): Mark Fredrickson, Richard Neeley, Duane Rustad, Steve McCready, & Gary Schotanus

Ushers (July): Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, Alex Hackbart, & Marlin Rosenberg

PA Operators: **June:** Dan Nack & Josh Rosenberg **July:** Michael Cole & Corrie Kuntz

Lay Ministry: **June:** Duane Rustad **July:** Lisa Bartz

Counters: **June:** Gloria Hackbart, Dan Nack, & Orland Bartz **July:** Myra Dierks, Duaine Dierks, & Marlin Rosenberg

Altar Guild: **June:** Haley Tourtellott **July:** Charlotte Cole & Myra Dierks

Share Shoppe Volunteer: **June:** Katie Bass & Teri Sorenson **July:** Myra Dierks

