

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Volume 77 No.6

## *Ten Years of Pastoral Ministry*

*Pastor Christopher P. Vossler*

*“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1)*

While I was in O’Hare Airport on my way home from Malaysia back in March, I happened to sit next to an elderly woman returning to Midland for a funeral. “What brought you to Sanford?” she asked. “I’m actually the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church there,” I explained to her. Her eyes widened in surprise, and she stared at me in shock. “You don’t look old enough to be a pastor!” “Would you believe I’ve been a pastor for ten years?”

To be honest, some days that fact seems almost as unbelievable to me as it did to that woman in O’Hare! Ten years ago last month, I received my first call and graduated from Seminary; ten years ago *this* month, I traveled back to New Jersey so I could be ordained in the same church where I had been confirmed, the congregation my father has now served for over 25 years. So much has happened in those ten years – a couple of years felt almost as momentous and cataclysmic as any full *decade*! But by God’s grace, I have been blessed to continue to serve Him, and to do so while working side by side with many good and faithful servants.

That is one of the most important things I have learned from my decade of ministry: it's not just about *me*, and it's not just about the *pastor*. The pastor is the one called by the congregation to administer the Sacraments and preach God's Word publicly, but so many other people are involved in the congregation's ministry. The secretary who ensures that the congregation's day-to-day functioning goes on smoothly. The deacon who makes visits and assists with the service. The music director who organizes special music and musicians. The Sunday School teachers who teach the faith to young children. The trustees and elders and so many others who ensure that the congregation's business runs smoothly. The women who do so much to beautify the church and provide food for many different occasions. And so many countless other servants of the Church who use their God-given talents to His glory in the Church.

For a congregation's ministry to flourish, *everyone* is important!

## *St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner*

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"*  
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

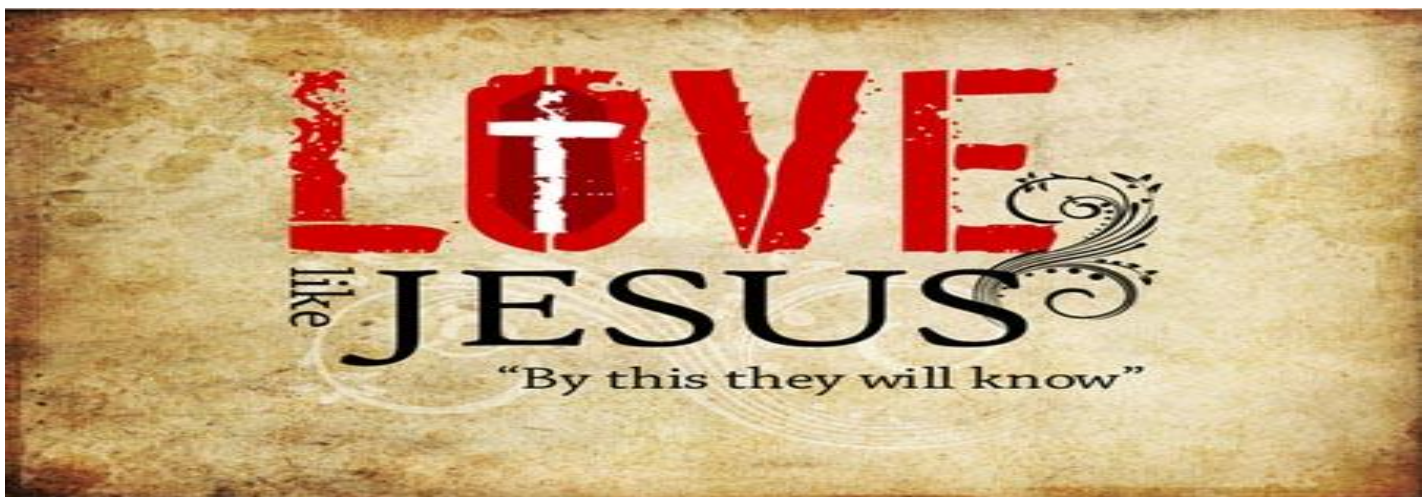
***Stephen Ministries would like to start classes in July. Michelle is looking to gather information regarding times that work best for those that would like to participate.***

Michelle DeCoe has completed the training for the leadership role for Stephen Ministry. There needs to be at least two people in the leadership role. Marilyn Bowen has graciously accepted the position for the second



leader. She would begin training for position after voter's meeting accepts continuation of tuition. After completion of the leadership program, Michelle and Marilyn will be offering classes for other members of the congregation to become knowledgeable and supported components of the team. The classes will be teaching members how to support others through

difficult times. This includes everything from death, divorce, medical crisis, moving, life changes and so much more. The struggles of life are ever changing as we evolve through life. We in Stephen Ministry would like to promote a supportive church environment that nurtures our members in need. You are the CHURCH; and we would appreciate support and involvement by the congregation. We never know what is in store for us as we navigate through this world. We are hoping to develop preparedness in our church for the call. Will you love your neighbors as yourself? Will you be the Good Samaritan that stopped to help another in time of need? This ministry is centered around God being the main healer. The caregiver is a vessel for healing to begin. We are not looking for people to fix others. We are looking for people to be open to hearing each other in a supportive way. There are skills that need to be learned so you are prepared and not overwhelmed. Once you have completed the courses, you may be paired with someone in the congregation that needs emotional support, while going through a rough time. This would take approximately one hour a week, until they are feeling more secure regarding their matter in question. Confidentiality is one of the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe 989-513-1736. I am taking down names of interested parties. I would like to know what would work for class times in the future; evening, day, weekend or retreat style....also, be sure to visit [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org) to learn more.



**“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit’ (John 15:16). Those words are meant for every one of us. We should never cease to be amazed at God’s gifts and timing to bear the fruit of God’s love.” Lynette Auch, former President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)  
*Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679***

## **An Overview of the Office of Matins**

The Daily Office has given voice to the daily prayer of the faithful in “many and various ways” over the centuries (*LSB*, p. 238; Hebrews 1:1). The name “daily” ties these services to the Christian’s temporal existence, defined as it is by our daily rising with the new sun—a reminder of the Lord’s resurrection—and daily return to bed in the confidence that Christ, the Light of the world, would bring safety and repose during the night hours. Over the next few months we will be going through the elements to Office of Matins. We will be using this worship service with some frequency.

### **Office Hymn**

Especially appropriate for Matins are hymns with themes associated with the beginning of the day (e.g., *LSB* 868–876). Many Latin hymns originally had their origin as office hymns (e.g., *LSB* 385, “From East to West” and *LSB* 454, “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”) and are fitting for Matins.

### **Readings**

While the singing of the psalms formed the essential core of the Daily Office, the reading of Holy Scripture also held an important place. . . . While no provision was made (at least at first) for a systematic reading of the entire Bible, the monastic offices, in particular, did provide for a generous coverage. This was especially true in Matins, where in the monastic tradition there could be as many as twelve readings on Sundays, though considerably fewer on other days of the week. The readings, together with their corresponding responsories, formed an essential core of the office. . . . Today, Scripture passages may be selected from various lectionaries, reading plans, or from the *LSB* Daily Lectionary (*LSB*, pp. 299–304), which uses the same readings as those included in *Treasury of Daily Prayer*.

After the readings, Matins allows for a sermon or catechetical instruction. . . . Another option in less formal settings, or when praying the office alone, is the reading of a prepared devotion from any number of published resources.

Next month: A description of the *Canticle* and *Prayer*

Excerpted from *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*, pages xxxv, xlii, 663, 666–67, 690–91, 697, 699, 701, 703, 708, 712, 716, © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved

**Important Dates for upcoming Ladies Aid activities.** We will request volunteers and provide details closer to the dates.

<b>June 4, 2023</b>	Ordination Anniversaries & Luncheon
<b>June 8,</b>	Trip to Orphan Grain Train
<b>June</b>	Strawberry Social – Date to be determined
<b>Aug 24 &amp; 25</b>	Ladies Aid Rummage Sale
<b>Oct 6, 2023</b>	Harvest Dinner
<b>Oct 10, 2023</b>	First Day of the Peanut Brittle Season
<b>Nov 4, 2023</b>	Craft Show
<b>Dec 16, 2023</b>	Holiday Cookie & Gingerbread Decorating

Thank you!

*Thank you to the Leigeb's for the donation of the finely crafted Processional Cross stand for use in the Narthex ☺*

*Thank you to Randy Engblade for all the lawn mowing he has done already this spring.*

*Thank you to all those who worked as spring clean-up crew ☺*



## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Social Media and Website**-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

**MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):**

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

**MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS**

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

**SMART PHONE USERS:** There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

***The Lutheran Witness*** is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit [www.cph.org/witness](http://www.cph.org/witness) to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

***Lutheran Service Book*** - EBook Edition at [enews@cph.org](mailto:enews@cph.org) **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

[www.facebook.com/thelcms](http://www.facebook.com/thelcms)

[www.twitter.com/thelcms](http://www.twitter.com/thelcms)

[www.youtube.com/thelcms](http://www.youtube.com/thelcms)

[www.lcms.org/socialmedia](http://www.lcms.org/socialmedia)

**KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: ALL** garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door. **RECYCLING:** A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... **THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY!** We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



## LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 9:00am

### Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President  
Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin  
817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or  
Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

## BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at [stpaul Lutheran@tds.net](mailto:stpaul Lutheran@tds.net), calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

### DEADLINES

Newsletters                      20<sup>th</sup> (monthly)  
Bulletins                      Wednesday's by  
Noon

*LWML "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations"*-Registration is now open for the 40<sup>th</sup> convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League set for June 22-25 in Milwaukee. Registration is \$160 through March 14, \$180 from March 15 through May 10 and \$205 from May 11 through June 10. There are also one-day and spouse registration options. Learn more and register at [lwml.org/2023-convention](http://lwml.org/2023-convention).

**Outdoor Service** – June 25<sup>th</sup>

## Vacation Bible School- June 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00-7:30pm

**Council Meeting will be on 6/11 @ 11am.**

**Men's Breakfast:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

**Ladies' Bible Study:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month

**Euchre Night:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Month 7pm

**LifeLight Bible Study:** Tuesday @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm

**Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study:** Thursday @ 2:30pm @ the Hoogerhyde's residence.

**The Ladies Aid** have planned an outing to Tour the **Orphan Grain Train** in Sebewaing. The date is **June 8, 2023**. We will leave church about 8:45 am. It takes about an hour to get there. If other ladies are interested we are happy to have them join us. There are some Grain Train Wishlists available on the board downstairs if interested in taking a donation when we go.

**Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries/ Sunday 6/4.** We will be recognizing Pastors Young, Reith, Hoogerhyde and Vossler during this service. Lunch following service. 😊



**Thrivent/Loons Night at the Ball Park-Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> Game Time 7pm: Gates open at 6pm**

Please **sign up** on the board downstairs. Join the Thrivent Member Network –Great Lakes Region for a fun night at the Ball

Park and cheer on the Great Lakes Loons together. With your discounted ticket, in the Northern Lights Pavilion, enjoy dinner, help us impact our community and enjoy the fireworks after the game. **Tickets are \$5 and money collected will be donated to Rescue Ministries.**



**Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - 5pm-All youth** are invited to the Hollywood

Blockbuster "Thor" Movie Night/Bible Study. Pizza/Popcorn/Beverages and conversation on the movie. Participants will help to pick the next movie! ☺

We are looking to form a **Youth Ministry Board** that will focus on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.

## "BECAUSE WE CARE"

**Prayer Request:** If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687. **Those** with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer.

**Pastoral Care:** Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email [stpaulrev@tds.net](mailto:stpaulrev@tds.net). The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email [stpaul Lutheran@tds.net](mailto:stpaul Lutheran@tds.net), or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: [esocidnator01@gmail.com](mailto:esocidnator01@gmail.com). Or

[stpauldeacon@tds.net](mailto:stpauldeacon@tds.net) if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

Our florist is, **HANNAH'S FLOWERS**, in Midland. She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please continue to return the vases back to the church to help keep the price lower. All other florist prices were higher. You will continue to make your flower payment to the church. Any questions, please talk with Carolyn.

Thank you,

*Carolyn* 631-3953

June Altar Guild representative is Shirley Rinas 989.687.2268

**To our families with small children: Relax!** You and your children are welcome to our worship service!

Being in worship with you to observe



and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and

they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left.

With the speakers in the basement, you



will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

**Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor.** If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “stpaulrev”, or the Pastor's phone #, or ask Pastor. The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

**If you are interested in private Communion** ...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

## **THRIVENT**

**Thrivent Action Team Dollars:** St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

## **CHOICE DOLLARS**

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I'M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN APRIL 2023, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2024. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2022 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2023. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



**St. Paul Coffee Mugs** are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see Linda Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

**Mission of the Month:** *June*, we are receiving offerings for **Foster Closet** of Midland County, which supplies clothing, furniture, toys and other items to foster parents for the children in their care. This enables them to provide basic needs to the children and helps ease the transition into their new foster home family.

**Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry.** There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be

delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary

donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1) weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry*

**Current needs are: Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helper, Kid Snacks: Jello/Pudding/Fruit Cups; Granola/Fruit Bars; Snack-Size chips, pretzels, Doritos, etc**

**Pictorial directory-** Please check with Linda, Margie, Ruth or Kathy to help retrieve yours from the office. 😊

**Has your contact info changed?** If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or [stpaul Lutheran@tds.net](mailto:stpaul Lutheran@tds.net) and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

**Hear Pastor's Sermon message**

from last week online

@Stpaul Lutheran Sanford.net just

click on the microphone on the home page and refresh your thoughts (and refresh the page) on the sermon message from the previous week.



**Nativity Project-**We are accepting donations to the Nativity as we work toward the purchase of a set. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to the Nativity. Any ?'s please check with Gerianne.

**Sunday School Attendance Recognition:** We are taking Sunday School attendance in order to acknowledge those that attend frequently. Evelyn, Jace, Sam Eshleman, Lucas and Bradyn Miller, Natalie and Madison Giddings, Vada Billingsley, Garrett Chubb, are receiving attendance pins for the 2022/2023 Sunday School year. Awards will continue to be given out in the next school year and are given out quarterly. This will be recorded by weekly attendance and does not have to be consecutive. 😊

**Social Media and Website-**In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

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# June Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Elder's Meeting 6pm Jeanne Goedecke Cindy Brock Grace Cummings		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ordination Anniversaries Service 9:30am/  Dan Ankoviak		Lynn Burns Marilyn Harvey	Michelle Heilig	Curt Bowland Robert Laplow		Men's Breakfast
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Service 9:30am Council Meeting 11am	Matt Smith	Bill & Ruth Draves-Annv <b>Youth Movie Night 5pm</b>		Trustee Meeting 6pm  Joshua Whitehead	Lily Yarbrough	Loon's Thrivent Event 6pm gates open  Dave & Jacque Chubb-Annv
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship Service with Communion 9:30am Delores Bailey Pat Ochsankehl Father's Day	<b>Vacation Bible School 6-7:30pm</b>	<b>Vacation Bible School 6-7:30pm</b>  Riley Bell Julie VanKuiken	<b>Vacation Bible School 6-7:30pm</b>  AJ & Cindy Brock Jr.-Annv Jennifer Novak Roger Salisbury	<b>Vacation Bible School 6-7:30pm</b>  Ron Fauver	<b>Vacation Bible School 6-7:30pm</b>	Ladies Bible Study  Kurt Bell Marilyn Bowen
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Outdoor Worship Service 9:30am  Linda Anthony	Judy Draves Jan O'Dell Chris Teachworth Charles Templeman	Carl Coggins Jace Eshleman	Garrett Chubb	Alyssa Stewart	Egan Anthony Samuel Eshleman Nick & Ashley Gettel-Annv	

## June Volunteer Schedule

	<b>4-Jun</b>	<b>11-Jun</b>	<b>18-Jun</b>	<b>25-Jun</b>	<b>2-Jul</b>
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Deklan & Jace	Garrett & Sam	Madison & Jeffrey	Bradyn & Lucas	Deklan & Sam
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Mark Burns	Bill & Ruth Draves	Don & Delores Bailey's Daughters	Carolyn Sutton	Lynn & Mark Burns
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Carolyn Sutton 989.631.3953				
<b>GREETERS</b>	Bill & Ruth Draves	Ann & Pastor Reith	Linda & Bill Mitchell	Julie VanKuiken	Marilyn Bowen
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Ordination Anniveraries Luncheon	Charlene & Bob Burnison	Cindy Brock	Julie VanKuiken	Open
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Heidi Stecker	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn- Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Heidi Stecker
<b>PROCLAIMER</b>	Pastor Daniel Kempin	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>USHERS</b>	Stacy & Gary Smith	Stacy & Gary Smith	Charlene & Bob Burnison	Charlene & Bob Burnison	Elders
<b>ELDERS</b>	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				