



PARISH NEWS

September 2022

Partners in Ministry,

Immanuel is a holy space. About a hundred years ago, when the congregation moved to Westport Road, this place was consecrated as sacred, a place where people could gather to encounter God. As the needs of the community grew and changed, so did the ways in which the people of Immanuel used the building. They planned and built additions, renovated rooms for new uses, and continually transformed the building to fit the needs of the people who came here to experience the presence of God in community with each other. Today, this holy space is in our keeping, and it continues to hold our prayers, praise and fellowship.



It has been correctly observed that the church is more than a building but, while we are not bound by our walls, we still have a home here. Our physical space at 1700 Westport Road continues to serve us and the wider community by allowing us to gather for worship and extend welcoming invitations to others. It is a blessing that anchors us in this community and empowers the ministry we share. If we hope to entrust it to those who come after us, just as we received it from those who came before, we need to care for it.

It's with this vision for the work God will continue to do in the future that Immanuel's leaders have been preparing to raise funds to make much-needed repairs to our building. It's an effort that we have named **Financing A Faithful Future**.

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Message, continued)

That effort will pay for new and/or repaired air conditioners that make it possible to worship in the sanctuary through scorching heat, and will allow us to host groups throughout the summer — groups such as YouthWorks, which uses Immanuel as home base while serving thousands of people around the metropolitan area each summer.

New or repaired air conditioners also will allow us to be better caretakers of creation by using more environmentally friendly materials and by sealing chemical leaks that could damage the air we breathe.

A new boiler and water heater will ensure that the children of Purple Dragon Preschool remain warm and safe through the winter, will allow us to continue to host the Metro Lutheran Ministry Christmas Store each December and will keep us warm as we worship on chilly mornings.

Repairs to the roof and stained glass windows will protect the sanctuary from worsening water damage and will repair structural damage that already has occurred in the bell tower. This work will allow us to continue to worship in the sanctuary, and will ensure that generations to come will have a place to be baptized, celebrate communion, participate in the liturgy, join in song and praise, and more.

There will, of course, be a substantial cost to such extensive work, some of which has been put off for years, and those costs are in addition to the already-budgeted costs of meeting the ministry needs of the congregation. So during the next three years, we will raise those funds through special events, by applying for grants, and through an appeal for special giving from you as well as from friends of Immanuel and from organizations that use our building regularly.

At 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, we will kick off the years-long **Financing a Faithful Future** effort with a celebration of what Immanuel does now, and we will name with hope what we will be able to do in the future. You'll learn more in the story that follows this message.

I hope you'll join us Sept. 25 and throughout these next three years as we work together to care for our shared home.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

FINANCING A FAITHFUL FUTURE FUNDRAISING EFFORT KICKS OFF SEPT. 25

Dear Immanuel Friends,

As the people of God at 1700 Westport Road, we have a longstanding commitment to faithful worship and to serving the community. Many aspects of how we live out that commitment depend on our facility.

To prepare for a faith-filled future, our facility now requires repairs. Note that it's not just that it could use some repairs — it *requires* repairs ... necessary repairs that will ensure that our building can continue to be a ministry site and community meeting place into the future.

As we read in 1 Corinthians 3:10, "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care."

We need a total of about \$200,000 to pay for the required repairs. Thanks to already generous gifts — a bequest from the George and Evelyn Roberts Estate, contributions in memory of Ann Erickson, whose family has earmarked them for boiler replacement, and additional donations from many of you — we already have received a little more than \$60,000. That leaves about \$140,000 to go. The **Financing a Faithful Future** effort will give each of us an opportunity to pledge our support for the repair effort and the future of our ministry.

As Pastor Micah mentions in his message, we will kick off the effort with a party at 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25. It will be a true celebration of Immanuel's spirit — past, present and future. John Anderson and his family band will perform, we'll enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs and ice-cream treats, and we'll hear from leaders of organizations that use our building about how important Immanuel's facility is to the community and their work within it. It will be a party you won't want to miss.

Within a few weeks, each Immanuel household will receive a letter and a pledge card. Through the end of this year, we ask that you prayerfully consider a special financial pledge toward the **Financing A Faithful Future** effort. We'd like to receive pledges by Dec. 31 of this year, and those pledges will be payable over a period of three years: Jan 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2025. Immanuel will pay for ongoing repair work and purchases with money from the Endowment Trust Fund, which then will be replenished as your pledge dollars arrive.

(Financing A Faithful Future, continued on next page)

(Financing A Faithful Future, continued)

As the fundraising effort continues, you'll have opportunities to ask questions and learn more during Adult Forum sessions, and through communications in this newsletter and elsewhere. If you have questions now, please feel free to contact any of us on the fundraising task force.

May God bless us all as we build, repair and preserve with care.

The **Financing a Faithful Future** Task Force

Connie Benolkin, Rebecca Blocksome, Randy Callstrom, Linda Fewell, Sara Prem and Bonnie Thomas



JOIN WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Immanuel welcomes you to worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. In-person worship in the sanctuary is streamed live on [Immanuel's YouTube channel](#).

During September, scripture readings call us to refresh our hearts in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened to choose life in God as our own.



[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN LIVESTREAM WORSHIP.](#)

WELCOME, RACHEL DECATOR, IMMANUEL'S NEW PARISH COORDINATOR



Rachel Decator has joined the Immanuel staff as parish coordinator (the position previously held by Linda Fewell).

"I'm so happy to be here, and I look forward to meeting you, serving with you and assisting you," she says.

Rachel lives in Lee's Summit with her three beautiful children, daughter Noelle, age 9; and twin sons, River and Banks, age 3.

Rachel's regular office hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. You can reach her at office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

Welcome, Rachel!

ADULT FORUM ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER LEARNING LINEUP

Adult Forum begins 15 minutes after Sunday worship in Spong Common Room. Here's the learning lineup for September.

September 4 — Revelation Revealed: Pastor Micah leads part three of a three-part series about the book of Revelation.

September 11 — No Forum: Adult Forum takes a break as we, with other ELCA congregations throughout the nation, join in God's Work Our Hands service projects. See the related story in this issue for details.

September 18 — Financing A Faithful Future Information Session: The fundraising task force will provide updates and answer your questions.

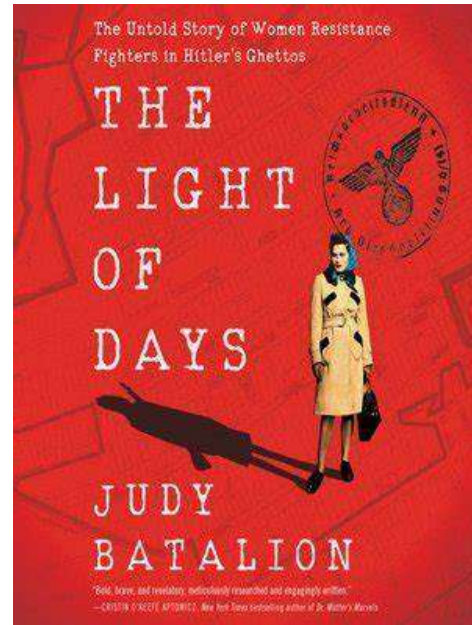
September 25 — Topic to come. Stay tuned for details.



FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *THE LIGHT OF DAYS*

Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 8, at the home of Jean Nuernberger, 6324 Maple Drive, Mission, KS, 66202. Larry Benolkin will lead a discussion about *The Light of Days*, by Judy Batalion. All are welcome!

One of the most important stories of World War II, already optioned by Steven Spielberg for a major motion picture, the book brings to light the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who became resistance fighters—a group of unknown heroes whose exploits have never been chronicled in full, until now.



WANTED: VOLUNTEERS



Usher Team Leader

Could you email usher volunteers and the church office to ask for a stand-in volunteer when an usher can't be at Immanuel on his or her regular Sunday? If so, the position of volunteer usher team leader is for you! To say "yes" to this volunteer opportunity and receive an usher schedule and updated usher instructions, contact the church office.

Media Team Member

Immanuel needs a media team member to run the livestream equipment in the balcony during worship about once a month. No technology experience is needed — it's an easy system that current media team members can show anyone how to use. To volunteer, contact Milan Hanson, 816-444-6629 or milanh816@gmail.com.

Cross Bearer

Could you carry the cross at the opening and closing of worship? If you are interested and can carry the cross, which weighs about 20 pounds and is a bit top heavy, contact Karen Bame, bamek@umkc.edu, or the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

FROM KEVIN AND LINDA FEWELL: IT IS A BLESSING TO WORSHIP AND SERVE WITH YOU

Dear Immanuel friends,

We are deeply grateful for the love and kindness you have lavished on us as we leave Kansas City for Sarasota, Florida.

Although we no longer will be physically present at Immanuel each week, we will continue to worship with you on YouTube, and to serve on committees and task forces that meet via Zoom.

Regardless of where we may be, it is a blessing to worship and serve with you.

Gratefully,
Kevin and Linda Fewell

A MASSIVE
THANK
YOU

ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR ANYONE WILL FILL GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS WEEKEND



Mark your calendar for the annual God's Work Our Hands service weekend, Sept. 10-11.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, we will help with projects and host a lunch at Gathering Table, which serves homeless and needy people at 5001 Independence Ave. in northeast Kansas City. The projects include packing sack lunches, wrapping about 1,000 plastic forks in napkins for future use, weeding flower beds, and spreading dirt and small rocks around a portion of the building foundation. Special thanks to Henrik Andersen for donating and delivering the dirt and rock.

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(God's Work Our Hands, continued)

Please consider donating tuna or chicken salad (in individual-serving boxes found at Dollar Tree), or boxes of individually wrapped cookies. Other sack lunch items already are on hand. Bring your donations to the purple bin in the main sanctuary-level hallway.

After worship on Sunday, Sept. 11, we'll join in a variety of service projects inside and outside at Immanuel. A team will move boxes from the attic to the lower level, while other volunteers reorganize drawers in the Luther Hall and Spong kitchens, or weed flower beds outside.

These service events include projects suitable for anyone, so please plan to be there as we do God's Work with Our Hands.

ANDI TOMLIN AND GRAHAM LEEDY WILL WED SEPT. 17 AT IMMANUEL

Andi Tomlin and Graham Leedy will be married Sept. 17 at Immanuel.

Andi and the Tomlin family are long-time members.

Those whom God has joined together, let no man separate.



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF SEPT. 18



Sunday School will kick off Sept. 18! Stay tuned for more information about the format and time.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Jeri Yungeberg, Tori Friedrich or Elizabeth Hastings.

NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Immanuel's congregation council met Tuesday, Aug. 23. Topics of discussion included:

- An update from the finance committee about the church's finances at mid-year. Giving is slightly ahead of projections and expenses are slightly behind, though that assessment does not include costs associated with the boiler replacement and other repairs. The budget is expected to require ongoing transfers from the Endowment Trust Fund.
- Bishop Susan Candeia will preach at Immanuel on Nov. 13, and also will lead adult forum that day.
- Rachel Decator has been hired as the new parish coordinator, replacing Linda Fewell.
- A kickoff event is planned for Sept. 25 for the campaign to cover capital expenses, including the new boiler, roof repairs and stained glass window repairs.



CROP HUNGER WALK STEPS OFF IN PERSON OCT. 8

The 2022 Heart of America (HOA) CROP Hunger Walk is Saturday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. As in the “pre-pandemic” years, walkers will gather at Central United Methodist Church at 5144 Oak Street, and we will walk as a group through the neighborhoods south of UMKC.

Karen Bame is again lacing up her sneakers to lead Immanuel’s team and walk in her 33rd consecutive HOA CROP Hunger Walk. She would love to have company, so please consider signing up as a walker or donating to her walk to help combat hunger and poverty in Kansas City and the world.

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(CROP Walk, continued)

How can you help?

Go to the [HOA Crop Hunger Walk website](#). Scroll down to the Search box and enter *Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA*. Go to the Immanuel Team page.

- Donate to the team by clicking on the *Make a Donation* button on the right side of the page. Follow the instructions to make your donation.

OR

- Join the team by clicking on the *Join the Team* button at the bottom of the page. Follow the instructions to register as a walker. Then contact your friends and family to get donations for your own walk on Oct. 8.

OR

- Write a check, made out to *CWS/Crop*, and give it to Karen or to Rick Sundell at church, or mail it to Karen and Rick at 6803 Edgevale Rd., Kansas City, MO, 64113.

How are the funds raised in the HOA CROP Hunger Walk used?

The monies raised by the HOA CROP Hunger Walk will be used to fund global projects that include 1) food security and nutrition, 2) water, sanitation and hygiene, 3) refugee protection and resettlement, and 4) disaster preparedness and response. Of the funds raised in Kansas City, 25 percent will support agencies like MLM, Shepherd's Center and a Raytown summer lunch program for kids. Find more information about CWS/CROP [here](#).



KENYAN CHILDREN'S FUND CONTINUES LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE



The Kenyan Children's Fund, Immanuel's global mission project, helps meet the needs of children in Masii, Kenya, who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and are living in deep poverty.

Each month, the fund pays for much-needed food supplements and some household products for 45 children and their guardians. It also pays for educational expenses, clothing, medical care, home repairs and more.

Your donation of \$390 per year to Kenyan Children's Fund, payable to Immanuel, provides basic support for one child for an entire year. But contributions of any amount are a blessing.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ORDER CHANCEL FLOWERS

To celebrate special occasions or honor special people, Immanuel members can order flowers to grace the chancel during worship. To order flowers, simply contact the church office to let the parish coordinator know:

- How much would you like to spend. The standard chancel bouquet is \$60. You can place the payment in the Sunday offering plate in an envelope that indicates it is payment for flowers, or you can mail it to the church office.
- If there are particular flowers or a particular color scheme you'd like to see in the floral arrangement.
- The date on which the flowers should be in the chancel.
- Information about the flowers and your special occasion or honored individual that you would like to see in the bulletin. For example, "The chancel flowers are given by Jane and Joe Smith to the glory of God and in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary."



The parish coordinator will order the flowers, and will alert the Altar Guild so the bouquet can be on display on the correct Sunday.

Questions? Contact the church office.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS



For the time being, we are continuing to ask people to keep our community safe by wearing masks when we gather in person. Immanuel's leaders monitor local conditions, with the Executive Committee and Congregation Council revisiting our COVID-19 policies twice a month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like us to be aware of, please contact Pastor Micah, msievenpiper@gmail.com.

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 4

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalmody: Psalm 1

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Assisting Minister: Beth Callstrom

Lay Reader: Linda Taylor

Crucifer: Milan Hanson

Communion Steward: Rick Sundell

Altar Committee: Beth Callstrom, Milan Hanson

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Pam Edvalds, Mike Ortmann, Jean Nuernberger, Del Karmeier

SEPTEMBER 11

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

Psalmody: Psalm 51:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Assisting Minister: Jeff Fox

Lay Reader: Linda Fox

Crucifer: BJ Laven

Communion Steward: Karen Bame

Altar Committee: Ellen Wilcox, Milan Hanson

Media: Jack Friedrich

Ushers: Kate Hauber, Tracy Atheron, Cece Atheron

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(Scripture Readings and Worship Leaders, continued)

SEPTEMBER 18

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalmody: Psalm 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Assisting Minister: Karen Bame

Lay Reader: Megan Sawyer

Crucifer: Milan Hanson

Communion Steward: Milan Hanson

Altar Committee: Beth Callstrom, Milan Hanson

Media: Linda Fox

Ushers: Chris Roth, Milan Hanson, Bob Hyland

SEPTEMBER 25

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalmody: Psalm 146

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Assisting Minister: Vicki Swanson

Lay Reader: Catie Tomlin

Crucifer: Ingrid Peterson

Communion Steward: Kathy Linder

Altar Committee: Beth Callstrom, Milan Hanson

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Marc Winkler, Patti Winkler, Randy Callstrom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here's a look at upcoming events that will take place at Immanuel or via Zoom:

Friday, September 2

3:30 p.m. World Folk Dancers, Luther Hall

Saturday, September 3

9:30 a.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall



(continued on next page)

(Calendar of Events, continued)

Sunday, September 4

- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum, Spong
- 3 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

Monday, September 5

Labor Day: Church Office Closed

- 5 p.m. Youth Chorus, Gathering Space, Luther Hall, Sanctuary, Spong

Tuesday, September 6

- 5 p.m. Soundwave, Gathering Space
- 6 p.m. Scandanavian Dancers, Luther Hall

Wednesday, September 7

- 6 p.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

Thursday, September 8

- 6 p.m. Volker Neighbors, Gathering Space
- 6:30 p.m. Choral Spectrum, Luther Hall
- 7 p.m. OA-KC, Room 1
- 7:30 p.m. Friends of Literature, Nuernberger Residence

Friday, September 9

- 3:30 p.m. World Folk Dancers, Luther Hall

Saturday, September 10

- 9:30 a.m. God's Work Our Hands, Gathering Table, 5001 Independence Ave., KCMO, 64124
- 9:30 a.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

Sunday, September 11

- 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Luther Hall
- 10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall
- 10:45 a.m. God's Work Our Hands, Luther Hall
- 1 p.m. Blautaler German Dancers, Choir Room
- 3 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

Monday, September 12

- 5 p.m. Youth Choir, Gathering Space, Luther Hall, Sanctuary, Spong

MORE NEWS TO USE

CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE FOR LABOR DAY

The Immanuel office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY:

DELLA LAMB REFUGEE SERVICES

The Committee for Justice and Peace has decided to begin sharing information with Immanuel members about opportunities in the Kansas City area that come to our attention. This does not mean that we have identified them as issues Immanuel as a congregation is supporting or actively working on. We are simply providing information for members who might be interested.



Della Lamb Community Services, which has been serving the needs of Kansas Citians for more than 120 years, is one of the agencies in Kansas City that works to resettle refugees. It is holding an Interfaith Refugee Forum Saturday, Sept. 17, beginning at 9 a.m. Attendees will “learn about and discuss refugee resettlement through the lens of faith. Any and all faith-based groups are invited so we can ensure Kansas City is a city of hospitality and welcome for all who come here.” Use the [online registration form](#) to sign up. For more information about Della Lamb’s refugee resettlement programs, visit the [Refugee Services page](#).



SCAMS KEEP COMING: BE ALERT

A recent email that appears to be from Pastor Micah requests help with an Immanuel reimbursement. That email actually is not from Pastor Micah. It is a scam. If you receive a similar email, delete it. You are welcome to call Pastor Micah or the church office with questions.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Our work together matters — to each other and to the wider community. Your contributions help Immanuel do its work.

You may give by:

- Placing contributions in the offering plate on Sundays.
- Mailing checks to the church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO, 64111.
- Donating online through [Tithe.ly](#).
- Setting up an automatic payment through your financial institution.



Additional ways to support Immanuel include [Amazon Smile](#) — simply register, and Amazon will donate a percentage of what you spend to Immanuel with every purchase you make. Thank you for giving to Immanuel! Questions? Please contact the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

THINKING OF ONE ANOTHER

Your prayers, calls, notes
and cards can brighten
someone's day.



Members of Immanuel

Lila Aamodt, Rick Crawford, Andree Cuthbertson, Pat Durie, Kevin Fewell, Peg Himebaugh, Naomi Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Lori & Terry Kueker, Carmen Norris, Ellen Parson, Carol Powers, Deanne Schlehuber, EB Walker and Carolyn Wilson

Friends of Immanuel

Karen Brooks, sister of Beth Callstrom
Baby Cruz and the Brown Family, family of Jean Nuernberger
James, Jim and Ethel Clanin, family of Lori Clanin
Darlene Henninger, aunt of Catie Tomlin
Normajean Holtje, cousin of Mike Ortmann
Betty Ladwig, mother of Kate Hauber and Cece Atherton
Angela Lingle, aunt of Tori Friedrich
Family & Friends of Mary Lucht, friend of Bill and Mary Jo Moore
Dale & Kay Mowbray, friends of Deanne Schlehuber
Nancy's mother and sister, friends of Linda Setterburg
Patrick, friend of Melodee Blobaum's family
Beth Shepard, sister of Patti Winkler
Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Renoe
Pam Staggs, sister of Connie Ross
Family & Friends of Donald Vought, father of Donna Roth
Family & Friends of Ted Werbin, friend of Linda Fewell
Women of Westport Oxford House, friends of Immanuel

If you would like to add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list, contact the church office. Names will remain on the list for three months unless you indicate otherwise.

Email ImmanuelKCPrayerTeam@gmail.com to request prayer for someone who does not wish to appear on the public list.



9/4 Michael Dalbom
9/5 Linda Martin
9/11 Noah Majerle
9/12 Kyle Boehmer
9/12 Greg Wu
9/14 Charlie Friedrich
9/16 Ethan Browning
9/16 Mike Ortmann
9/17 Katharine Ahrens
9/17 Melaku Tizazu
9/19 Sara Prem
9/19 Allison Winkler
9/20 Milly Bertch
9/21 Vicki Swanson

9/22 Lucy Gobber
9/23 David Peterson
9/23 Linda Taylor
9/24 Linda Fox
9/25 Samantha Williams
9/27 Lauren Park
9/27 Allyson Tomlin
9/27 Rachel Decator
9/28 Jordan Ahrens
9/28 Emily Dalbom
9/28 Karole Jacosen
9/28 Lonnie Wahlgren
9/29 Jim Martin

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

STAFF

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Robert Barthel, organist
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COUNCIL

Connie Benolkin, president
Bonnie Thomas, vice president
Melodee Blobaum, secretary
Kathy Linder, treasurer
Linda Fox, financial secretary
Henrik Andersen
Randy Callstrom
Mason Carey
Elizabeth Hastings
Lynden Peters
Sara Prem
Janette Rodecap
Scott Thompson