

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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APRIL 2023

TO THE ONE WHO DIED AND
ROSE FOR US, WHO FORGIVES
OUR SINS AND GIVES US NEW
LIFE IN HIM!

***For Pastoral Care, contact
Pastor Weeg at 641-381-0675
For all other needs throughout the
month, contact the church office or
Sharon Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.***

A Word from our Interim Pastor...

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sunday, March 12th, I shared the devotional from the back of a bulletin from the early 1950's. It had been saved in my father's Bible that he was given when he entered Luther Seminary in St. Paul, following the end of WWII. He was starting a Mission Congregation on the outskirts of Chicago. He, like many friends he had at St. Olaf College, went off to war. Not all returned. My Father, as a B-29 tail gunner, survived a crash. He and one other lived, while the rest of the crew did not.

Many of his buddies who made it home, went off to Luther Seminary in St. Paul. I can't help but think WWII led them there. WWI and WWII had phrases like, "battle fatigue", "shell shock", "the 1000-mile stare..." More recently, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) is the term used.

I believe Dad saved, "Pick Me Up, O Lord", because it described post war life for him that at

times were tough, but God continually helped him work through things not so good, to things that were and are very good. "The victory which was thine, Thou has given to those who trust thee."

As Lent again leads us to Easter, I believe that "Pick Me Up, O Lord," speaks of all at times and to us as well.

- Pastor Paul Weeg

Pick Me Up, O Lord!

Life is too much for me. I lie down at night haunted by the failures of the day, fearful of the hours of darkness, dreading the unknown tomorrow. I awaken to see the sunlight of a new day, but the shadows of threatening perils already cast their long arms across my path.

Every newspaper and every newscast remind me that vast, dark powers are at work, to destroy my world. And I have no defense against them. There

are moments when everything and everyone appear to be against me.

The aches and pains in my body all alert me to the disease and death that at any moment may strike me down.

And deep within somewhere, the accusing finger of conscience keeps tormenting me with the sins that wear me down and make me too weary even to protest.

If even Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities and judge me, I could not stand to live. But there is mercy with Thee!

I dare to cry to Thee because I have seen Thee on a cross. I need not probe furtively in the world about me nor in my own heart for evidences of Thy love and power. I have seen Thee bear a cross, and on that cross overcome the evil one. The victory which was Thine, Thou has given to those who trust Thee. I cast myself upon Thee, and pray that Thou wouldst lift me up above the swirling waters.

I have no self-confidence. Were I to stand alone, unsupported by Thee, even the feeblest enemy could dislodge me. I am often upset by trifles. Nestled in Thy mighty and merciful arms, however, not even the prince of darkness can reach me. My confidence is in Thee alone.

Even the last enemy, death, can do me no lasting harm. When death has done its work, Thou dost raise me up again to live forever with Thee in the everlasting kingdom. O Lord, pick me up—and hold me—now and forevermore.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2nd: Palm Sunday

Worship at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 6th: Maundy Thursday

Worship at 7 p.m.

First Holy Communion for 5th graders

Friday, April 7th: Good Friday

Worship at 7 p.m.

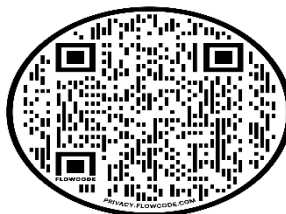
Sunday, April 9th: Easter Sunday

Easter breakfast 8-9 a.m. served by the Logos
Legos Youth Group

Worship at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

(Please note, there will be only one
Easter service this year)

(Offering for the Lenten Services (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be given to Benevolence, Easter offering will remain in the General Fund, as determined by the Stewardship Board.)



The Logos Legos are busy preparing for the Easter Breakfast. Please scan the following code on your smartphone and fill out the electronic sign up for the breakfast, or sign up on the

table in the hallway if you plan to attend. This will help us in purchasing the food and planning. The menu will be eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage links, cinnamon rolls, fruit, and beverages. It will be served in from 8-9 before Easter Service. We hope to see you all there

Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations...

to Klay and Nicole Rustad,



on the birth of a son, Collin Leo, on February 22nd. Collin weighed 9 lbs, 6 oz, and was 21" long. He joins a big brother, Charlie. Grandparents are Duane and Patti Rustad. Blessings to the family!

Condolences...

to Dale Schultz, on the death of his brother-in-law, Robert "Bob" Thomas Davis, on March 21st. Robert was 90 years old and had been married to Dale's sister, Doris, for 59 years, before her death. The funeral was held at the Hugeback-Johnson funeral home in Nashua on Monday, March 27th.



-May God comfort all who mourn.

THANK YOU, EMMANUEL

I would like to thank all the wonderful people for their thoughts, prayers, and acts of kindness. Your support really helped to lift me up.

It was so wonderful to be back to my church family Sunday. I am so blessed!

God's blessings to all,

-Laurie Nack Bublitz

They're Here...



Our 2023 Offering envelopes have arrived at last!! They are located on a table inside the wooden door entrance and can be picked up anytime, to be used. Please "spread the word" and let others know or pick them up and take theirs to them.

If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have some, please contact the church office as there are several extra boxes that can be used.

Connection Group Bible Study

Continues on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

SEASON TWO's theme is

"Blessed are the Chosen" and

focuses on the Beatitudes from

Matthew 5:1-12. We meet John

and James, the *"Sons of Thunder,"*

Nathaniel, Philip, *little James*, also

known as *James the Lesser*, Simon

the Zealot, Andrew, and

Thaddeus, also known as *Judas or*

Jude. The season wraps up as people gather to hear the Sermon on the Mount.

SEASON THREE's theme is: *"Come to me...I will give you rest."* (*Matthew 28:11*)

Jesus sends all 12 disciples on their first mission and they face new fears as well as entrenched, old ways. And each one faces his own unique burden, too.

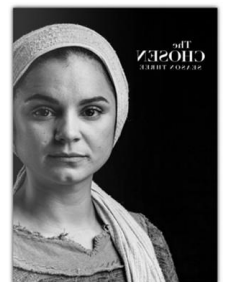
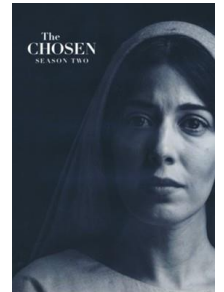
Meanwhile, scores of

newcomers like Veronica and Jairus desperately seek Jesus for relief from crushing crises and heavy-handed authorities, religious and Roman.

Thousands ultimately converge on Jesus, first to argue then to listen. But as His preaching extends to the next day, they find themselves in a new predicament-far from home, famished, and without any food to eat.

Until a little boy with five loaves and two fishes shows up ...

Please contact Charlotte Cole or Sharon Hulshizer for more information.



Thank You, Stewards

...to Pastor Weeg for providing Sunday services and Communion, Confirmation, and First Communion classes.

...to our organists, Marena Henkle and Donna Schilling for their beautiful music during worship.

...to our March counters: Lisa Bartz, Lori & Darren Marsh, and Kim Badker.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Lori Marsh.

...to our Altar Guild Steward, Lisa Bartz

...to our PA Operators: Randy Hulshizer and Gary Schotanus.

...to our March Ushers: Curt Schaub, Jon and Zach Badker, Darren Marsh, and Neil Hackbart.

...to our website manager, Renae Kroneman

...to the March Hospitality Team III: *Yvonne & Troy Tourtellott*, Kyle & Amy Edwards, Steve McCready, Rachel Rosenberg, Connie Rosenberg, Duaine & Myra Dierks, Pat Clark, Liz & Michael Schaub, Todd Trettin, Jamie & Brandon Trenhaile, Cory Hicken, Kim Hicken, Suzanne Seleskie, Crystal Wilde, Hailey Tourtellott, Nicole Thorson, and Judy & Earl Trenhaile.

...to the Share Shoppe volunteer: Linda Koschmeder.

...to the Lay Ministry board for opening and closing the church on Sundays.

...to all who shovel the sidewalks and remove the snow in front of and around the church.

Special Thanks

...to Nicole Cole, for her years of service representing Emmanuel on the Share Shoppe board and for lining up volunteers for the fourth Thursday of the month.

...to Christa (Larson) Trenhaile, for replacing Nicole as our Share Shoppe board member.

...to Anthony Walk, for changing our sign messages. This job was done for many years by Orland Bartz.



Did You Know

... that some of our Logos Legos Youth attended the movie, "Jesus Revolution" on March 5th? Ask them their thoughts on it.



(Picture submitted by Brittany Bartz)



...that there will be three fifth grade students receiving First Holy Communion this year? They are Aiden Cook, Trey Feldt, and Trevor Gordon. These young men will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Please come and partake of this meal with these young persons and their families.

...that the women of the Church (ENALCW) will be hosting a
 Confirmand/Graduate
 recognition
 reception on Sunday,
 April 23rd? (date
 subject to change-
 watch bulletins for
 announcements) It will
 be held after worship
 service in the Fellowship Hall.



Confirmands this year are Landon Hillman, Harley Rongved, and Kenny Conlin. Harley and Kenny are non-traditional students in that they are taking classes as high-school students, not having them prior. Kenny is a Junior from Northwood and Harley is a Senior from St Ansgar.



Graduates this year are Ryan Hackbart, Madison Hillman, and Harley Rongved. All attend St. Ansgar High School.

Please join us in recognizing these students and the completion of their studies.



...that this image was found on the back of a fish skull Pastor Weeg shared with the children at the children's sermon on March 26th? It appears to look like the image of Christ on the cross.

ECUMENICAL SPRING SING

Sunday, April 16th from 2-4 p.m.

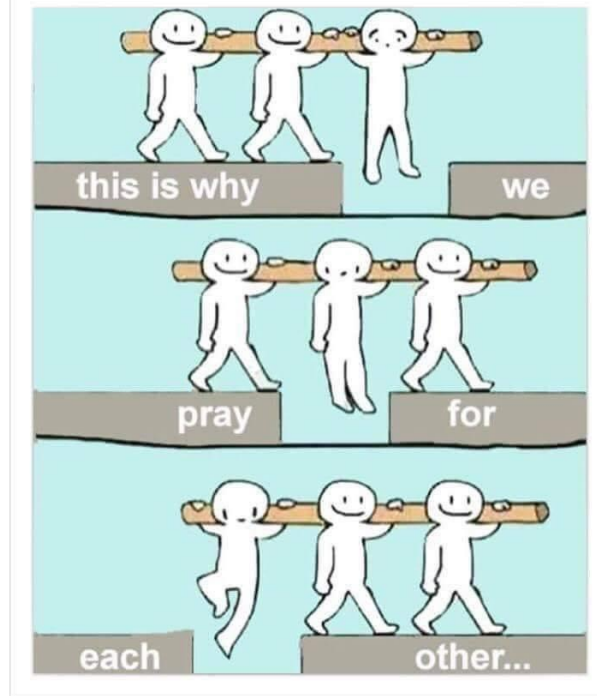
Sacred Heart Church, Osage

Reception following in Parish Hall



You are invited to an afternoon of uplifting Gospel and Christian Music, provided by neighboring churches in the area. This will promote fellowship and community outreach through a musical celebration of enjoyment and inspiration. As an added bonus, all groups will join to sing, at the conclusion, "Amazing Grace"- a tribute to the 250th anniversary of its composition. There will be a free-will offering collected which will be donated to the Food Banks in Mitchell County. Refreshments will be served following the event.

Love this:



(Image shared on Facebook)

On the "Lighter" Side

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
 The Weatherman's Hymn..There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
 The Contractor's Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation
 The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
 The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
 The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
 The Gossip's Hymn.....It Is No Secret
 The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
 The Shopper's Hymn.....In the Sweet By and By
 The Realtor's Hymn....I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
 The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me
 The Pilot's Hymn.....I'll Fly Away
 The Paramedic's Hymn.....Revive Us Again
 The Judge's Hymn.....Almost Persuaded
 The Psychiatrist's Hymn.....Just A Little Talk With Jesus
 The Waiter's Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord
 The Baker's Hymn.....When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
 The Shoe Repairer's Hymn.....It Is Well With My Soul
 The Geologist's Hymn.....Rock of Ages
 The Librarian's Hymn.....Whispering Hope
 The Mail Carrier's Hymn.....Deliverance Will Come
 The Nurse's Hymn.....Rescue the Perishing
 The Telephone Operator's Hymn.....Jesus on the Mainline
 The Fisherman's Hymn.....Shall We Gather at the River?



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
February 16th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – President

Attended: Greg Zillgitt – Vice President, Patti Rustad - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt - Evangelism, Will Bartz – Youth & Education, Lonnie Hillman- Property, and Sharon Hulshizer - Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Emi Kuntz - Lay Ministry

Devotions: Mark Borchardt

Agenda Review: M/S/C to approve agenda as presented.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

Administrative Report: 1) Ash Wednesday will be on February 22nd, Pastor Weeg will lead the service. 2) There are three fifth grade students eligible for First Holy Communion this year. They/parents have been contacted regarding classes with Pastor Weeg.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Met after the annual meeting, Chairperson and Council Rep will remain the same.

Lay Ministry: Is recommending to not have Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. M/S/C to follow the Lay Ministry recommendation to not have Lenten services.

Evangelism: 1) Met after the annual meeting and has one new member. Needing to choose a chairperson. 2) The new sign for Highway 9 is

done, it will be put up when the weather is nice; waiting for the bill.

Y & E: Will is Chair and Council Rep. Need to set up a meeting. Brittany Bartz will continue to organize VBS and work with the Logos Legos youth group.

Property: Met in January with Mark and Sharon to go over duties and a list of needs. Sharon will type up the list of things needing to be completed and get that to Lonnie.

Membership review: M/S/C to approve Travis Kroneman transfer to St. Johns Lutheran Church.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: Pastor Weeg has spoken with Mark and Darren Marsh about ways to spruce up our congregational profile. Possibility of putting an incentive in the financial package if a seminary student were hired.
- b) Old Nativity Set: seems to be in good shape except for the wiring and is a blow mold set with several pieces. It could possibly bring good money if auctioned.
- c) Old Chairs: several of the old blue chairs are still useable, some are unsafe and not fixable. Some will be place in SS rooms, others may be given away to interested parties.
- d) Annual Audit: Waiting for a date to be chosen to perform the financial review.

New Business:

- a) Endowment Fund: Discussion of the Foundation/ Estate/ and Endowment Funds and their functions. Suggested to place under a board for supervision: Stewardship Board would be most likely. More research needs to be done before a decision is made.
- b) NALC Seminary: Discussion of increasing the funds that are given to the seminary, especially in this time of need for pastors. This may be a potential Mission Fest idea, to have a representative come to speak with us about the seminary.
- c) Youth and Education Board: have been combined into one board via the Annual

Meeting vote. Some discussion of who will order SS/VBS materials, etc. A meeting of the board will be set up.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Will Bartz.
Next meeting date and time: Thursday, March 9th 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 February 1-28, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$73,734.91

Interest: \$10.54

Offering Revenues: \$6,868.00

Reimbursement: \$308.74 (church sign light bulb/maintenance)

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$7,457.28

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$81,192.19

Expenses: \$12,248.80

End of month Balance: \$68,943.39



TWC (The Women's Council)
March 21st, 2023

Emi shared devotions based on Ephesians 4. This speaks of how Christ is the head of all things, that the church is the body, and each part does its own work. We are to remember that we are a reflection of the church and when the whole body works together, we are healthy!

TWC opened with the reading of the purpose statement. Secretary minutes from February were approved as read. Treasurer shows \$904.65 in the checking account. Charlotte has purchased a few extra items from the Jmart for fellowship. There was no correspondence.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Packing date for in-gathering at Southport Mall on April 17th. March 28th at 9 a.m. will be the packing date for kits and quilts. Belinda and Charlotte or Clarice will plan to take items for pick up. Sharon will apply for

Thrivent Funds to help with purchasing batting and kit items for future LWR projects. 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: a) Some drawer liners can be put into drawers yet and the baseboard paint needs to be touched up. b) A gift certificate for Mark Borchardt will be purchased as a thank you for all his help with the remodeling and flooring. c) Discussion of a future soup supper or another type of supper for September. Will continue to discuss. d) Remaining items from the kitchen no longer needed: will be moved to the entrance and marked Free. If not taken, they will either be set out for big city pickup or taken to the Share Shoppe. 3) Fellowship Teams: Still looking for unit leaders for a couple of teams. Clarice will make calls for the April team as we continue to consider a new unit leader. 4) Bible Study: We are currently watching Season 2 and will finish before moving on to Season 3. The new Bible study guides for Season 3 have arrived.

New Business: 1) Confirmation and Graduation Recognition Sunday: April 30th has been chosen as the date to hold the recognition. Sharon will check with parents on this date. We have three Confirmation students and three Graduates this year. 2) Good Samaritan Birthday Program: will be May 11th. Belinda, Judy Trenhaile, and Charlotte may be able to provide the entertainment.

Upcoming Dates: Next TWC will be April 18th at 9 a.m. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

The Jelly Bean Prayer

*RED is for the blood He Gave
GREEN is for the grass He made
YELLOW is for the sun so bright
ORANGE is for the edge of night.
BLUE is for the sins we made.*

*WHITE is for the grace He gave.
PURPLE is for His hour of sorrow.
PINK is for our new tomorrow.*

*A bag full of jelly beans,
colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, is a promise, is a
special treat.*

HAPPY EASTER!



News from Lutheran World Relief

The following information has been gleaned from information from the "God's Love in Action" magazine sent out by LWR. Since we support LWR in various ways, this information should be interesting in how we are able to help our brothers and sisters in Christ internationally through our gifts:

Personal Care Kits: Personal Care Kits help our neighbors in crisis. They are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. In the direst of situations, these extensions of your congregation's love bring dignity, and hope. They are one of the most requested items.

What is in a personal care kit?

Bath towel, bath soap, nail clippers, comb, and a toothbrush

Moses Kaboga, LWR staff in Tanzania, speaks of the impact these kits make on pregnant and new mothers: "Most pregnant and new mothers, especially in the rural areas, do not have access to personal care items. The items help them clean and cover themselves and their babies, protecting them from the cold. In addition to keeping themselves and their babies clean, they also love the soaps because they smell so good!

It is a huge challenge to get pregnant mothers to give birth at health facilities. It is often far from home, and they worry about the expenses of medical care. We found that distributing the Personal Care Kits is a great incentive for women to come to the health facilities. This way we can make sure the mothers and newborns receive the proper care plus they have supplies to help them when they get back home."



Kits and blankets displayed on the piano

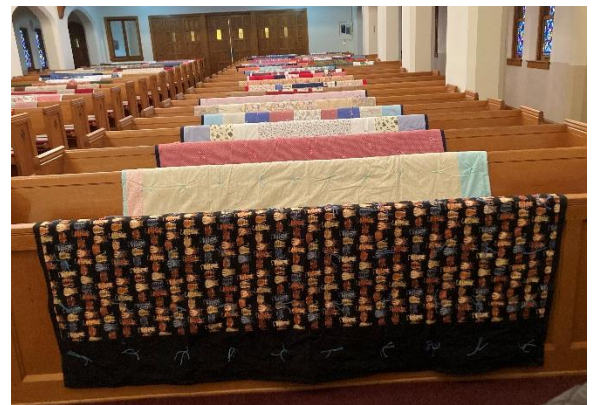
Quilts:

Our ladies in the church work year round to make quilts that are sent to LWR , along with



many that are saved back for local use. Quilt Sunday was held on March 19th and is always a fun time to display all the various colors and styles of quilts that many hands have labored over. We have a blessing litany that acknowledges both the maker and the recipient of the quilts, blankets , and kits that are sent each year.


National Quilting Day was on March 18th, 2023. "...we at Lutheran World Relief have a LOT to celebrate! For more than 75 years, nearly 28 million quilts have been made for people in need around the world! These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict. THANK YOU .



The quilts gracing our pews on two Sundays in March, made by our women. Our graduates were able to select theirs from all that were displayed.



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 						1 Choir 9 a.m. 
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship w/HC <i>Adult & children's choirs sing</i> 10:40 Fellowship Sunday School	3 Holy Week	4	5 Connection Group 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7: 00 p.m.	 Maundy Thursday First Holy Communion Worship at 7 p.m.	7 Worship at 7 p.m.  GOOD FRIDAY	8 Easter Egg Hunt: Grafton Community Center 10 a.m.
9 Easter 8-9 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship <i>Choir sings</i> No Fellowship/ SS	10 	11 <u>Church Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	12 Connection Group 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	13	14 	15
16 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship/ <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:40 Fellowship Sunday School	17 LWR Shipping in Mason City	18 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	19 Connection Group 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7: 00 p.m.	20 	21 	22
23 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship 10:40 Fellowship- Confirmand/Graduate recognition Sunday School	24 	25	26 Connection Group 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7: 00 p.m.	27 	28	29 
30 4th Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship 10:40 Fellowship Sunday School	 					



April 2023

NON-PROFIT
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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Grafton, Iowa 50440

641-748-2736
Address Service Requested

<u>April</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, April 2nd <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Landon Hillman	Ardis Hansen	Donna Schilling
Sunday, April 9th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Sophie Urbatsch	Vanessa Hanson	Marena Henkle
Sunday, April 16th <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	Kaelee Hicken	June Haxton	Marena Henkle
Sunday, April 23rd <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	Landon Hillman	Hicken family	Donna Schilling
Sunday, April 30th <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	Harley Rongved	Hillman family	Donna Schilling

Hospitality Team IV: Jeanie White, Paul Hackbart, Carol Koschmeder, Linda Koschmeder, Sheila Lundon, Josh & Anna Rosenberg, Sharon Walk, Opal Diedrich, Marena Henkle, Martha Crail, and Doris & Albert Ralph.

Ushers: Mark Fredrickson, Dick Neeley, Duane Rustad, Steve McCready, and Gary Schotanus.

Lay Ministry: Kristy Arzberger

Counters: Teresa Braun, Kim Badker, Gloria & Phil Hackbart

Altar Guild: Doris Ralph

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Laurie Nack Bublitz

PA Operator: Garry Backhaus

