

Zion Chronicle

January 2019



Pastor's This 'n That

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Clean thoroughly 12 whole months.

Divide in 365 parts; set aside, preparing one part only at a time as follows:

1 part patience, 1 part work, 1 part courage

Add to each day;

1 part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness

Blend with:

1 part prayer, 1 part meditation, 1 part good deed

Season the mixture with a dash of good cheer, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a good cup of humor.

Pour mixture into a vessel of love. Cook over radiant joy, garnish with a smile. Serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheer

Yield = 1 HAPPY YEAR!



Some Thoughts for the New Year!

- Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better [person]. - Benjamin Franklin
- The question is not "Is God leading?" but rather "Are we following?"
- A man who lets himself be worshiped mocks God. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together.
- Lord, put Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth.
- God gives us all a free trip around the sun each year. Enjoy the ride. —Source unknown



Pastor's Page

Dear Beloved Church Family and Friends,

Have you made your list? I am not talking about what you want for Christmas in 2019! What I am speaking of is that dreaded "New Year's Resolution" list. As we look head to a New Year, it seems that many want to be healthier, wealthier, and a little bit wiser. Here are some of my personal resolutions (not in any particular order), by the grace and power, I resolve to:

- ✠ keep to my daily devotions, and not be distracted and dismiss them;
- ✠ be joyful in my regular and additional labors, as a father, son, pastor, and friend;
- ✠ be a positively patient Christian witness where every I go and to all I meet and greet;
- ✠ to set aside time to exercise and be healthier in my eating habits;
- ✠ regard each gathering (whether at church or in the community) as an opportunity to celebrate the gift of friendship in Christ;
- ✠ lift-up in prayer, specifically and by name, every person kind enough to share their prayer request with me;
- ✠ express my love, words of sincere kindness and thankfulness to those close and dear to me;
- ✠ visit as many members as possible; and work updating church family records;
- ✠ to inspire and helpful in planning and participating in activities at Zion and in the community;
- ✠ to not fall and hit my head again 😊; and
- ✠ so many more . . .

I hopefully you don't think I have "gone off the deep end?" I pray not! These resolutions, I pray, are God pleasing and that the Spirit will empower me to fulfill them to the glory and honor of God! This is not for God's sake, but for truly mine (and perhaps for ours)! Join me, if you wish and will in making some of your own New Year resolutions.

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Matt

Stewardship

Stewardship Article

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breast piece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

Ladies Society

LWML Mission Grants 2018

Seminary Education for New Pastors in South Sudan (LHF)

\$7,500

Heritage Foundation financially supports the Lutheran seminary in Yambio, South Sudan to train faithful men to be Pastors. Lutheran churches in South Sudan are rapidly growing and more pastors are desperately needed. LHF remains committed to providing the Lutheran education and materials these men need to become good pastors and skilled translators of tomorrow's LHF's Sudanese Lutheran projects. Due to extreme poverty levels, this grant would help cover room and board for one course for 30 Sudanese seminarians. *"I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord."* Jeremiah 23:4

Lutheran for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion

\$7,500

Lutherans for Life (LFL) equips Lutherans to be a Gospel-motivated Voice for Life. LFL operates "Word of Hope" a nationwide professionally staffed crisis hot line that addresses Christ-center care for post-abortion issues. The hot line is currently staffed 10 hours a week. LFL would like to extend "Word of Hope" staffing hours to be able to reach more suffering souls and with an eventual goal of employing the director full time. With this grant LFL will launch promotion material and reach out directly to many more in need of scriptural post-abortions counseling in Minnesota South District Lutheran churches. Thousands more Lutherans (and non-Lutherans) can be served in Christ by "Word of Hope" if they are made aware of the hotline's existence and guide them into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

**Hannah Circle
Jan. 8 at 9:00 am @ Zion
Alayna Rohne & Vicki Sanvik**

**Martha Circle
Jan. 8 at 1:00 pm @ Zion
Nancy Golde**

**Ruth Circle
Jan. 8 at 7:00 pm @ Home of
Elaine Nelson**

**Ladies Executive Board
Jan. 28 @ 3:30 pm**



Check out the LWML Websites.

The National LWML Website: www.lwml.org

The LWML Minnesota South District Website:
www.mnslwml.org



Ladies Society

A Happy and Blessed New Year to all .

We want to thank all of the ladies who could attend our annual meeting and Christmas Brunch on December 15, 2018. Our entertainment from Rachel Christianson playing her harp was awesome.

The Ladies Society will be serving desserts and coffee at St. John's on February 3 and February 10 at 1:30 pm for residents and staff.



THANK YOU

I would like to thank Pastor Matt and everyone at Zion for their thoughts, prayers, and cards while I've been recovering from hip replacement. Thank you also to Deb and the Zion Youth for remembering me.

Dean Johnson

Thank you to all through out the year who have supported the Youth in different events. Our soup supper was our last youth event for the year. The money raised helped bring Christmas joy to a family in our community. The kids enjoyed shopping for this family and wrapping the presents they bought. Without the support of our congregation we would not be able to do this.

Thanks again,
The Board of Youth

To an Incredible Church Family,

*May God, whose love is everywhere,
Bless you every day
For being what you always are in
Christ, His child -
So caring in every way!*

Thank you all for all the Christmas, cards, gifts, and sweet treats! Your loving kindness has been a treasured blessing in my first Christmas with you! I appreciate all the prayers and acts of Christmas cheer shown to me. Amazing are the blessings of the Lord to each and everyone of us at Zion. His amazing love in the Christ Child warms our hearts and lives for acts of love and service.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Pastor Matt

Readings for January

Jan. 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord.

Is. 60:1-6
Psalm 72
Eph. 3:1-12
Matt. 2:1-12

Jan. 20 The Second Sun. after Epiphany

Is. 62:1-5
Psalm 128
1 Cor. 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 13 The Baptism of Our Lord

Is. 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Rom. 6:1-11
Luke 3:15-22

Jan. 27 The Third Sun. after Epiphany

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:7-14
1 Cor. 12:12-31a
Luke 4:16-30

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4 Children's Service Practice @ 6:00pm—7:00pm
Jan. 5 Children's Service Practice @ 10:00am—Noon
Jan. 6 Children's Service Practice @ 9:00am
Jan. 6 Children's Epiphany Service @ 10:00am
Jan. 6 Potluck following the Service
Jan. 20 Pot luck followed by Annual Voter's Meeting @ Noon

GRACIOUS GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF. . .

SYLVIA PANZER:

\$115 for the Audio Video fund
\$40 to Mission Central
\$20 to Food For Backpacks program
\$20 for church bell repair fund
\$10 for the Lutheran Hour on KATE

JOE NARVERUD:

\$20 to Food For Backpacks program

BRETT PLANTAGE:

\$25 to Food For Backpacks program

LAVERNE PETERS:

\$10 for the Lutheran Hour on KATE

Christian Education

Sunday Morning Bible Class

PRAYER: THE LORD'S PRAYER

All adults, members and visitors, are invited to join us as study the Lord's Prayer. Bring your Small Catechism, version does not matter, for each class session. Bibles are joyfully provided if you happen to forget yours. Classes are held in the remodeled Conference Room that is across from the church offices.

Sunday School Classes

January 6 – Christmas & Epiphany Program

Rehearsal begins at 9:00 am sharp! We'll be in the sanctuary for a quick walk through of the program before the 10:00 am worship/program.

January 13

The Sunday School the children learn about **the Birth of John is Foretold** to Zechariah (Luke 1:5–25). The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah in the Temple in Jerusalem. The angel tells Zechariah that Elizabeth is expecting a child; and he is to be the forerunner of the Messiah. The memory work is the Meaning of 3rd Commandment.

January 20

The Sunday School the children learn about **the Birth of Jesus Foretold** to Mary. (Luke 1:26–38). The angel Gabriel is sent to tell the virgin, Mary that she is to be the mother of the Son of the Most High, Jesus. Mary believed by faith and it was so as God's spoke through the angel. The memory work is the Meaning of 4th Commandment.

January 27

The Sunday School the children learn about **Mary's visit to Elizabeth** (Luke 1:39–56). In the presence of the Son of God growing within Mary's womb, John the Baptist leapt inside Elizabeth's womb. The memory work is the Meaning of 5th Commandment.

Confirmation Class

January 2— No Class Christmas/New Year Break

January 9— Lesson: The Fifth Commandment

Memory Work: The 5th Commandment and Meaning and Ephesians 4:26

January 16—Lesson: The Sixth Commandment

Memory Work: The 6th Commandment and Meaning and 1 Corinthians 6:19

January 23—Lesson: The Seventh Commandment

Memory Work: The 7th Commandment and Meaning and Philippians 2:4

January 30—Lesson: The Eighth Commandment

Memory Work: The Eighth Commandment and Meaning and Proverbs 11:13

Christian Education

Sunday School Christmas Program & Epiphany SERVICE – only 10:00 AM

Join the Sunday School children as share the Christmas and Epiphany stories at our one worship service on Epiphany Day (the Gentile Christmas) Sunday, January 6 at 10:00 am. The program is **“What Color Is Christmas?”** Following the program is a congregation pot-luck meal in the Fellowship Hall! All are encouraged to bring a potluck dish or two to share. Invite your family and friends to join us!

PRACTICES for Sunday School Christmas/Epiphany Program

The children have been assigned parts for our upcoming extravaganza Christmas-Epiphany program (January 6 at 10:00 AM), **“WHAT COLOR IS CHRISTMAS?”** We have practices are for following dates and times:

Friday, January 4 – 6:00-7:30 pm

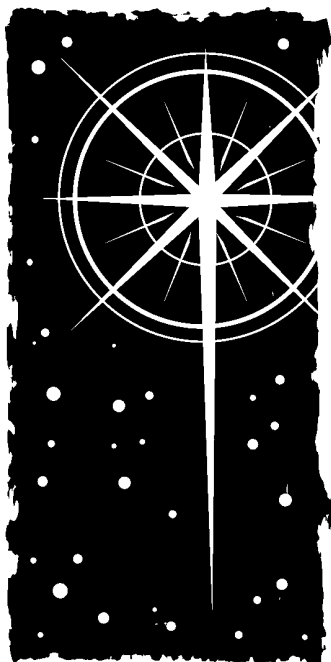
Saturday, January 5 – 10:00 am – 12 noon

(A brats meal and cookies for desserts)

Sunday, January 6 – 9:00 am (a quick dress rehearsal)

Program is at the only service on January 6 at 10:00 am

Pot-luck meal follows in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring one or two pot-luck dishes to share!



Epiphany of the Lord

The word epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means appearance or manifestation. It is an important word for liturgical churches. Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God’s appearance in the baby Jesus.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ’s light is for all.

In France, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the “Wise Men.” When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.

Good News on the Airwaves

Lutheran Hour

The Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed across the airways each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am or KJLY (93.5 FM) at 6:00 am. Join the Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler as he shares the powerful Word of God!

January 6

"The Word Turned Toward"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

People use their words to build bonds of trust with people they love. In Jesus, God does the same-He turns His Word toward us.

(John 1:1-18)

January 13

"Reason to Believe"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you have a reason to believe that everyone should believe what you believe? John did. Come and see.

(John 1:19-51)

January 20

"My Delight is in Her"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, God rejoices over you. This week we explore our new name and identity as the bride of Christ.

(Isaiah 62:1-5)

January 27

"Surrender to Start New"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

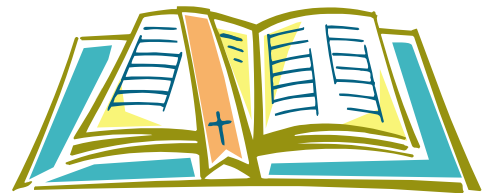
Starting a new life involves surrender-a break with the past. In that surrender, the past can be restored.

(John 2:1-25)



Did you know that:

- ◆ There are 66 books in the Bible?
- ◆ Micah and Nahum are the middle books of the Bible?
- ◆ 3 John is the book with the fewest words?
- ◆ Psalms has the most chapters?
- ◆ There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible?
- ◆ Psalm 117 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- ◆ Psalm 117 is also the shortest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- ◆ There are 31,101 verses in the Bible?
- ◆ Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible? "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man" (NIV).



Thoughts from an Elder

Happy January 2019!

This month's letter is going to focus on the Epiphany.

Epiphany was introduced into Western Christianity in the 4th century. The term *epiphany* comes from a Greek word meaning revelation, appearance, or manifestation and is commonly linked in Western churches with the visit of the Magi, aka wise men, to the Christ child as stated in Matthew 2:1-12. Through the Magi, Jesus Christ revealed himself to the Gentiles (us!). Nowhere in Scripture does it state there were 3 Magi. Over time the number 3 was used because of the 3 gifts presented to the baby Jesus. Epiphany commemorates (call and show respect for, celebrate) the manifestation of God to the world through Jesus Christ. It is commemorated on the 6th of January. Other names for Epiphany Day are Three Kings Day, Twelfth Day, Theophany (a visible manifestation to humankind of God), and Little Christmas. It is the "12th day of Christmas" and signals the conclusion of the Christmas season.

Gold which was fitting for a king (Jesus was born king of the Jews).

Frankincense which was used by priests in worship (Jesus the priest that enables us to come to God). It's a very pungent incense.

Myrrh was used in anointing the body for burial and was used in anointing Je-

sus' body after his death when laid in the tomb.

In the early days of church history before Christmas was observed, Christians celebrated both [the birth of Jesus](#) and his baptism on Epiphany. The feast of Epiphany proclaims to the world that a child was born. This infant would grow to adulthood and die as the sacrificial Lamb. Three small gifts. So important and portable. Maybe gifts used to sell for provisions along their journey to escape the evil King Herod. **Matthew 2:13-15 Joseph, Mary, And Jesus Escape to Egypt** Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet **Hosea** in 11:1 "**OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.**"

Remember that the angel of the Lord, sent by our Heavenly Father, went to call back God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to Israel from Egypt.

(continued on next page)

Thoughts from an Elder

(continued from page 12)

Matthew 2:19-23

The Return to Nazareth

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The season of Epiphany extends the message of Christmas by calling believers to manifest or show/display the gospel to the whole world. Our mission, tell others the Good News!

Your brother in Christ,

Dana



2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 offering envelopes are in your church mailboxes. If you are currently not assigned envelopes and would like to begin using them next year, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Food For Backpacks

By district 241 all the churches who participated got acknowledged for doing this program. Someone anonymous donated \$5,000. Over \$43,000 has been donated for the backpack program. Numbers keep rising and were around 350 meals in the community. Please consider donating for next year.

Thanks Deb Viktora

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Albert Lea, MN 56007

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E-mail: zion@zion4jesus.org

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January Newsletter 2019

Bible Quiz

Epiphany is NOT the last of the 12 days of Christmas, but it known as the Gentile Christmas in the Eastern Church. Epiphany celebrates the wise men (magi) seeking the holy family at the time of Jesus' birth. "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" they asked. This interesting story is found in only one of the four gospels. In which Gospel is the story told?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

JANUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	OFFICE CLOSED 30	OFFICE CLOSED 1		2	3	4
	5:30 pm New Year's Eve Worship 6:30 pm Game Night		5:30 pm Nomination Committee Meeting	6:45 pm Traditional Worship 7:45 pm Praise Team	6:00 pm Children's Program Practice PASTOR'S DAY OFF	10:00 am Children's Program Practice
The Epiphany of Our Lord 6		7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am Children's Program Practice 10:00am Children's Epiphany Service Potluck following the service	6:30 pm Tech Meeting 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	9:00 am Hannah Circle 1:00 pm Martha Circle 6:45 pm All boards meet 7:00 pm Ruth Circle 7:30 pm Church Council	9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Confirmation & JAM	6:45 pm Traditional Worship 7:45 pm Praise Team	7:00 pm Friday Night Adult Bible Study PASTOR'S DAY OFF	12
The Baptism of Our Lord 13		14	15	16	17	18
8:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion		1:00 pm Cheer & Comfort 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bd. of Ed / Teacher's Meeting	9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Confirmation & JAM	6:45 pm Traditional Worship 7:45 pm Praise Team	7:00 pm Friday Night Adult Bible Study PASTOR'S DAY OFF	19
2nd Sun. after Epiphany 20		21	22	23	24	25
8:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Noon Potluck followed by Annual Voter's Meeting			9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Confirmation & JAM	6:45 pm Traditional Worship 7:45 pm Praise Team	7:00 pm Friday Night Adult Bible Study PASTOR'S DAY OFF	26
3rd Sun. after Epiphany 27		28	29	30	31	
8:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion	3:30 pm Ladies Exec. Bd. Meeting		9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Confirmation & JAM	6:45 pm Traditional Worship 7:45 pm Praise Team		

Sunday	1/6	1/13		1/20		1/27	
	10:00am	8:00am	10:30am	8:00am	10:30am	8:00am	10:30am
Acolyte:	Travis Overland	Hailey Bera	Samuel Houle	Travis Overland	Raven Mitchell	Carly Hoffman	Samuel Houle
A-V Team:	Roger Panzer Brooks Drescher Nancy Golde	Jim Viktora Brooks Drescher Roger Panzer	James Hedin	Robin Pettit Fred Rennpferd Nancy Golde	David Kelly	Jim Viktora Brooks Drescher Wayne Prudoehl	James Hedin
Comm. Assist:		Christiaan Olivier	Tim Kasper	Jerry Kruckeberg	Bruce Hayden	Ron Timm	Jeff Brown
Elder:	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson	Dana Nelson
Greeters:	Jerry Kruckeberg	Roger Panzer	Hod Bolinger	Jean Prescher	Bud & Phyllis Bonfy	Jim & Deb Viktora	Bruce & Dawn Drescher
Lay Reader:		Kelly Schultz	Dana Nelson	Helen Johnson	Lois Palmer	Ann Estes	Bill Morris
Organist:	Angie Drescher	Angie Drescher	Praise Team	Angie Drescher	Praise Team	Angie Drescher	Praise Team
Ushers:	Ron Timm Jim Viktora Truman Gullord Dwight Meyer	David Overland John Domes Fred Rennpferd Dwight Meyer	Tim Kasper Dick Mucha	Orlo Willmert Bruce Bakken Jerry Kruckeberg Dwight Meyer	Bruce Hayden Natalie Nelson	Clint Miller Christiaan Olivier Jock Wenzel Dwight Meyer	Jeff Brown LeAnn Houle

Thurs.	1/2	1/9	1/16	1/23	1/30
A-V Team:	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes
Comm. Assist:	Kent Dollum	Kent Dollum	Kent Dollum	Kent Dollum	Kent Dollum
Elder:	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes	Keith Kemkes

Financial Assistants	Kelly Schultz Joy Meyer
Flower & Altar	Arlene Murray Rebecca Dollum Sandi Chapman Sue Schmidt