

Zion Lutheran Church Arlington, MN

October Newsletter

October 2024

Church Address: 814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371 Arlington MN 55307 Phone: 507-964-5454 Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Chattin' It Up...

- Board of Stewardship
- Prayer of Peace
- Synod News
- Confirmation Corner

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From our Pastor

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Note from Pastor Gretchen

Someday...

is a phrase I have heard and said.

Sometimes, Someday... gives voice to a hope or wish or dream that would be nice if it happened. Sometimes, Someday... is more than a dream, it has more to it and we are propelled to act to make it happen.

God promised the prophet Joel: "... your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions..." (Joel 2:28). God inspires humans to dream and to act to make those dreams come true.

As a council we gathered some of our Someday phrases for our congregation. It was an engaging exercise. Someone suggested we invite the congregations to share their Someday... messages to the growing list.

In the area by the bulletin boards is an easel with the word Someday... on it. What are your Somedays... that you want to see happen in our congregation and community that you will want to work toward together? Add them to the list. The council wants to know what Someday ideas you have and begin to ponder what can be put into actions the congregation is eager to work on.

It is my prayer that God bless and direct our visioning together.

Joy and Peace, Pastor Gretchen





Reformation Sunday October 27, 2024

We are always reforming and being re-formed by our faithful God! On this day we will sing "A Mighty Fortress is our God" written by Martin Luther as a testament of God's faithfulness in the midst of life's struggles. Luther struggled with a sense of unworthiness to be loved and called by God. He found relief in scriptures and wrote this song to praise God for his mighty protection.



All Saints Sunday - November 3, 2024

We will remember the saints who have gone before us in death and the saints who have come among us through baptism in the past year during worship. We will light candles in their memory and share the Lord's supper.



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

Facebook at

Zion Lutheran Church

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: <u>pastor@zionarlington.org</u>

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

In the Lives of our Members



2	Deb Stenzel
3	Adrianna Krueger
4	Janet Rowe
5	Al Albrecht
6	John Woehler
10	Dean Bergersen
13	Dakotah Robinson
14	Alexander Herrera-Guzman

17	Scott Krueger
19	Karen Arneson
20	Diane Ebersviller
20	Nyla Matzke
23	Johanna Rowe
23	Aiden Christeson
23	Nathan Schauer
27	Julie Warweg

October 1,2000	Kevin & Nancy Biermann
October 2, 1971	Larry & Jan Gieseke
October 4, 2008	Dan & Ida Johnson
October 5, 1996	Aaron & Jennifer Gieseke
October 6, 2007	Dan & Melissa Scharpe
October 7, 1973	Jim & Myrna Scharpe
October 14, 2000	Birendra & Sheri Kumar
October 16, 1976	Gordon & Barbara Bergs
October 16, 1999	Scott & Joann Beneke
October 17, 2020	Dakota & Brittany Robinson
October 21, 2023	Avery & Kaylee Aalfs
October 24, 1981	Larry & Pam Schiroo
October 31, 2021	Ryan & Kate Bergs



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

Lowell Tritabaugh brother-in-law of Janet Rowe

<u>Jenna Dobner</u> family friend of Kamps family. Battling a rare lung disease

<u>Dilshad Perani</u>—family friend of Kamps family. Battling rare chronic disease.

<u>Cindy Hebeisen</u>—she begins treatment for nodules on her lungs.





Bayside Manor French Meadow-LeSueur
Rhoda Woehler Deb Otto
Lyle Woehler

The Lodge-WinthropAt home in Silver LakeBert PedersonLuverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN Gary Revier At home in Arlington Hylma Matzke



Zion Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 9, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Larry Gieseke

Attendance:

President: Larry Gieseke Treasurer: Bruce Kallhoff
Vice President: Jon Hazelwood Bd of Trustees: Mark Strobel Bd of Education: Sheri Kumar

Bd of Stewardship: Janet Rowe Bd of Worship & Music: Stephanie Krueger

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

Larry appointed S Krueger to take meeting minutes

Devotions were provided by Pastor Gretchen.

Motion by S Krueger, seconded by S Kumar to approve agenda. Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for July council meeting was published in newsletter and emailed to Council Members. Motion by S Kumar, Seconded by J Pedersen to approve amended meeting minutes. Motion approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was forwarded to council members via email. 1st hail claim has been finalized, and 2nd claim should wrap up in the next month or so. We currently have a deficit of \$33,768. There is no more surplus in reserves. Offerings are falling short. Also reported that received notice that the Foundation Funds that were sent to Feed My Starving Children provided 6900 packed meals.

Pastors Report: Pastor reported on all that she had done and what she had worked on in the month of August. Meeting with Confirmation students and parents on the 18th.

Bd of Stewardship: Reported that the 09/08/24 Clattering Coins for Christ collected \$67.12, which went to the Sibley County Food Share.

Bd of Deacons: J Pedersen reported that they have been discussing how to handle those with envelopes and excess mail in their boxes.

Bd of Trustees: M Strobel reported that a member is concerned with the whistling that the A/C makes in the fellowship hall. Member was advised of what the cost would be to have the issue fixed. Reported that the covering has been put on the A/C unit. They have sprayed where the stumps were chipped, and that next week the are will be tilled and seeded. A new water sensor receiver on the sump pump has been installed and is now up and running.

Bd of Education: S Kumar reported that there are 3 Sunday School students that are school aged. Confirmation time is still being discussed and will be discussed at the parent meeting. Confirmation is tentatively set for May 18th.

Bd of Workship and Music: S Krueger reported that they re-evaluated the outdoor service. It seemed to have received rave reviews. We are hoping to do 1 to 2 of these per year. Board has chosen the next few months of hymns, and talked about fall liturgy. The group would like to meet during the daytime, but one member works during the day, so meeting dates and times are up for debate at this time.

Old Business.

Parking Lot- As of the end of September, there is currently \$30,000 in the parking lot fund.

New Business

None

Meeting was adjourned, and concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 8:12pm

Submitted by Stephanie Krueger, Acting Secretary

Board of Stewardship

Outdoor Fall Clean Up Sunday with Potluck—October 20

Come to church in your outside working clothes. After worship, we will be doing outside clean up at Zion. Please bring your trimming tools, rakes, leaf blower, gloves, bucket, etc. Also, bring a favorite dish for a potluck lunch after the hard work is done. For those not able to help with the outside work, please bring a dish for potluck and join in fellowship. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule.

Feed My Starving Children, Chanhassen—October 23

If you, your family and your friends would like to help put together meals for children around the world, please contact Jane Scharpe for sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will leave at 4:00pm from church. Anyone 5 years and older can do it. It is a great time for fellowship and sharing our time and talents.

Clattering Coins for Christ—November 24

No one likes change! Save your change and bring it in to Zion to make a whole lot of noise in the buckets! Change is a good thing!

Coming soon: Watch your mailboxes in October for your Time and Talent sheet.

August Giving 2024

	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Food</u>		
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	World Hunger
42	\$5.00		\$14.00	
45	\$60.00		\$54.92	\$12.00
47	\$15.00		\$25.00	
46	\$5.00	\$18.00	\$15.00	\$18.00
	42 45 47	Attendance Lot 42 \$5.00 45 \$60.00 47 \$15.00	Attendance Lot Shelf 42 \$5.00 45 \$60.00 47 \$15.00	Attendance Lot Shelf Hunger Jar 42 \$5.00 \$14.00 45 \$60.00 \$54.92 47 \$15.00 \$25.00



October Bible Readings

October 6 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24 - Created for relationship

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 - God has spoken by a Son

Mark 10:2-16 - Teaching on marriage

October 13 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 - Turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16 - Approach the throne of grace with boldness

Mark 10:17-31 - Teaching on wealth and reward

October 20 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12 - The suffering servant

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10 - Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation

Mark 10:35-45 - Warnings to ambitious disciples

October 27 - Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-9 - The LORD gathers the remnant of Israel

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28 - Christ the merciful high priest

Mark 10:46-52 - Christ healing the blind man Bartimaeus



Zion Church Women

October Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle

Wednesday Circle

October 1—10:00am

October 2—1:30pm

Zion Church Women General Board Meeting September 12, 2024 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Cindy Quast. There were 7 in attendance. Pastor Gretchen led us in a devotion and prayer. The devotion was one that encouraged folks who are not feeling very articulate to know that inspiration comes from the heart and we should take courage and speak from our hearts.

Secretary's report was read and approved. Motion to accept by Mary S., Second by Peg; motion passed.

The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$3791.61 in the checking account. We have paid for our Synod obligations, Gather Magazine (3), Bible camperships, and the \$2500 deductible for the second roof repair. Motion was made by Brenda to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file. Motion was seconded by Pam and passed.

Circle Reports:

Tuesday circle: serving Maxine R's funeral this week.

Wed. circle: Betty and Joyce did a service project making ice bag covers for the hospital. Wed. circle served the blood drive. It went well. Records were kept by Mary S. so we will know what to order the next time we serve. The food was great and we had good help.

No Mission Action Report.

Mission Community and Growth: Starla reported that on May 1st, there were 27 pounds of food taken to the food shelf. Starla has created a notebook about all of the possible kits and projects which we work on. She has specific instructions and information. Feel free to use this notebook.

Old Business:

Hosting the Fall Gathering. The committee has completed the planning and the meal is planned. The workers are set up and some folks are helping in the kitchen and creating apple desserts. We should be ready to host the Minnesota Valley Fall Gathering on Oct 12, 2024.

New Business:

We reviewed the calendar for when meetings will occur during the year. We want all meetings to be general meeting with as many women attending as possible. Elections will be held in September. Installation of officers in January. Other meetings will be in Jan., April, with a possible December get together. Our next meeting is Jan 5, 2025.

ZCW continued from page 7

The silver appointments (chalice, flagon, and paten) are in need of refurbishing. There is a company in Maine who specializes in this work.

A motion was made by Mary Sylwester and seconded by Pam to have the ZCW undertake the refurbishing of the altar appointments- even if we do not know the precise cost at this time. Motion passed.

We noticed that a number of the phone numbers on the circle pages are incorrect. Could the circle leaders double check their service group numbers with the phone numbers in the back of the annual report book or with Stacy?

The committee (Starla, Lorraine and Brenda) displayed a possible brochure explaining ZCW for new members. They will need to be updated after elections to have proper names for the offices. Do we still have an active Sunshine person, or a rose on the altar person? We need to check it out. Cindy Quast will be meeting with Stacy to update the book for next year.

Correspondence: Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota is looking for a donation of \$55 from every church. The letter seemed to also be addressing our church council, so we passed it on to them. We got a thank you note from Green Lake Bible Camp for the beautiful quilt we donated for their quilt auction.

We discussed possible ways we could donate to the work of our church. Possibilities include the parking lot, continuing camperships, Vacation Bible School, LSS, and some of the other places we donate almost every year.

Officers were to have job descriptions to share tonight. We looked at those that were available. Motion to adjourn was made by Mary S., seconded by Peg, the meeting was adjourned.

Brenda Danielson, Secretary

Harvest Dinner Friday, November 1

Please check the bulletin board to sign up for donations or to volunteer.

Wednesday, October 30—Squash and Cranberry-Applesauce prep

Please watch the bulletin for additional information



October 6, 2024 Blessing of the Animals:

On this day, we will have a Blessing of the Animals during worship. You are encouraged to send a photograph to the church office (to be included in the slideshow by October 2nd), or bring a photograph or likeness of your animals or pets to worship and we will pray for and bless them during worship. Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church (1181-1226), is celebrated at this time of year for his spirit of gladness and gratitude for all God's creation. Francis called animals brother or sister, such as "sister robin", and "brother turtle". Animals are such a blessing to us, let us bless them in return!

St Francis of Assisi is also known for this prayer:

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

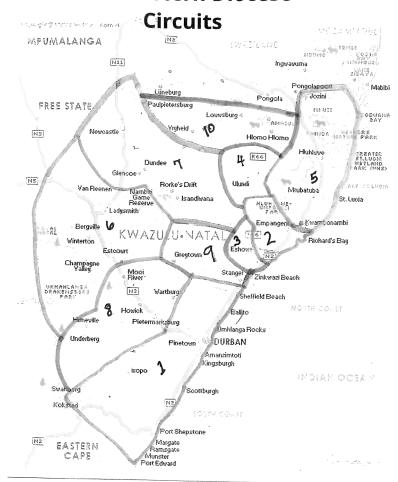


Vryheid Circuit in South Africa Mission Partnership Sunday Mission Partnership Sunday October 13, 2024

In 2023, the Minnesota Valley Conference (MVC) began an annual Mission Partnership Sunday to mark 15 years of walking together with the Vryheid Circuit in South Africa.

This fall, on October 13, Zion will recognize MVC Mission Partnership Sunday. Each congregations in our synod will decide how they want to lift up this ministry. The day is designed to educate and raise funds for projects and hosting visitors. You may choose to support this mission through your offering by designating a portion to be sent to MVC Partnership, Vryheid.

South Eastern Diocese -



Your gift will go to support the agreed upon efforts to provide student uniforms, leadership and food support, health and wellness and much needed church building repairs. In September, 60,000 nutritional meals were packed and shipped to Vryheid. Boxes went to all 10 parishes and the Home Based Care Center.

The partnership program is rooted in accompaniment, which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability. Our partners are in the process of finalizing committees and the new Dean of Pastors starts in January. So, there is no fall general meeting planned by the MVC. However, the work continues.

Partnership questions may be directed to: Chair Jim Roebke-<u>jeroebke@gmail.com</u>, or to Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla – pastor@zionlutheran.org

South Eastern Circuits - SW MN Synod Conferences

- 1. Durban Great River
- 2. Empangeni Lakeland
- 3. Eshowe Glacial Ridge
- 4. Kwa-Nodwengu Lac Qui Parle
 - 5. Mfolozi Prairie
 - 6. Ondini Shetek
 - 7. Shiyane Watonwon
 - 8. Umngeni Crow River
 - 9. Umvoti Scenic Vallev
- 10. Vryheid Minnesota Valley

Synod News



Your voice can help set the direction of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

It all started with the survey. Remember that survey? Yeah, the synod survey launched at Synod Assembly! It's been about 3 years since we've undertaken an effort like this, so it's high time we created this opportunity to listen to you. Why? Because you matter. Your voice matters. And we are excited for you to discover what others are saying about ministry today!

If you didn't get a chance to respond yet, you still can! Click here.

A team of synod leaders planned a listening process that builds on what we learned from the survey to:

- live out the Synod Council and staff commitment to listen intentionally to our people;
- grow in direct connection with congregations and rostered ministers;
- expand the synod's ability to equip congregations;
- build awareness of synod ministry; and,
- expand solidarity among congregations.

These listening gatherings will be going on the road to locations that we hope are near you!

- Tuesday, October 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Our Savior's Lutheran, New Ulm
- Thursday, October 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. St. Stephen, Marshall
- Monday, October 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Zoom
- Tuesday, October 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Location TBD

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in attending the Listening Sessions but do not have internet.

Synod News



2024 Equipping Congregations Day Peace Lutheran Church, New London MN

11/2/2024

"How can we get more people back in worship again?" Most of us are asking this question. Why? Not only because we miss seeing one another; that's important! We also believe that worship is the primary gathering of God's people around word and sacrament. Worship gathers us in - all of us, no matter who we are, where we come from, what we think, whatever the burdens we carry. We come, just as we are. But we don't stay in worship. The word and sacraments send us out to love God and our neighbors every day. And so we get to live in a beautiful rhythm of God gathering us in and then sending us back out into God's mission.

This Equipping Day will focus on many aspects of worship, from specific how-to ideas, to creative imaginations, to ways to welcome all people and extend the kind of hospitality that leads people to want to come back again and again and be part of this loving community.

Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Peace Lutheran Church, New London MN.

Schedule and workshop descriptions coming soon.

Keynote Speaker: Angle Larson

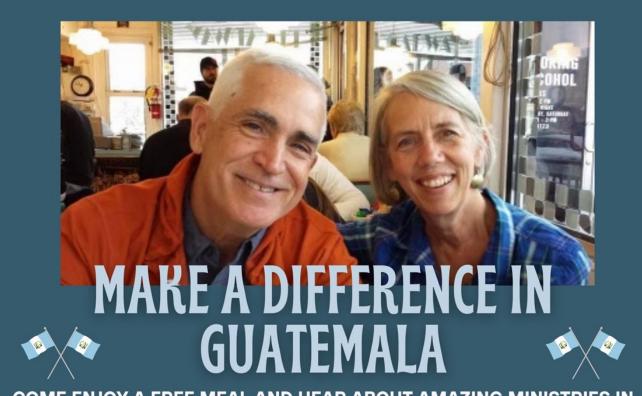
Executive Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria MN.

Lunch catered by Azteca Mexican Restaurant! All are welcome:

- -Congregation Members
- -Council
- -Christian Educators
- -Worship & Youth Leaders
- -Pastors & Deacons
- -Friends... Everyone!

The ECD registration fee is \$30 per person. Congregations are encouraged to register their congregation members together.

Pastor Scott Richards recently returned from a trip to Guatemala and was impressed by the ministry there. Hear about his travels and about this ministry.



COME ENJOY A FREE MEAL AND HEAR ABOUT AMAZING MINISTRIES IN GUATEMALA FROM VISIONARY LEADERS RON AND SALLY WIDBIN!



Ron and Sally work with organizations in Guatemala to help give underprivileged youth better access to education, medical care, and food.

Join us for an evening meal and learn how we can help make a difference in the lives of countless kids and families in Guatemala.

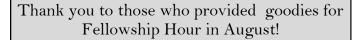
- Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 pm
- Trinity Lutheran Church 32234 431st Ave. Gaylord, MN 5533

No cost, come and be inspired! For more information please contact Pastor Scott Richards at stpaulstrinitypastor@gmail.com or 320-247-0618

With Thankful Hearts

We would like to thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Lisa Eyrich Sibley County FoodShare



Darrel & Jackie Alsleben Neil & Lorraine Mielke Larry & Pam Schiroo



Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSS).

Jesse M. Stremcha

Vice President & Chief Development Officer Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Jr High Youth Gathering November 22-23

This is a youth led event that is planned by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

Gather with 7, 8, 9th graders from around the SW MN Synod in Willmar for a weekend of YOUTH LED worship, singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our synod. Our theme this year is "Forever Unbroken" based on Romans 8:37-39. Keynote speaker is Rachel Kurtz. Early Bird Registration October 1 – 15, cost is \$90. Hotel registration closes October 20th. Contact Pastor Gretchen for more information.



CONFIRMATION CORNER





9th Grade Confirmation Students

Aiden Christeson, Elton Hazelwood & Alex Herrera-Guzman

8th Grade Confirmation Students

Jacqueline Christeson & Ashley Schauer

7th Grade Confirmation Students

Cooper Heeren, Murdock Krueger & Grant Schauer

Confirmation for grades 7-9 meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. This year the 7-8th graders will be studying the New Testament. Ninth graders are studying the small catechism and preparing to affirm their baptisms on May 18, 2025.

October 23, class will shift to meet 4pm-7:30pm for both classes to do a combined service fieldtrip to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen, MN. Students, parents, siblings and members of the congregation are encouraged to sign up to be part of this event. Participants should sign up on the Let There Be bulletin board by October 16. There will be a brief orientation and carpool organizing after worship on October 20 at 11:15am. Contact Pastor Gretchen for details.

7-8th Grade Lessons

October 23 Feed My Starving Children 4-5:30pm

October 30 Jesus

November 6 The Gospel of Matthew November 20 The Gospel of Mark

November 27 Worship event: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship at Zion 7pm

9th Grade Lessons

October 23 Feed My Starving Children 4-5:30pm

October 30 Martin Luther/ Reformation

November 6 Saint and Sinner

November 20 Confession and Forgiveness

November 27 Worship event: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship at Zion 7pm

11a-MVC-WELCA Krueger/Anderley Krueger/Anderley 8a-Men's Prayer Meeting @ Zion SAT Breakfast \mathbf{C} Wedding FRI ∞ \mathcal{L} Rehearsal 4 Wedding 10a—Adult Bible 10a—Adult Bible 10a—Adult Bible 10a—Adult Bible 6p-Maranatha 6p-Maranatha 6p-Maranatha 6p—Maranatha 10a—Adult Bible 5:30p—Board of 6p—Maranatha THU Stewardship Church Church Church Church Confirmation class Church Study Study Study Wednesday Bible Study 6p—Board of Worship & Music ELCA Systems Academy—Chicago, IL Applesauce Prep 4-7:30p—Feed Chanhassen 7p—Church Squash 0 WED My Starving Children in Cranberry- α Council 1:30p— Study Planning Meeting 2p—Ecumenical 10a—Tuesday Fall Theological Conference—Spicer 10a—Prayer TUE Bible Study 2 6 ∞ Shawl 11:30a—Board of Mon ∞ Education __ α Pentecost 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 10a—Sunday School 10a—Sunday School 10a—Sunday School 10a—Sunday School 9a—Worship w/Holy Reformation Sunday 13 $\begin{array}{c} 2 \ 0 \\ \text{22nd Sunday after} \end{array}$ Outdoor Clean-Up 20th Sunday after 1p—Maranatha Church 1p—Maranatha 1p-Maranatha 1p-Maranatha SUN 9a—Worship 9a—Worship Communion Pentecost Pentecost Church Church Church Altar Guild: Roseann Nagel, Starla Schilling Altar Guild: Lorraine Mielke, Laurie Stern Usher: Starla Schilling, Cindy Vazquez Mary Sylwester, Deb Stenzel AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad Usher: Peg Kamps, Cindy Hebeisen Altar Guild: Betty Rud, Jane Scharpe Carrie & Hannah Bartlette Larry Gieseke, Rich Nagel Kevin & Nancy Biermann Wendy Kube, Jan Wark Greeter: Neil & Lorraine Mielke Greeter: Rich & Roseann Nagel Acolyte: Alex Herrera-Guzman Paraments: Bobette Schauer Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood Paraments: Bobette Schauer Paraments: Bobette Schauer AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen Paraments: Bobette Schauer Usher: Ed & Julie Warweg Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe AV Team: Elton Hazelwood Organist: Bobette Schauer Organist: Bobette Schauer Organist: Bobette Schauer Organist: Bobette Schauer Acolyte: Elton Hazelwood Greeter: Norma Michaelis Reader: Mary Sylwester Reader: Brad Danielson Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps Greeter: Tim Michaelis Reader: Scott Bergs Reader: Joe Prasad Sunday, October 20 Sunday, October 27 Sunday, October 13 Sunday, October 6 Usher: