

## Address Service Requested

St. Paul Lutheran – March Newsletter  
Volume 78, No.3



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SANFORD, MI 48657

2045 Lynn Road  
Sanford, Michigan 48657

[www.stpaulsanford.org](http://www.stpaulsanford.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheransanford>

Church Office: 989.687.2824

Church Office: [stpaul\\_lutheran@tds.net](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@tds.net)

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, & Thur (4:30pm-6:30pm)

**March 7<sup>th</sup> Elder's Meeting 6pm**  
**March 10<sup>th</sup> Voter's Meeting @11am**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup> Youth Movie Night 6pm**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup> Trustee Meeting 6pm**  
**March 28<sup>th</sup> Youth Board Meeting 6pm**

St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
Sanford, Michigan



St. Paul provides a spiritual home where we can grow in our faith, live in God's love and reach out to others with the good news of Christ.

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER



March 2024

[www.stpaulsanford.org](http://www.stpaulsanford.org)

Volume 78 No.3

## Who Can Forgive?

*Pastor Christopher P. Vossler*

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8-9)*

*“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses” (Mark 11:25)*

At this time of year, as we approach Easter and the Holy Week that precedes it, my mind always turns to the twin topics of Repentance and Forgiveness. Repentance, as we talked about last month, is the response of faith: turning away from sin and turning toward God as the One who takes away our sins. When we repent, we trust in God to forgive our sins, striving to change our attitude and actions by the power of the Holy Spirit so we do not fall into that sin again. The forgiveness we receive comes to us from God, received by faith.

This is what we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Sunday: Jesus paid the ultimate penalty for our sins in His death on the cross. Jesus was broken and battered on the cross – taking on Himself everything that our sin demanded, so that our sins would be fully forgiven. The blood He shed was our blood. The lashes He bore were our lashes. The mocking and jeering was ours. The

death was our death – everything that the Law demands as punishment for sin. And when He cried out from the cross “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34), He was talking about us.

Your sins are forgiven by Jesus’ death on the cross! That is what makes “Good” Friday so good! *You* should have been on that cross; Jesus took your place. Jesus suffered condemnation and abandonment by God – the penalty for your sins – so that you would be forgiven. So that you would have eternal life, washed clean from your sins.

But is this forgiveness only for *you*?

The parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35) tells us what happens when a man doesn’t forgive his neighbor who has sinned against him. However, rather than focus on the condemnation, I want to highlight the great blessing that Jesus gives. You have been given great forgiveness, for the overwhelming sins that you have committed against God. You have also been given friends, family members, coworkers, and neighbors who have sinned against you in your relationships. And Jesus has placed this incredible treasure of forgiveness into your hand and told you, “Share. Share this treasure with those who have wronged you. It’s okay: my storehouse will never run out.” And no sooner do you give out some of this forgiveness, reconciling with your friend, than Jesus takes your hand, turns it over, and pours more of this treasure into it, so much that it overflows into your lap. And the more you give of His forgiveness, the more forgiveness He pours out to you. Not to hoard away, but to share. To bless those around you, even as you have been blessed.

That is the gift of Easter, poured out for you on Good Friday.

## Lenten Worship Services

### **“What Is a Christian?”**

Have you ever been asked, “what is a Christian?” The simple Sunday School answer to this question certainly comes to mind: “A Christian is one who believes in Jesus as their Savior.” And while this answer does explain *whose* a Christian is and how one becomes a Christian, we can go so much deeper. A Christian is characterized by their faith in Jesus, but “you will recognize them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16). The way we live shows us to be Christian. On the Sundays in Lent, Pastor Vossler will unpack the Christian life in five different ways: A Christian is Steadfast, Conciliatory, Zealous, Saved, and Humble.

### **“Hear Our Penitential Cry”**

While most of our favorite psalms declare God’s glory and rejoice in His mighty deeds, not always are our prayers so joyous. Seven times, the psalmists turn to God in penitence, crying out for mercy because of their sinful actions. During our midweek worship services between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, we will be blessed by pastors of the Midland Circuit preaching on the Penitential Psalms to guide our own life of penitence. The Christian life is one of repentance: acknowledging our sins and turning from them toward God, the source of our forgiveness.

### LENTEN Midweek SCHEDULE – 2024

February	14	Ash Wednesday
	21	Lent I
	28	Lent II
March	6	Lent III
	13	Lent IV
	20	Lent V

*Lenten Dinners @ 6pm & Services @ 7pm. February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20*

### HOLY WEEK – 2024

March	24	Palm Sunday	9:30 am
	28	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
	29	Good Friday	1:00 pm
	31	Easter (Sunrise Svc)	7:00 am
		(Breakfast)	8:00 am
		(Celebration Svc)	9:30 am
April	6	Easter Concert	4:00 pm



## *St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner*

*By: Marilyn Bowen*

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

*"And where you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sin" (Mark 11: 25-26)*

It is easy to say "I'm sorry"- not so easy to say "I forgive you." To forgive you must erase the deeds, words or actions from our minds completely. Give all the negative thoughts to Jesus, as he forgives our sin. You say, "I can't forgive myself," God says "I forgive you." (1 John :9). Jesus suffered agonizing pain and died nailed to a cross to take away our sin. Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times."(Matthew 18: 21-22) Jesus forgives us, what a blessing! We all sin in some way daily. How comforting to know we are forgiven!

Most prayers spoken or written have forgiveness mentioned in the text of the prayer. It is an important part of daily life. We, as Stephen Ministers, can help ease the burden of guilt, fear, anger, loneliness or sadness by walking with you in prayer, compassionate listening, or just a friendly chat.

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. "* Ephesians 4:32

*"...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..."*  
This is so hard, Lord, please help us. Amen

Confidentiality is the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact

Michelle DeCoe, or speak with Pastor. Be sure to visit.  
[stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org) to learn more

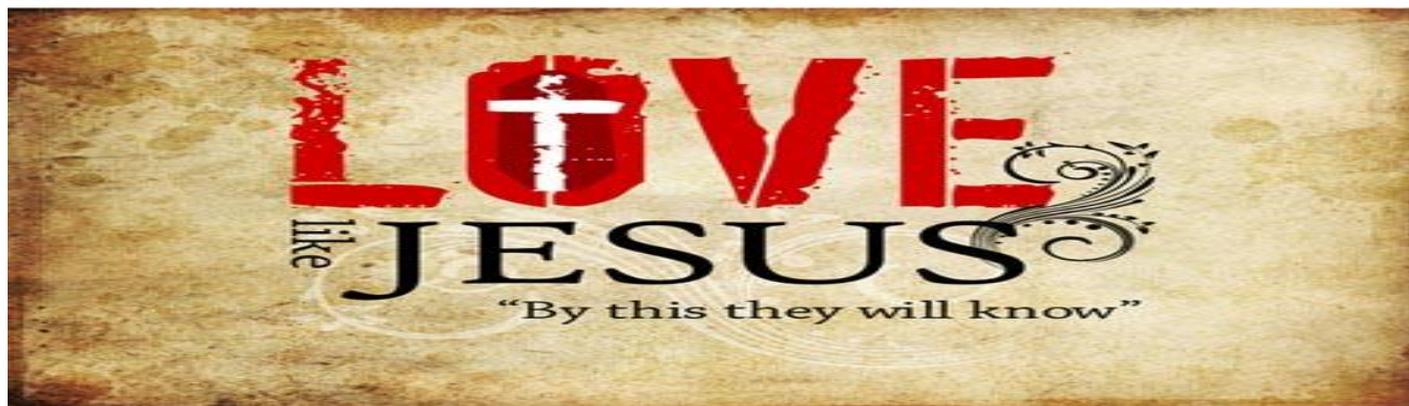


### **Wanted: volunteers to help with Youth Activities**

Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for volunteers to help with youth activities (including joining the Youth Ministry Board). If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler.

“We live dripping with the promise of Baptism. We live fueled by the fire of God’s Word. We live created on the sixth day and recreated by God’s grace to be followers of Jesus seven days of the week until that great eighth day, called eternity, when we will sing praise in His presence forever. We live and we love and we are loved in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, sin forgiven, shame erased, status: all very good.” *Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – 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***



## SOCIAL MEDIA

**We are on the web: [www.stpaulsanford.org](http://www.stpaulsanford.org)**

**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 10:00am beginning in February.

New Year sewing will begin February 14<sup>th</sup> and be every Wednesday at 9am at the Sunday School.

### 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.

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

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

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

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

**Confirmation Classes:** on Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.



Held every 3 years since 1980, the **LCMS Youth Gathering** provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

*We encourage our Youth to share in the once in this lifetime opportunity to learn more about God's love attending "Endure" 2025. To be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans*

## 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	

*Youth Movie Night- Saturday,  
March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm featuring  
"Chicken Run"*

*Pizza/Popcorn/Smores for movie  
discussion. Bring a friend 😊*



*March youth outing  
on 3/24. 1-4pm  
Northern Lanes*

*Bowling-Bring a friend 😊*

Interested in joining the **Youth Ministry Board** and focusing on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.



**Confirmation Sunday-May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Confirmation Questioning-**  
**Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm and Pot**  
**luck 6pm**

**Mission of the Month:** In *March*, we are collecting donations for Concordia Theological Seminary Student, Adam Thiel. Adam is a first year seminary student, a married young man, whose home congregation is St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, MI. Adam completed his undergrad degree at Concordia, Ann Arbor, and is now enrolled in our MDiv program.

### **“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

Altar Guild representatives for March are Carolyn Sutton (631-3953) and Chris Cresswel (832-9782).

**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 JANUARY 24, APRIL 2024, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2025. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2023 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2024. 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

**LWML** 2024 Michigan District Convention-June 28-30, 2024 at Amway, Grand Rapids

**LWML** Prayer Day/Spring Rally 2024 at St Paul, Sanford. Date to be determined. For more LWML information, Please contact Diana Kausch.

**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: Helpers, Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken.**

**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).

**BlackTop Project-**We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

**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.

**Prayer Request:** *If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / [hughrottiers@gmail.com](mailto:hughrottiers@gmail.com) . 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*



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*Thank you!*

*Thank you to Randy Engblade, Mike Schweigert, Don Retzloff for the craftsmanship of the 3 crosses that went on display 2/11/24.*

*Thank you to Ladies Aid for the many things they take on around the church and community. 😊*

# March Birthdays/Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Brycen Ferguson Ellie Smith	Band Rehearsal 4pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am Kailee Hill Trina Hill Spencer Hulbert Jerry Zilincik	Jacob Cay	Confirmation 5pm Lifelight 7pm Casey Dost Tara Novak Faya Sasse	Quilting 9am Public Relations 10am Lifelight 1pm Lenten Dinner 6pm Worship 7pm Choir 8pm Mary Schweitzer Ruth Weakman	Elder's 6pm	Abbegail Bell William Schweitzer	Men's Breakfast 8am Band Rehearsal 4pm  Youth Movie Night 6pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 9:30am Voter's Meeting 11am Sharon Kress	Jean Patrick	Confirmation 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Quilting 9am Lifelight 1pm Lenten Dinner 6pm Worship 7pm Choir 8pm	Vaughn Melchi	Easton Gowing	Kenneth Ranck  Band Rehearsal 4pm Game Night 7pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am	Gerianne Barnard Cristina Reger	Confirmation 5pm Lifelight 7pm Alexis Giddings Addison Kenyon Carolyn Sutton	Quilting 9am Lifelight 1pm Lenten Dinner 6pm Worship 7pm Choir 8pm Seth Wegener	Trustees 6pm Linda & William Mitchell-Annv.		Women's Bible Study 9am  Band Rehearsal 4pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday 9:30am  Youth Bowling 1-4pm Frieda Dubay		Confirmation 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Quilting 9am Lifelight 1pm Choir 8pm John Kress	Youth Board 6pm Maundy Thursday 7pm Avery Gettel	Good Friday 1pm Roland Juengel Jr. Emma Read Haley Read	Morgan VanWormer
<b>Easter 31</b> Sunrise 7am Breakfast 8am Festival 9:30am Bible Study 11am						

**March Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>3-Mar</b>	<b>10-Mar</b>	<b>17-Mar</b>	<b>March 24-Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 31-Easter</b>
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Natalie & Bradyn	Jackson & Garrett	Deklan & Sam	Madison & Jace	Natalie & Lucas
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Gary & Stacy Smith	John Kress	Carolyn Sutton	Deno & Susan O'Conner	Altar Guild
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Chris Cresswel 989.832.9782				
<b>GREETERS</b>	The Barnards	Duane & Joan Grubaugh	Carolyn Sutton & Edna Rottiers	Kathy & Randy Engblade	Sandy & Richard Hoogerhyde
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Open	Kathy & Randy Engblade	Christy Martin	Open	Easter Breakfast
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Amanda Koch	Heidi Stecker	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
<b>PROCLAIMER</b>	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF</b>	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
<b>USHERS</b>	Linda Mitchell & Marilyn Bowen	Linda Mitchell & Marilyn Bowen	Jack Moellar & Bill Draves	Elders	Elders
<b>ELDERS</b>	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				