

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
308 4th Ave., PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Interim Pastor: David E Schafer
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*For Pastoral Care,
call Pastor Schafer at his home or contact him
via e-mail. From Wednesday afternoon until
Sunday morning, you may call the parsonage.
You may also call the church office or Sharon
Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.*

MARCH 2022

SPONSORED BY:

Dan Nack

A Word from our Interim Pastor, David E Schafer ...



office at 641-748-2736 or by calling me
at my home in Waukon 563-568-6199 or
at the parsonage at 641-748-2050.
Please remember that I will keep our
conversations private unless I have your
permission to share our exchange.

**DO NOT FEED ME! I WOULD,
HOWEVER, WELCOME A CUP OR TWO OF
COFFEE!**



THANK'S FOR THE WELCOME!

Loretta and I want to thank everyone involved in welcoming us to Emmanuel! The parsonage is beautiful and it is really big! Loretta and I have been in dozens and dozens of parsonages across the country. Your home is one of the finest we have visited. Did you realize that your parsonage is so large that it has two time zones and its own zip code!

When we stepped in the church, it took our breath away. The new wing is wonderful and so well designed. The sanctuary is breath taking. Emmanuel is truly the Lord's house and she is the gate to heaven!

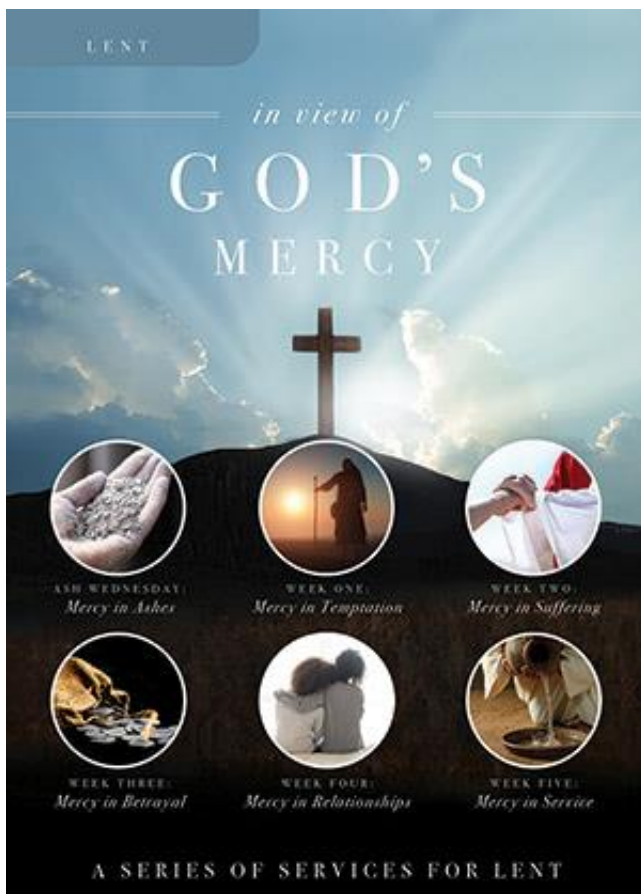
I welcome the opportunity to pay you a visit! I have asked Sharon to schedule appointments with you while I am in Grafton. If you would like me to call on you before Sharon calls, please call Sharon at the church

Confirmation News: During March, confirmation students will be meeting on Wednesday afternoon at the parsonage at 4:30 PM. Please use the kitchen door on the east side of the parsonage. Pr. Schafer will leave the light on and he will furnish pop and snacks.



**The next recorded service will be
*Sunday, March 6th.***





WELCOME TO LENT *In View of God's Mercy*

This year's Lenten focus for Wednesday Evening's Worship is entitled: "*In View of God's Mercy*".

Every Wednesday evening, we will be looking at God's mercy for us through six points of view.

Beginning on **Ash Wednesday (March 2nd)**, as we are marked with ashes, we remember our humanity in terms of our sins. On Ash Wednesday, we will recall **Mercy in Ashes** as we are lifted from our ashes to our new life in Christ.

On **Wednesday, March 9th**, our service will focus on **Mercy in Temptation**. In the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides a way out through his Son, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin.

On **Wednesday, March 16th**, our theme will be **Mercy in Suffering**. Though life is not without suffering, our sufferings are not worthy compared to the glory revealed to us in Jesus.

On **Wednesday, March 23rd**, our worship will focus on **Mercy in Betrayal**. Though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

On **Wednesday, March 30th**, we will look at **Mercy in Relationships**. Within the communities God has placed us; we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ cares for us in his unconditional love.

Wednesday Evenings' Worship will be at 7:00 P.M.

Lent gives us a great opportunity to be missionaries by encouraging our family, friends, and neighbors to join us for worship.

Please note: Offering for Ash Wednesday/Maundy Thursday/Good Friday will go to Benevolence. Other Lent special envelopes/offering will remain at Emmanuel. Easter offering will go to the General Fund.

Dates to remember for April

Wednesday, April 6th: Last Lenten service. 7 p.m.

Holy Week:

Sunday, April 10th: Palm Sunday with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 14th: Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion 7 p.m.
(First Communion for 5th Graders)

Friday, April 15th: Good Friday 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 17th: Easter 7 a.m. service and 9:30 a.m. service

Joys & Sorrows

Our Condolences

...to Mardine Meyer on the death of her sister, Shirley Meyer, who died on January 29th.

...to Elaine Huebner on the death of her sister-in-law, Darlene Greenway, who passed away on February 5th.

...to Jeanie White and family, on the death of her husband, Jay White, on February 12th.

...to Judy Kroneman and family, on the death of her husband, Lowell "Butch" Kroneman on February 15th.

May God Comfort All who mourn!



Keep in your prayers:

Pastor Paul Weeg, as he recovers from shoulder surgery, and all those undergoing surgeries, those who are ill or in need of healing, and those whose needs are known only to God.

Also pray for those in Ukraine.

We have a prayer chain, if you would like to be placed on it, or know of someone in need of prayer. Contact the church office or Laurie Nack-Bublitz.



A reminder that Vanco, our e-Giving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile.

Members will not be able to make gifts using the GivePlus Mobile app after April 30th, 2022. (**note date change from January 31st**) Vanco Mobile is free and includes many significant upgrades for users. Members' log-in credentials in Vanco Mobile are the same as they are in GivePlus Mobile.

Connection Groups continue to meet for fellowship and Bible Study. Check with Abbie & Josh

Steinberg or Charlotte Cole and Sharon Hulshizer for more information. Season 2 of "The Chosen" is our basis for discussion and study. All are welcome!



"Noisy Offering" will be collected on March 20th. Please bring your coins/special offering

to church for the children to collect during offertory. The money will be used to help offset the cost of Bible Camp for our young people.



Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity?

MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) in Mason City is in need of loving, responsible individuals to provide childcare for kids ages 0-5 during their meetings. Location is

Grace Evangelical Free Church at 440 Illinois Ave.

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month (Sept-May) from 9:15 a.m.-11:45 am.

For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board across from the office, email: masoncitymops1@gmail.com, call 641-512-0330, or talk to Shal Zillgitt.

Attention Parents and Kids...even if

you missed the early bird discount, you can sign up for

camp anytime. Remember to call the office for the church code, which will apply our payment to your registration.



Wanted... a representative to serve on the Share Shoppe Board. For more information, contact Nicole Cole.

Thank You Stewards

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling for their faithful service and beautiful music.

...to our February counters: Jason Hackbart, Dan Nack, and Marlin Rosenberg.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Emi Kuntz.

...to Emi Kuntz and Linda Schotanus, our Altar Guild stewards.

...to our PA operators: Mark Fredrickson and Gregg Urbatsch.

...to our February Ushers: Michael Cole, JC Dawald, Dave & Candi Feldt, and Corrie Kuntz.

...to Renae Kroneman, our website manager.

...to the February Hospitality Team VIII: Julie & Curt Schaub, Jason & Nicole Schuttler, Jason & Jody Hackbart, Jay Schaub, Linda & Gary Schotanus, Rod & Emi Kuntz, Nancy Walk, Gregg & Mary Jo Urbatsch, and Dorothy Mensch.

...to our Share shoppe volunteer, Linda Koschmeder, and all those willing to serve as volunteers this year.

...to Pastor Paul Weeg and Deb Gage for serving as Pulpit Supply for Emmanuel during the month of February.

Thank You

...to all who brought items to the parsonage to furnish it for Pastor Schafer.

...to Michael Cole and Mark Fredrickson for being the “welcoming committee” when Pastor and Loretta came to town on the 19th and helping them unload their belongings.

...to Merlin and Lisa Bartz for giving a tour of the church to the Shafers.

...to Charlotte Cole and Emi Kuntz for their many hours sorting and organizing items in the kitchen, serving room, and fellowship hall.

...to all those who work “behind the scenes” to keep thing progressing forward for Emmanuel.

Items of need for the parsonage:

- A few more comfortable chairs for the living room area and one or two smaller chairs for the tv room!
- Someone to provide light housekeeping every other week.

Please contact the church office. Thank You !

Thank You Emmanuel

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been a joy serving you as your part-time Interim Pastor. I thank you for your many words and gifts of support. The reception on my last Sunday with you was so thoughtful! The cake and ice cream were a treat and the Peace Lily will remain a wonderful remembrance of Peg and my time with you.



I pray your life and ministry will continue to carry on and grow. I pray, as you patiently wait, that a Full-time Pastor can soon be called and that an acceptance letter follows. You have a very solid group of leaders and staff which is a blessing, along with a proud history.

My shoulder surgery was successful and the long rehabilitation journey has begun. I'm hopeful I will be in good shape to enjoy my vegetable garden, helping Peg with her flowers, and doing building projects. Hopefully, there will be a few good years left with all my new replacement parts!



Peg and I hope to visit and worship with you in the future as you have become close to our hearts. God's richest blessings!

-Pastor and Peggy Weeg

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

How often when it comes to stewardship, do I think it has to relate to money or financial giving to the church? I forget that it also entails our time and talents as well. The following is a devotion taken from Our Daily Bread from February 13th:

NOT FORGOTTEN

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

When we think of historic, trailblazing missionaries, the name of George Liele (1750-1820) doesn't leap to mind. Perhaps it should. Born into slavery, Liele came to Christ in Georgia and gained his freedom prior to the American Revolutionary War. He took the message of Jesus to Jamaica, ministering to the slaves in the plantations there, and served as the founding pastor of two African American churches in Savannah, Georgia, one of which is considered the “mother church of Black Baptists.”

Liele's remarkable life of kingdom service may have been forgotten by some, but his spiritual service will never be forgotten by God. Neither will the work you do for God. The letter to the Hebrews encourages us with these words, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them: (6:10). God's faithfulness can never be underestimated, for He truly knows and remembers everything done in His name. And so Hebrews encourages us, “Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised” (v. 12).

If we serve behind the scenes in our church or community, it might be easy to feel our labor is unappreciated. Take heart. Whether or not our work is recognized or rewarded by the people around us, God is faithful. He'll never forget us. -Bill Crowder

What service do you do for God? How does knowing He doesn't forget your service encourage you, even when it seems to be ignored?

Loving God, my service to You is far from perfect, but I also know that as I serve You, that service is remembered and valued by You. Thank you for equipping me to serve.

Did You Know

...that we have more choir robes than singers? Our new robes were ordered in 2016 and we'd love to have more singers to add to our choir...if you enjoy singing, please join us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the church library. Contact the church office or Mark Borchardt for more information.

... More than \$32,000 in new toys for Christmas were delivered by NALC Disaster Response - thank you, Jesus, and all our amazing congregations! A team of volunteers repaired our first home in January and the family has been able to move back into their restored home.

... Since the 2021 NALC Mission Convocation in



Corpus Christi, Texas, NALC leadership has been updating and refining the 10-point strategic plan known as the 2020 Vision?

This has taken place through meaningful conversations between NALC staff, Executive Council, mission district deans, the Board of Regents of the North American Lutheran Seminary, and congregational leaders. This broader and more robust plan is designed to have lasting organizational and spiritual impact on each and every one of the more than 470 NALC congregations. This vision works to address the needs and opportunities facing each congregation. Working in partnership with Cramer & Associates, a nationally recognized philanthropic consulting firm based in Ohio, NALC leadership has honed and prepared a number of resources as we move into our implementation phase of the vision in 2022 and beyond. The 10 vision points are all now clearly reflected through four key components: Grow, Serve, Renew and Fulfill. New resources, messaging and educational materials tied to the 2020 Vision will be presented at the NALC Pastors' Conference in February, with an intended congregational financial engagement plan launching in May.

...When the North American Lutheran Church was officially organized in 2010,



students were encouraged to attend a seminary of their own choice? However, the reality of theological education in the 20th century was a shift from the study of God, Scripture, liturgy, catechesis and pastoral care toward psychology, sociology, politics and economics. While pastors certainly need an understanding of these disciplines, they are never a replacement for classic, orthodox, biblical theological education in preparation for Word and Sacrament ministry. It quickly became apparent the NALC needed to have its own seminary so future pastors might be educated more consistently and in accordance with the NALC's doctrinal positions.

Today, the NALS is an interdependent network of five seminaries across North America working together to form leaders for the Church. Students have access to world-class faculty in a variety of locations and offerings. The Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen was appointed NALS President by the Board of Regents in January 2020. Together they oversee theological education and formation of pastors and church leaders who are rooted in the Great Tradition of Christian faith and the evangelical witness of the Lutheran Confessions.

To that end, in 2021, the Board of Regents and NALC Executive Council published the *Overview of Standards for Theological Education and Pastoral Formation* policy, which clarified requirements for all those pursuing Word and Sacrament ministry in the NALC.

(Information taken from the NALC January/February Newsletter) <https://thenalc.org>



Installation of 2022 board and council members by Pastor Weeg



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
January 11, 2021**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson – President

Attended: JC Dawald- V President, Marena Henkle - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt-Evangelism, Emi Kuntz-Lay Ministry, Abbie Steinberg-Christian Education, Will Bartz-Youth, Michael Cole- Property, and Sharon Hulshizer, Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: none

Devotions: Abbie Steinberg

Agenda review: M/S/C to accept agenda as amended:
New Business: a)1 JC Dawald.

Review Printed Minutes: M/S/C to accept last month's minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted.

Administrative Report: a) Inclement weather policy, created in 2019 was discussed. b) Discussion of recognition of Clarice Bartz for her many years of service as Financial Recording Secretary. c) Jmart gift boxes given at the end of the year were delivered by Will Bartz. D) A wedding has been scheduled for September - discussion of how to proceed without a regular pastor.

Board Highlights:

Stewardship- has finished their end of year distributions and set the Benevolence budget for 2022.

Lay Ministry- has set up their schedule for January and February pulpit supply. Jon Schindler would like to come the end of April/beginning of May, will need a liturgist.

Evangelism- Has not met. Discussed sign on Hwy 9 and will keep moving forward with that.

Y& E: SS has resumed, Connection groups will resume this month. Logos Legos meets Sunday. Suggestion was made to combine the Y & E boards with a possibility to present the change at the Annual Meeting. **M/S/C Council recommended combining Youth and Education boards.**

Property- There is a leaking valve in the men's bathroom that has been temporarily fixed. Channels have been cut into the kitchen concrete floor for water and electric for the new island. Discussion of paying McCloskey for the new appliances. **M/S/C to pay McCloskey Appliance from property funds prior to WCDA grant distribution.**

Membership review: none

Unfinished business:

- a) Call Committee: there is a new NALC Call Committee coordinator to assist with the call process.
- b) Shruti update: Mark sent an e-mail and a text to Shruti regarding our decision to help her, but has not heard back. Mark will reach out once more to get her decision on coming to Grafton.
- c) PA system: All seems to be working for now. Will need to meet as a group.
- d) Nativity set: committee has chosen one they like, waiting to confirm that decision.
- e) Nominating Committee: has filled all vacancies.
- f) Ed Unit flooring: It has been determined that the glue is not working and the company is not aware of any other product to try. A suggestion has been made to replace the tiles with high traffic carpet in main areas and standard carpet in the SS hallway, free of charge. Council suggested exploring other alternatives for flooring replacement.
- g) 2022 Proposed budget: **M/S/C to approve budget to present at Annual Meeting.**

New Business:

- a) Farewell to council members: Marena Henkle, Michael Cole, and JC Dawald have all served their terms. Council thanks them for their service.
- 1) JC Dawald: addressed his term as Vice president, as he has served one year of the two-year term. **M/S/C Council approves Mark Borchardt as Vice President going forward.**
- b) Setting of Annual Meeting agenda
- c) Annual Audit: Sharon will check with two members about serving as auditors of the church books.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Mark Fredrickson
Next meeting date and time is Tuesday February 8th 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 January 1- 31, 2022

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$58,713.81

Interest: \$11.11

Offering Revenues: \$11,276.00

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$11,557.11

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$70,270.92

Expenses: \$ 15,395.54

End of month Balance: \$54,875.38

Encouraged:
Sponsors for future Epistle newsletters.
\$90/month
Thank you!



TWC (The Women's Council)
February 15th, 2022

Charlotte shared devotions entitled, "Showing Real Love", based on John 13. We were reminded of the agape love that God has for us, the unselfish love that expects nothing in return. We are to use this love to bear one another's burdens. TWC was opened with the reading of the purpose statement. Secretary minutes from January were approved as read. Treasurer reports \$1,329.15 in checking. Charlotte and the Jmart have outstanding bills to be paid. Correspondence was a volunteer request/opportunity for the Mason City Mops (Mother of Preschoolers) group-they are looking for childcare during their meetings once a month. Information will be put into the bulletin and a poster on the bulletin board.

Old Business: 1) LWR projects: a date is to be set to assemble the remainder of the school/activity kits; there are several sets of material to be assembled into quilts-sewing days to be determined. A potential date of April 3rd was discussed for quilt blessing Sunday. 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: the island countertop has been put on, the water needs to be hooked up yet, and sinks installed. Wilson Supply will be contacted for choices and prices on coffee carafes. 3) "The Chosen" Bible Study- Season 2 has been started.

New Business: May 12th is our day to provide entertainment at the Good Samaritan in St Ansgar.

Upcoming dates: March TWC Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



New kitchen island and countertop



“PUT MY NAME DOWN”

Devotion by Pastor Ken
(from the Daily Bible Inspirations phone app.)

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Adrian was a young Roman soldier who became a Praetorian Guard under Emperor Galerius Maximian, due to his heroic efforts on the battlefield. His job was torturing Christians. Those persecuted Christians' calmness and courage impressed him. Adrian, as a brave soldier, saw heroism greater than any he had seen in the battlefields.

In 280 A.D., 28-year-old Adrian stopped torturing one of the Christians and asked, “What gives you such courage and joy when I torture you?” “My Lord Jesus Christ, in whom I believe”, the martyr replied. The man's reply moved Adrian's heart. In a flash, Adrian made a significant decision. Adrian stepped to the Roman judge and openly declared: “Put my name down among those to be tortured. I also shall become a Christian.”

For the next 23 years, Adrian suffered greatly, but he never flinched from his loyalty to Christ. In 303, he bravely faced his martyrdom at Nicomedia. His declaration, “Put my name down,” calls out to many persecuted Christians helping them to face their persecution with boldness.

Today, you may face some challenges that require great courage. With Jesus in your heart, you can fearlessly face any difficulties. Never give up, Jesus knows you. He gives you wisdom and courage as He did to Adrian centuries ago.

Reflection: With whom will I share the courage and wisdom Jesus gives me today?

Prayer: Dear God, Help me to remain steadfast in my faith as the Christian soldier, Adrian, did. Help me grow in Your mercy and witness You working in my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.





While doing some electrical work in the parsonage, the electrician inquired about this machine in the attic.



After some investigation, this seems to be a mimeograph machine, possibly patented in the early 1900s? Does anyone know anything about it? When or where it was used and for how long? It would be interesting to learn more about it...

March 2022 (All events subject to Covid 19 restrictions)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. at the parsonage <u>Ash Wednesday Service</u> 7:00 p.m. HC/Imposition of ashes <i>Choir afterwards</i>	3 	4	5 
6 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship w/HC 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	7 	8	9 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. at the parsonage <u>Lenten Service</u> 7:00 p.m. <i>Choir afterwards</i>	10 	11	12 
13 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship <i>Choir sings</i> 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	14 <u>Church Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	15 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	16 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. at the parsonage <u>Lenten Service</u> 7:00 p.m. <i>Choir afterwards</i>	17 	18	19
20 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship <i>Noisy offering</i> 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	21 	22	23 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. at the parsonage <u>Lenten Service</u> 7:00 p.m. <i>Choir afterwards</i>	24	25 	26
27 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship <i>Choir sings</i> 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	28	29 	30 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. at the parsonage <u>Lenten Service</u> 7:00 p.m. <i>Choir afterwards</i>	31 		



March 2022

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

<u>March</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Wednesday, March 2nd <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Aundraya Paulson	***	Donna Schilling
Sunday, March 6th <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Ryan Hackbart	Steve & Brenda Trenhaile	Marena Henkle
Sunday, March 13th <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Jaxon Edwards	Ryan & Ashley Trousedale	Marena Henkle
Sunday, March 20th <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	Landon Hillman	Gregg & Mary Jo Urbatsch	Marena Henkle
Sunday, March 27th <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	Aundraya Paulson	Katie Vandewalker	Donna Schilling

Hospitality Team IX: Charlotte Cole

Ushers: Curt Schaub, Jon and Zach Badker, Darren and Cody Marsh, and Neil Hackbart

Lay Ministry: Lori Marsh

Counters: Kim Badker, Lisa Bartz, Darren & Lori Marsh

Altar Guild: Lisa Bartz

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Linda Koschmeder

PA Operators: Randy Hulshizer and Gary Schotanus

