

### Passing on the Mantle

*May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the gentle rain upon the tender grass, and as the showers upon the herb. Deuteronomy 32:2*

The Kálvin Tér Reformed Church here in Hungary has long been known as “the Bishop’s Church,” so serving there in any capacity has been an honor. This Church is also where “our” Károli Gáspár University Theology students progress to doing their practice preaching in a Thursday evening worship service throughout the school year. We enjoyed a quiet but note-worthy worship service there this last Sunday.

Our nephew, young Balázs, was filling this rather august pulpit for the three months that the senior minister, the Rev. Pál László, would be on sabbatical. We sat on each side of Balázs’s young wife. Behind us was the Rev. László Kovacs, visiting from our Calvin Synod Conference of the United Church of Christ in the U.S.

Though Balázs was a bit nervous, he preached well, meaningfully, helpfully, with especially good exegesis, and the congregation listened actively. And, he was wearing my ‘palást’ (clergy robe), as his sister wears one of Coralyn’s every Sunday in “her” church. After the service the whole family gathered and we all shed a few tears of joy together. It’s no small thing to launch a new young minister who is both our own nephew and one of our past students! It is a worthy thing to participate in the beginnings of a new Hungarian Reformed clergy, and it certainly shows us that we are passing on the mantle—

*Laslo and Coralyn Medyesy are missionaries with the Reformed Church in Hungary, based in Budapest.*

*Laslo serves as professor of theology at the Gaspar Karoli Reformed University in Budapest.*

*Coralyn T. Medyesy serves as a teacher of Social Work and Diakonia at the Nagy Koros School.*

### “Thank You” from the Faith Community Service Fund

Dear Wonderful Supporter,

We thank you for your exceptional support in 2010 to Faith Community Service Fund! Thanks to you, in 2010 we provided relief to 172 families with emergency funding to help stabilize their situation. Also, we provided funding for 51 Birth Certificates to assist people in getting personal documents to apply for jobs and other programs. Finally, we referred 91 families to other programs in our area.

Bridges of Hope nights served 253 people (with the help of 341 volunteers. And 96 volunteers served 92 families through a semester-long class.

Without you, none of this could have been accomplished!

See FCC’s main bulletin board for complete letter.



### Week of Compassion

Giving from our abundance helps build clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by poverty; it nurtures self-sufficiency through health care, education, and job training; it brings safety, shelter, and food after natural disaster or violent circumstances have made towns unlivable.

Sharing brings joy to us, to others, to God. Let sharing transform you as you help transform the world through the Week of Compassion.

Offering envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter. The special offering will be received February 20th and 27th.

# The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

970/352-1292

www.fccgreeley.com

Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. Linda Harding, Associate Minister

First Christian Church—Called by  
Christ’s transforming grace and love  
to share hope and life in community.

## February 2011

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*In all... things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## A Moment With Tim

**“God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” I Corinthians 1:9**

During the month of January we took time in worship to explore our four core values as a congregation: servanthood, relationship, spirituality, and learning. On January 16 our theme was *relationship*.

On a daily basis I give thanks for the relationships we share at First Christian Church. I also know that those relationships are not perfect. Our worship service on the 16<sup>th</sup> included two important moments for the life of our congregation. The first was a time of confession and forgiveness. The second was a Relationship Covenant. During the service everyone was invited to sign the covenant. The idea of the covenant is not that we become perfect, but that we seek God’s help to live in healthy, loving relationship.

Several people asked me for a copy of the covenant, and not every person in our congregation was present on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. For these reasons you will find both the confession and forgiveness litany and the relationship covenant below. The words of the leader in the litany are mine. The covenant will be available and displayed in a prominent place in our church. If you have not signed it, I encourage you to do so.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

*Tim*

### Confession and Forgiveness Litany

**Leader:** Today before God and this community of faith, I ask forgiveness. I ask forgiveness because both my words and deeds have hurt those both within and outside of this community of faith. I also ask for the strength and guidance of God that I may act in love, grace, forgiveness, and faith.

**People:** **Knowing that our God is forgiving and graceful, we also seek to be forgiving and graceful. We forgive you and accept you as a beloved brother in Christ.**

**People:** **Today before God and this community of faith, we ask forgiveness. We ask forgiveness because both our words and deeds have hurt you and others within and outside of this community of faith. We also ask for the strength and guidance of God that we may act in love, grace, forgiveness, and faith.**

**Leader:** Knowing that our God is forgiving and graceful, I also seek to be forgiving and graceful. I forgive you and accept you as beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Relationship Covenant

I will seek . . .

1. To remember that as the church family we are one in Christ Jesus.
2. To spend time and effort to grow in my relationship with others at FCC.
3. To prioritize my relationship with God.
4. To communicate in clear and loving ways, emphasizing listening.
5. To treat others as I would like to be treated.
6. To act in grace, forgiveness, and love.



### “FCC Crafting Crowd” Craft Group

Are you interested in spending more time exploring your creative talents? Are you frustrated that you don't have the materials and tools you need to learn and practice a new skill? Would you like to come to a place where all the items you need to complete a project are provided for you?

Well, the "FCC Crafting Crowd" may be the group you want to join. Led by Caren Renee Haining, this group will endeavor to start and finish a variety of crafting creations this year. These gatherings will be held two times during the month to accommodate people who work during the day and those who are otherwise engaged in the evening.

Our February sessions will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. in the "Craft Room," which is in the Education Wing. Our "area of study" this month will be paper crafting. We will complete five greeting cards. Cost is based on how many you want to make. Because this is a new group and it is unknown how





popular it will be, signing up will be important. Please refer to the bulletin board in the south hall for more information and to reserve your spot.

### Super Bowl Offering & Party

After worship on February 6<sup>th</sup>, FCC youth will collect a special offering for the Weld Food Bank, joining a movement that started more than 20 years ago. *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.” (Since then, more than \$71 million has been raised.) Please give generously.

Then join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 for Super Bowl XLV. Bring a snack to share and comfortable seating.

 At this event non-perishable food items  will be collected for the Weld Food Bank.

### ~ Bereavements ~

*Our sympathy is with the family and friends of  
Thelma Christiansen,  
who passed away on December 31, 2010.*

### February G.I.F.T. Party



The February outing for the Generally In-Between Fifty-Five & Twenty (GIFT) Group will be the ever-popular "Crazy Cards." It will take place on Saturday night, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. Paul and Beth Warntz have graciously agreed to open their home for a night of fun and frolic as a festive respite from our long winter season. A favorite of young and old, the Crazy Cards game allows participants to play a form of "Hearts" as they move from table to table making new friends, while gaining (& losing) prizes and bragging rights along the way. Game players need to bring three unwrapped "prizes" per person, (all in one bag so you can carry them around): one prize worth \$5.00 or so, one nice used "treasure", and one that you would be GLAD to be rid of! Also, bring a dessert or appetizer to share. So that we have enough tables ready, please sign up or call the church (voicemail is fine). Be ready to let loose and have some fun! (The rules change each round and you'll catch on quickly that night!) The Warntz home is located at 2236 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Greeley. Their phone number is: 330-2318.



### Thank You from Foster Parents

Thank you so much for allowing us to utilize your church to provide training to our Foster Care Providers—we appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Tawny, Heather, and Debi

*See the card on FCC's main bulletin board.*

## Pastor Linda's Ponderings

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:31-33

Do you ever get tired of trying to do the right thing? This thought can be applied to your personal life as well as your ministry and calling. This passage reminds us that if we are getting weary and tired, then maybe it's because we are trying to follow the law, relying on our knowledge and skill set, rather than looking into our hearts and relying on God. This was written to a people who were exhausted and tired and wondering if God had abandoned them. The prophet Jeremiah reminds them that a day is coming when they will no longer need to be enslaved by the requirements of the law, that there will be another way.

We, today, are in that time. We live in a time of grace and mercy, a time when the law is not written on tablets made of stone, but on our hearts. We have a God who is there to guide us and lead us, a God who will give us rest and resources if only we ask. If you are feeling overwhelmed and tired, then I encourage you to examine what you are doing and ask yourself, "Am I relying on myself or God?" And if you are not sure, or if the answer is "myself," then take a first step by relying on your church family and your pastors—come and talk with us and together we can seek out ways that reflect the grace and mercy of God; a way that summarizes our relationship as the people of God, not the one person of God.

### Upcoming Video Series

Beginning on Tuesday, February 8th, Pastor Linda will be doing a video series titled "Keep Climbing—Why God Doesn't Give You Everything You Want." This is a four-week session that will take place February, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and March 1st. Everyone is welcome—a sign-up sheet will be located by the south entrance.

### Thank You from Transitional House

Please see the thank-you letter for the hats, mittens, scarves, and socks that were donated last month. It's on FCC's main bulletin board.

### Church Financial Update

#### Income 2010

Budgeted thru year end \$296,908.00\*  
Actual as of 12/31/10 \$258,373.00\*\*

#### Expenses 2010

Budgeted thru year end \$296,908.00  
Actual as of 12/31/10 \$255,886.97

\*Includes \$33,000.00 from Trustees.

\*\*No money was needed from Trustees.  
Christmas Offering: \$644.00

### ♥"Make It, Bake It, Grow It, Sew It" Sale

The CWF "Make It, Bake It, Grow It, Sew It" Valentine's Sale will be Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, following the early and late services. Ten per cent of the proceeds will go to the Disciples' Mission fund. After that we will use the money to purchase and install new carpet in Linda's office, and the remainder will be used for improvements to the bathroom doors. If you wish to donate items, please bring them to the church between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup>.



### Greeley Chorale Event



POPS & PASTA has become an annual Greeley tradition, featuring great Italian food and wine served by singing Greeley Chorale members. This year's event will be held on February 26. Attenders will participate in a sing-a-long and find real bargains at the silent auction. Show times are 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 to \$28 from the Union Colony Civic Center Box Office or by calling 970-356-5000.



## Youth News



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27



This month we will continue to look at Christianity and other world religions during our Youth Group time. We study our beliefs and the beliefs of others so that we know what we believe and why we believe it. In addition, examining the beliefs of others reveals to us the points of commonality and how to have conversations with one another in healthy and helpful ways.

Disciples have long believed that we can agree to disagree and still love one another! James reminds us, though, that religion is not just a set of beliefs—religion is a way of life and an acting out of those beliefs. James points us toward some specific ways that we are called out: to look out for the defenseless—those who are marginalized the most by society—the orphans and the widows. James also points us toward an action of constantly seeking out God and not being distracted by what the world has to offer. Mind you, not that the world itself is bad—because God created the world and all that is in it and called it good—rather, it is the distractions that are bad. We must intentionally seek out God. This brings us back to why we will continue with our study about God, Christianity and other religions—to seek out God!

**Website Update!** We are grateful to Ken Thompson, who updated our website to include current information about youth events and activities. Please go to the website to find out about events and any time changes! All permission slips and forms can also now be downloaded from the website: [www.fccgreeley.com](http://www.fccgreeley.com).

### February

**6<sup>th</sup> - Super Bowl Sunday.** Youth are invited to watch the Super Bowl with others from the congregation. Please bring a snack to share! For those youth who do not want to watch the Super Bowl, we will show a movie from **4:00-6:00**—youth can be picked up at 6:00 or can stay till the end of the game. Please note: Supervision will be provided during Youth Group time only.

**13<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group - 4:30-6:30.** We will continue with our series on Christianity and World religions, along with games, food and fellowship.

**18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> - Mid-Winter Retreat at La Foret for those in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**20<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group - 4:30-6:30. Juniors Only!**

**27<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group - 4:30-6:30.** We will continue with our series on Christianity and World religions, along with games, food and fellowship.



### Heart to Heart Communication 101 ~ Saturday, February 12 ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Saturday Seminars for Couples

Sandra Varley,  
PhD, LPC

In this course, you'll have the opportunity to identify the common pitfalls that may be blocking the communication in your relationship. You'll be given the tools to strengthen and enrich your dialogue, and you'll practice these new strategies with coaching from the instructor.

See the main bulletin board for details on three different seminars.



### Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will have its general meeting on Thursday, February 3, at noon. Lunch will be catered by the Platte Valley Catering Class and will cost \$4 per person. Reservations need to be made on the board by January 30<sup>th</sup>. The program will be on Prayer and will be given by Linda Harding.

The "Make It, Bake It, Grow It, Sew It" Valentine's Sale will be on February 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church between 10:00 a.m. and noon on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The sale will take place after the 8:15 and 10:30 services on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you can help at either of these times, please speak with Judi Ring.

It is time to put together our budget and nominating committees. If you are interested in serving on either committee, please see Judi.

The CWF Board will meet this month on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Verna is scheduled to give the devotion. Joy Group will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. in the parlor. Kindness and Peace groups will meet in the parlor on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively.

### Christian Men's Fellowship

All men of the church, friends & neighbors are invited to attend the next Christian Men's Fellowship for **B**reakfast, **F**ellowship, and **F**un. We will meet from 8-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on February 12.



### FCC Basketball Schedule



FCC basketball games are played on Wednesday evenings at the Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Avenue, in the auxiliary gym.

Feb. 2 at 9 pm	Feb. 23 at 6 pm
Feb. 9 at 8 pm	Mar. 2 at 8 pm
Feb. 16 at 9 pm	Tourney begins 3/9

### Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end statements are available in the center hall.



### Elder's Message

A devotional I read once told of the child who wanted a Bible like his Sunday School teacher's. The Bible was well used and tattered. After several years, as the child grew into adulthood, his Bible finally looked like the Sunday School teacher's. How tattered is your Bible?

As you read this, you all know I teach the adult Sunday School Bible class. The study this quarter has been from the Old Testament, with the latest scriptures from Isaiah. I find much comfort in three of these passages.

Isaiah 43:2 assures us of God's presence in times of trials and at all times. Isaiah 44:22 gives an affirmation that God does not forget us during bad times or good times. Isaiah 45:22 calls us to turn from false gods or whatever we put before Him, saying, "I am your God. There is no other."

I'm sure there are many other scriptures that talk to you, but consider these from Isaiah as you read your Bible this month.

Phyllis Hansberry, Elder



### FCC Softball Team

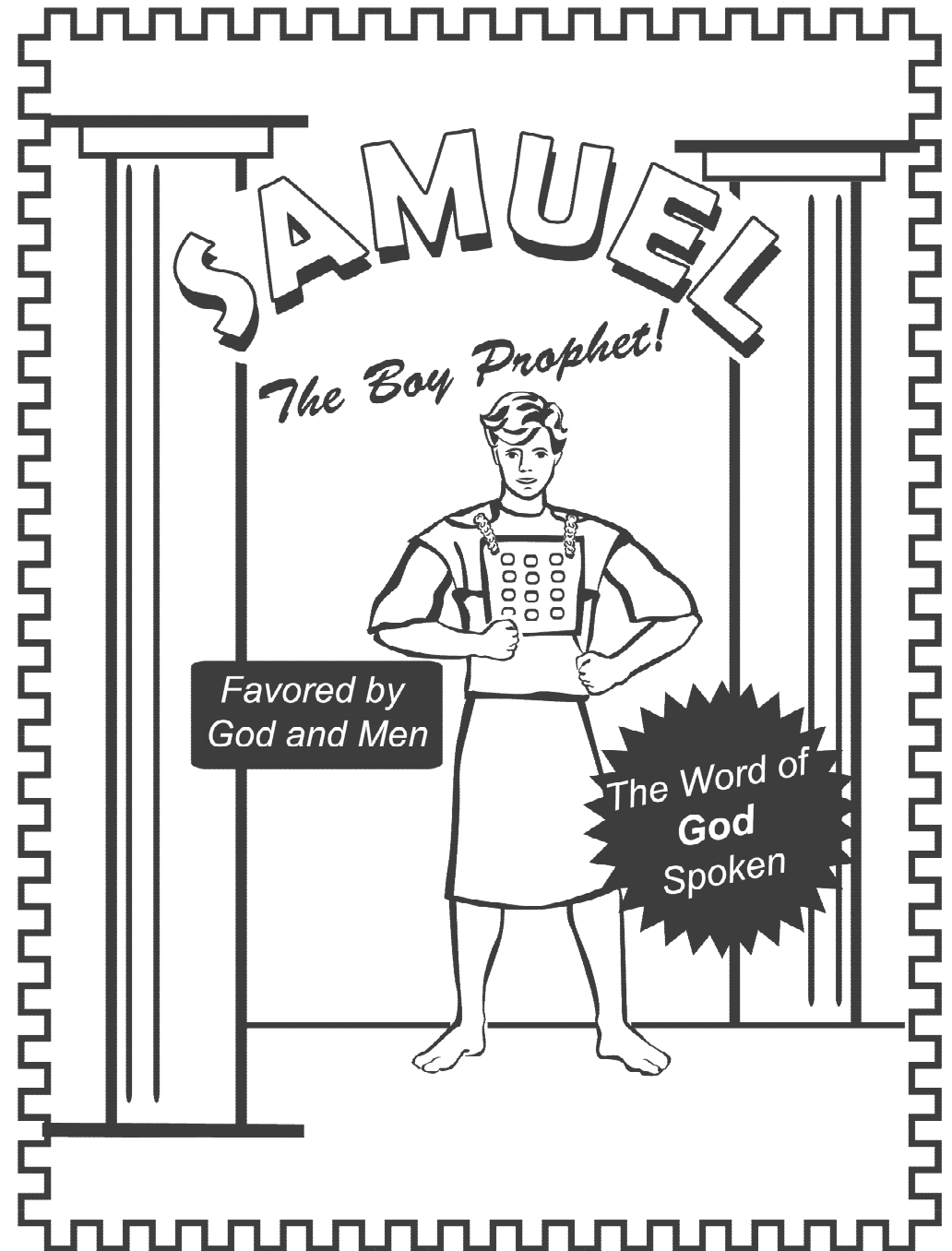
Snow will be gone before we know it, and that means it will be time to play softball. Team registration begins March 1 and games will start the week of April 25. Games are likely on Sunday evening. Cost will be between \$40 & \$50 per person. If you are interested in playing this summer season, please let David Haining at 353-7613 or Pastor Tim know.

### Tennyson Center Needs for February

- Chapstick
- Shampoo
- Latex-Free Band-aids
- Kids' Body Wash
- Men's Body Wash
- Snow Scrapers for cars
- Kleenex—regular size boxes
- Sunscreen—30 spf & above



# Children's Coloring Page





# February Birthdays



2 Nick Harding	5 Tom Gray	10 Judi Ring	16 Geneva Weiler
2 Sheila Takumoto	6 Bob Corliss	11 Steve Hummel	17 Jody Heatherly
3 Vicki Brashear	6 Kevin King	11 Shirley Miller	21 Hazel Gibson
4 Rich Davis, Jr.	6 Lena Morris	12 Beverley Martin	21 Von Prichard
4 Jerry Smith	7 Robert Boyce	13 Beth Warntz	23 Helen Stolte
4 Nicolaus Wolfrum	10 Darrell Johnson	14 Marilyn Cash	24 Hunter Evans
5 Heather Davis	10 Germaine Johnson	15 Shannon King	26 Carol Walker

## Pursuing Our Mission!!

The Capital Improvement Committee will be conducting one final session with the congregation to communicate the process we have used to evaluate our facility and develop preliminary goals for improvements to better fulfill our mission. The final session will take place in the Parlor on Sunday, February 6, after the 10:30 a.m. service. It is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

The main goals the committee has established for enhancements are:

- Attract new un-churched parishioners
- Enhance the worship experience
- Improve accessibility for aging membership
- Upgrade our facilities

Questions may be addressed to David Haining at 353-7613.

## Dear First:



I greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ who has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light! (1 Peter 2:9)

I simply write to thank you for the hospitality you extended to me last Saturday, and for giving me the opportunity to share in ministry with your leaders. I celebrate with you this new year of ministry. I am excited about what God is doing in you and through you in 2011.

As your Transitional Regional Minister, I continue to support and pray for you. I pray that you stay open to the Spirit as you lead the folks at First in faithful mission and witness! ¡Que Dios les bendiga!

Tu hermano en Cristo (Your brother in Christ),  
José (José F. Morales Jr., Transitional Regional Minister)

## Greeley Interfaith Association Chili Supper & Bake Sale



February 9th  
5:00-7:30 p.m.



First Christian Church  
2230 13th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631

Tickets are available from your GIA representative or at the door. You may also contact Ron Wittow at (970) 353-3115 or (970) 313-7428.

## Honored Volunteer LaVonne Rogakis



FCC's very own LaVonne Rogakis has been honored by the Colorado Farm Show as 2011 Colorado Volunteer of the Year!

LaVonne joined the ranks of Farm Show Volunteers in 1981 and currently assists the vendors as part of the Office Committee.

At First Christian Church LaVonne serves as assistant financial secretary and Peace Group chair. She also frequently serves as a Union Colony Civic Center Volunteer.

See the main bulletin board in the central hall for the complete story.

## Servers for the Month of February

	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
<b>8:15 Chapel Service</b>				
Elder	Bob Corliss	Bob Corliss	Carl England	Bob Corliss
Diaconate	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman
Worship Leader	Jim Richardson	Deb Richardson	Ronell Heitman	Ray White
Song Leader	Caren Renee Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Chris Coon	Gretchen Howland	Judi Ring	Nita White
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>				
Elder: North	Carl England	Diane Doyle	Gerre Tjardes	Gerre Tjardes
Elder: South	Diane Doyle	Gerre Tjardes	Diane Doyle	Carl England
Worship Leader	Connie Harbert	Robert Boyce	Roger Harbert	Jim Prichard
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Katelyn Waldo	Bruce Waldo	Caren R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye
Van Driver	Jim Ploegstra	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Diaconate	Alicia Loschen ±	Alicia Loschen ■	Alicia Loschen ▸	Alicia Loschen ▲
	Andrew Bishop ±	Andrew Bishop ■	Andrew Bishop ▸	Andrew Bishop ▲
Please have communion ready by 10:00 a.m.	Emilee Wolsey ▲	Emilee Wolsey ±	Emilee Wolsey ■	Emilee Wolsey ▸
	Judi Ring ▲	Judi Ring ±	Judi Ring ■	Judi Ring ▸
	Paul Warntz ▸	Paul Warntz ▲	Paul Warntz ±	Paul Warntz ■
	Beth Warntz ▸	Beth Warntz ▲	Beth Warntz ±	Beth Warntz ■
	Tom Teixeira ■	Tom Teixeira ▸	Tom Teixeira ▲	Tom Teixeira ±
	Lynn Teixeira ■	Lynn Teixeira ▸	Lynn Teixeira ▲	Lynn Teixeira ±
Greeters	Jim & Susan Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	Marilyn Lesser	Marilyn Lesser
	Ron & Charlotte Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis
	Carl & Carolyn England	Darron & Debbie Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour Host	Harberts	Francisco & Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
Acolytes	Baylee Brems Emilee Ploegstra	Nathan Bobbitt David King	Weston Boyce Becky Boyce	Austin Loschen Ian Ploegstra
Children's Church	Michelle Gray, Josh B.	Lynne Waldo, Emilee W.	D. Haining, Nick Harding	Jodi Bobbitt, Katelyn W.
Children's Moment	Erika Hartmann	Kris King	David Haining	Linda Harding

**KEY:** Preparation = ±    Clean Up Sanctuary = ▲    No Extra Duties = ▸    Clean Up Communion = ■

*If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for a replacement. Please notify your team leader and the church of any changes.*