

JESUS SAYS...WELCOME HOME!

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ¹ Romans 12:4-5 NRSV

THE EVANGEL APRIL 2021



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17331

So, you think it's been a bad day?

The next time you're feeling down or useless, and maybe thinking you are too far gone to do any good as God's hands, feet, and voice in this world, try to remember ...

- Noah was a drunk,
- Abraham was too old,
- Isaac was a daydreamer,
- Jacob was a liar,
- Leah was ugly,
- Joseph was abused,
- Moses had a stuttering problem,
- Gideon was afraid.
- · Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer,
- Rahab was a prostitute,
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young,
- David had an affair and was a murderer,
- Elijah was suicidal,
- Isaiah preached naked,
- Jonah ran from God,
- Naomi was a widow,
- Job went bankrupt,
- John the Baptist ate bugs,
- Peter denied Christ,
- · the disciples fell asleep while praying,
- Martha worried about everything,
- the Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once,
- Zaccheus was too small,
- Paul was too religious,
- Timothy had an ulcer ...
- AND Lazarus was dead!

No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential regardless of the kind of day you are having. It's never about how you feel in the world, but how you are loved from Heaven above.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Burkhart

Got a question ...need to talk? The office is open and the phone is working.





Palm Sunday, March 28

Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m.
In person and by ZOOM
(www.stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)





Maundy Thursday Worship Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

With Holy Communion In person and by ZOOM (www.stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)

Good Friday Friday, April 2 Tenebrae Service of Shadows 8:00 p.m.

Hear the Passion Story with music by the Senior Choir as we recall the final hours before Christ's crucifixion

In person and by ZOOM (www.stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)





EASTER SUNDAY April 4

Festival Worship at 9:30 am In person and by ZOOM (www.stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)



The traditional Good Friday 7 Last Words of Christ worship service hosted by HACC each year goes to support the Scholarship. help Stolte This because of safety concerns of choirs and preachers going in and out of the same area as well as

congregants, we are offering a video that each congregation can post to their website or share with members. You can access this video of seven preacher and seven church anthems by clicking on this youtube

link: https://youtu.be/RQZHiNIcrvE

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Easter is upon us yet again. This is the season that defines us as Christians. believe Christ was raised from the dead to free us from sin and bring us to new life. We believe



in a new life after death, but what exactly does it mean to have new life here and now? God gives us new life daily through Jesus so that we can love God and serve our neighbors.

You will begin to see and hear some new ideas at St. Paul's this Easter season that will help us live into that new life. Our Council has recently adopted a Purpose Statement that says, "We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously." This Purpose Statement reminds us what it means to live as Christians every day. Our Council also approved a set of Guiding Principles which are meant to quide us as we set out to be the Church in action. The Guiding Principles state:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- -Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- -Providing for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
- -Praising God through music, word, and service
- -Welcoming all people into fellowship with God

I ask that each of us prayerfully consider how we are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Each of us has an important role to play in God's mission. Consider how God is calling you to a new life of praise and service this Easter.

God bless,

Russ Kaltreider, Council President



MISSING LEARNING AND TALKING ABOUT GOD'S WORD?

Craving more fellowship with your St. Paul's family?

Consider joining the Daily Disciples Faith Formation (adult) class! In addition to fellowship with each other, we discuss how to apply the weekly Gospel lesson to our own lives. Although we'd love to see you each week, each week's lesson is self-contained (you can miss weeks and not feel "behind"). If ZOOM with video is not your

"thing", please know you can join without video and stay muted just to listen in! Hope you'll consider joining us!

Join Zoom Meeting Link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8270109787



MAN, have we MISSED you!!!!! As more and more people are vaccinated and the "end" of the pandemic is starting to come into view, we hope to be able to gather after our YEAR apart. We will start planning more regular events for the fall, but coming up sooner are several opportunities for youth in grades K-5. We hope you'll make plans to come to our events…and remember that friends are always welcome!



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3 GROCERY MINISTRY (9:15 - 11:00)

come with an adult to help distribute food
to our neighbors...AND receive a special
holiday treat for yourself! BRING AN

"EASTER BASKET"!

May 1 GROCERY MINISTRY (9:15 - 11:00) It's our turn to distribute again!

June 13 - 17 FAMILY FEST 2021 (evenings)

YES! Our event is back!! It'll look a bit
different this year (outside), but join us as
we learn "Who is Our Neighbor?"

Check out our "Moment of Joy" devotion posted every week on our Facebook page!

(For more information about events, check out our Facebook page (SPYKids Children's Ministry), contact Deb Sowers, or the church office)

EPHESIANS

William Barclay called Ephesians "The Queen of the Epistles." It is a breathtaking treaty from Paul elaborating the reconciling work of God in Christ Jesus, i.e., making all human beings into one people as "the Body of Christ," conquering the hostile cosmic powers of sin and death, the creation of a new humanity, and the creation of a new society founded and grounded in God. We approach the letter to the Ephesians "the greatest" and "most relevant of Paul's works" properly with a sense of awe and wonder.



Most scholars agree that this letter was one of three letters (Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians) written from his prison cell in Rome some thirty years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The letters all address disturbing heretical difficulties that have invaded and taken root in the newly formed Mediterranean Churches.

In Ephesians, Paul elaborates on two fundamental Christian themes. The first theme (chaps. 1-3) regards faithful doctrine regarding the new life and new society in Christ which God has brought into being by the death and resurrection of His Son. The second theme (chaps. 4-6) teaches the new standards for life and relationships expected of Christian believers. This second theme takes us from theory to practice; from "This is the way things are now," to "therefore, we are to honor God by living like this."

Because Christ on the cross has overcome the demonic powers that have separated us in the world from the love of God and one another, our efforts toward loving unity in relationships with God and our neighbors has become central to the God fearing and faithful life.

April Study:

Open Up: What is the "best medicine" for you when you find yourself "down in the dumps?"

Read Chapter 1, verses 1-15

Dig In: 1. Having read this passage, how would you describe Paul's tone?

- 2. What are the "blessings in Christ" found in verses 3-9, and in what ways do they relate to your praising and honoring God?
- 3. What activities are described as the work of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and what do they tell us about God?
- 4. How does God's choosing us (v.4) relate to our believing in Him (v.13?) How do you know if you are chosen, adopted, or predestined, and what is it you are "chosen" to do?

Reflection: 1. What from this passage motivates you to give thanks and praise to God the most?

- 2. What are the benefits of God's grace in your life and how does the reality of that grace make a difference?
- 3. What of your present lifestyle might you want to change to better live in praise of His glory this week?

APRIL WORSHIP SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR:

- Radio April 11 (\$60 or any portion you desire)
- Flowers April 4 & 11 one vase each, April 25 two vases (\$20 per vase)
- Communion Bread & Wine April 11 & 25 (\$12)
- Bulletin April 25 (\$20)
- Eternal Flame April 4, 11 & 25

Please contact Sue (<u>swineholt@comcast.net</u> or 717-637-5941) in the church office to reserve your special date.

APRIL'S DESIGNATED GIVING St. Paul's Family Crisis Fund.

Many times in our life together we find that families within our congregation face monumental struggles. Families or individuals may have financial needs arise from medical emergencies, fires, long-term disabilities, or unemployment. They come seeking assistance from the church and many times they need more help than is



readily available in the Discretionary Fund. Several years ago, our Congregation Council established the Family Crisis Fund and criteria for disbursement of funds to the families of our congregation. Building a fund such as the Family Crisis Fund enables us to help our families meet their needs and to hopefully get through the crisis. Please give generously to our Family Crisis Fund this month, so we can help those in need.



Our brother in Christ, David Shue, claimed the promise of his baptism on February 28, 2021.

St. Paul's Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the book The Moment Keeper by Buffy Andrews. Buffy is a York resident and spoke at one of our meeting last year. We so liked her work that we decided to read another of her books. Join us for the discussion on this book.



Our May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 to discuss the book <u>The Women Who Smashed Codes</u> by Jason Fagone. Read the book and join us for a good discussion and good fellowship.

All are welcomed to join the group discussion. Hope to see you there.



ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE AND HAS BEEN UPDATED

You can now contribute to St. Paul's anytime convenient to you by visiting our new online

donation page at <u>Home | St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 127 York Street, Hanover PA (myvanco.com)</u>. This page can also be found on our website (www.stpaulsyorkst.org) by clicking "Give". Our donation page is now set up to receive donations to Parish Ministry, Synod/Churchwide, Special Designated Giving, Property, Grocery Ministry, Memorial Contributions or Pastor's Discretionary. You can make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations using debit/credit cards or a bank account. Our giving site is safe and secure through Vanco. St. Paul's has been using Vanco for many years for our electronic giving and we are excited to expand the services to allow you more control and choices for electronic giving. Please contact Sue in the church office with any questions.



Parish Ministry

St. Paul's Lutheran Church allows members and guests to support us with ane-time or recurring donations whether you attend in person or online. Thank you for your support!

Give



Synod/Churchwide

Your donation to Synod/Churchwide Ministries assist with the ministries of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Give



Special Designated Giving

Each month St. Paul's Church Council selects a different mission to receive the offerings from our Special Designated Giving.

Give



Property Fund

St. Pauls is always striving to maintain our facility and grounds. Your donations to our Property Fund help us with the cost of necessary projects to keep our building clean and safe.

Give



Grocery Ministry

As an autreach to our neighbors during the COVID-19 shutdown, St. Paul's began distributing food parcels on Saturday marnings. In addition to nonperishables, we also give out fresh produce and

Give



Memorial Contributions

We welcome your donation in memory of someone special. A permanent record of your donation is recorded in our Memorial Book kept in the narthex of the church.

Contribute



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastors Discretionary Fund allows the pastor to assist those in need of emergency financial assistance. Your donation makes this assistance to those in need possible.

Give

SPRING - A TIME TO LOVE GENEROUSLY

As this article is being written, the calendar says Spring has begun!

After a terrible COVID year, all of us are anxious to begin planning for a near-normal Spring and Summer. Here at St. Paul's we are



making summer plans to celebrate our Christian faith and brotherhood. Those plans include: Worship Services on the Lawn, Family Fest for youngsters and families, Lutheran Summer Camp, a continuation of our Grocery Ministry, the ongoing use of our building by our Scouting programs, participation in the Hanover Snacktown event (formerly Dutch Days), a Disaster Rebuild trip to North Carolina, Vacation Bible School; plus additional projects are being discussed. St. Paul's has remained an active Christian community during this past year and we will continue to do so, in spite of COVID.

However, limited worship opportunities because of COVID have resulted in a decrease in giving during the first quarter of 2021. This is understandable, if we are not attending worship we often forget our financial commitment to support God's work here at St. Paul's. You probably intend to catch up during the year; however, as summer approaches financial giving historically drops. Reduced giving because of a COVID winter, and a busy summer, could result in a financial shortfall for St. Paul's. Please don't let that happen. Going into the last quarter of 2021 with a financial deficit would create a challenge and a worry for everyone.

Therefore, during these weeks of Easter celebration, can you make a renewed financial commitment? If you have fallen behind in your giving, can you catch up?

Let's head into the summer financially sound. COVID has been tough on all of us, but St. Paul's has remained active and alive. Let's continue defying the odds and prove that St. Paul's is strong in both praising God and loving generously.

Finance Committee

indoor worsnip – Sundays at 9:30 am			
1/31	43	2/2857	ZOOM 7
2/7	22	3/763	ZOOM 11
2/14	66	3/1450	ZOOM 7
Ash Wed	35	3/2164	ZOOM 4
2/2165	ZOOM 8		

ST. PAUL'S WILL ONCE AGAIN BE SENDING OUR KIDS TO CAMP. St. Paul's will pay for a child, an adult or a family of St. Paul's to attend one week of camp at rate of \$440.00 with funding through a month of



designated giving and the Adventures in Ministry Fund Please see or email Laura Silver, St. Paul's Camp-person, at silverlkw@hotmail.com to find out more.



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

CAMP SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, April 25th when Mike Youse, Executive Director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation, will be here at St. Paul's to deliver the message for that day.

Summer Camp Registration Now Open!

It might just be the best week you've ever had! Don't wait, sign up today for a summer camp program at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa.

Youth Camp, Family Camp, Elder Camp, Adult Camp...something for everybody!!

Find information about <u>COVID-19 precautions</u> we are taking this summer.

--->More Information - https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/

Please see page 12 for more information on summer camp through the Lutheran Camping Corporation.



All future prayer requests should come through the church office. Prior to last year all prayer concerns came through the office and a list was prepared by Sue Wineholt for distribution.

Last year, during Lent, a prayer group was formed and, when COVID happened, the group was unable to meet in-person so Janet Haack graciously continued to compile a weekly prayer list because the building and office was closed.

Now that the office is open again there seems to be some confusion as to where people should report their prayer concerns. To simplify things we are asking you to call or email the church directly. Sue will, once again, prepare the prayer list for distribution and she will continue to distribute it to the same people that Janet sent it to. Our main concern is that no one that needs prayers is missed.

Special thanks to Janet who so faithfully stepped in.

Thank you so much for the valentines, anniversary and all the other cards that we have received from our St. Paul's family!

Phyllis and Bill Mosebrook

Thank you "to everyone" who wished me a Happy 80th birthday. What a nice surprise to find birthday wishes

to me, for several days, in our mailbox. It was so much fun to read all of the birthday wishes and the notes written inside. Always grateful to my church family for making my 80th birthday a very memorable one.

Warmest thanks,

Gary Smith

To my church family:

Thank you for flowers, cards, letters and especially prayers.

Also, Pastor Bob, your phone calls and prayers were appreciated.

It was a difficult time for our family but we are stronger and marching on with the grace of God with us.

In His love,

Betty Markle

Thank you to everyone who sent me cards for my birthday. It's so nice to be remembered by my St. Paul's family.

Fran Saur

"THANK YOUS" FOR OUR SATURDAY MORNING GROCERY MINISTRY

Thank you for your generosity and kindness in 2020. You non-judgmental giving is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again!

Thanks to <u>all</u> who participate in the food bank distribution. Your faithfulness each week is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again!

THANK YOU to all our volunteers who faithfully distribute groceries on Saturday mornings! Our Youth and Families, Boy Scout Troop and Pack 102, Book Club, Congregation Council, and a team of additional volunteers are what makes this ministry possible. (Looking to volunteer? Contact Nancy Smith or Deb Sowers.)

We also appreciate our partnerships with Central Penn Food Bank, New Hope Ministries, and Honey Locust Farms! Our ministry is consistently able to bless 65-80+ families in our community every week. Thanks be to God!



SATURDAY

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH, ONE CAMPER AT A TIME

Recent studies have shown that individuals who experience church camping as children and youth are more likely to stay involved in faith communities as adults.

WHY?

- Church camp experience offers opportunities to live a faithful life in a non-threatening environment.
- Campers practice living as Jesus intends us to live in a community of people striving to do the same.



- Campers have opportunities to practice times of quiet, individual devotion, as well
 as active, participatory worship.
- · Campers are given a safe space to discuss faith topics with peers and mentors.
- · Campers are given opportunities for worship leadership and participation.
- Campers learn how to be faithful Christian disciples, eager to proclaim the Gospel and serve others.

All of this faith formation takes place within the setting of an outdoor community that seeks to build character, foster independence, encourage good relationships, and teach life skills...benefits that campers will carry for the rest of their lives. Congregations, in turn, will grow and flourish with members who are eager to lead and serve.

Since 1929, the Lutheran Camping Corporation has provided a Christ-centered ministry for people in all stages of life. LCC is in partnership and cooperation with congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod for the proclamation of the Gospel.

The camps of LCC provide unique and effective settings and experiences where the Gospel is shared, and faith is nurtured in the lives of children, adults and families. LCC's programs serve as an extension of congregational ministry, and participants of all ages return to their homes and families renewed and strengthened for Christian living.



REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm LutheranCamping.org



GLEANINGS FROM THE APRIL 2021 GATHERING OF CHURCH COUNCIL

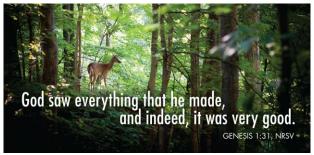
Mission: To fulfill the command given in Matthew 25:35 "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Making a difference moments are that St.

Paul's doors are open engaging people in worship and ministry; live streaming participation is increasing; and the grocery ministry is growing with partners as well as participants.

- July's Designated Giving is to support the Lutheran Camping Corporation.
- Council approved participation in Snack Town Street Fair on September 18, 2021.
- Council adopted the Purpose and Guiding Principles developed by the R3 Team:
- Purpose:
- We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.
- Guiding Principles:
- As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:
 - -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
 - –Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
 - –Providing for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
 - -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
 - -Praising God through music, word, and service
 - –Welcoming all people into fellowship with God
- Frank Hueske, Treasurer, reported that the 2020 audit is in process.
- Pastor Burkhart, Russ Kaltreider and Jennifer Zellers are the delegates to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly June 4th and 5th. The event is virtual this year.
- Council approved motion from Lay Personnel Committee.
- St. Paul's will pay for a child, an adult or a family of St. Paul's to attend one week of camp at rate of \$440.00 with funding through a month of designated giving and the Adventures in Ministry Fund.
- Two vacant seats remain on council. Please pray for discernment to hear if God is calling you to this service.

And the King will answer, truly I tell you, just as you did it unto one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did unto me" Matthew 25:40



Stewards of our natural world

"God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." – Genesis 1:31

Type "glacier loss" into an internet search engine, examine photos of ice sheets today versus just a few decades ago, and you will draw the same conclusion as the world's best scientists: We are losing ice, and fast.

But melting glaciers is just one of the many crises facing our natural world. Stressed by warming temperatures, rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, acidifying ocean waters, and pollution of land, air and water, nature itself is under grave threat. Thousands of species of insects, plants and animals are going extinct as habitat, from coral reefs to rainforests to estuaries, is destroyed.

"Our planet is in crisis," says campaignfornature.org. "The natural world is disappearing at an unprecedented rate."

For God's people, appointed as caretakers of God's creation, this is not just troubling news but also a call to action.

This April 22, the 51st Earth Day, let's dedicate ourselves to learning about and fighting for God's creation. Here are some ideas:

- Learn about the growing crises and how they threaten our lives. Teach others.
- Pick one problem and make it a focus for education, awareness, and action in your family or congregation.
- Connect with nature by visiting a park or wild place near you.
- Pick up litter and trash from the street or public land.
- Learn about the plants and animals that live in your area.
- Plant flowers, herbs, vegetables, or trees.
- Advocate for public policies that will promote conservation.
- Find a special way to observe Earth Day in your family, congregation, or community.

Our natural world is under threat, but God's people can make a difference by caring and getting busy.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, Maryland, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.stewardshipogly.com.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR APRIL

<u>Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)</u> – Single-serve fruits, individual size chips, pretzels, etc., instant white rice, scallop potatoes, laundry detergent, dish towels/rags, pot holders



Changing Lives Shelter - Deodorant (men

& women), disposable cleaning gloves (med. & lg.), razors, body wash, Lysol spray, Ajax, Clorox wipes, paper towels, Ziploc storage bags (gal. size), bottled water, sleeping bags, bed pillows

<u>Clothing Bank</u> – Family-sized toiletries, sheet sets (all sizes), bath towels, men's (L & XL) white t-shirts, baby diapers (sizes 4 & 5), bread wire ties

<u>Ruth's Harvest</u> - single serve entrees, cereal, juice boxes, snacks and veggies (all single serve)



The Hanover Area Council of Churches would like to make you aware of the Stolte Scholarship Fund. The Fund was established in 1973 in memory of Rev. Robert H. Stolte, pastor of Lohr's Memorial United Methodist Church in Hanover from 1962-1973. The administration of the fund has been handled by the Hanover Area

Council of Churches and has been supported with the offerings received at the Community Good Friday Service and with private donations.

The Stolte Scholarship Fund provides a one-time grant of \$1,000 to an individual pursuing a career in the field of **ministry**, **missions**, **or humanitarian service**. Interested applicants must be residents of the greater Hanover area and should be a high school senior, college student or seminary student. He or she must complete an application form and submit a brief summary of his or her call into the field of ministry, missions, or humanitarian service and future vocational goals. They should be active members of a church, display good moral character, and exhibit high scholastic ability.

Please contact St. Paul's Church office for an application. The deadline for accepting applications this year is April 30, 2021.

Please call Kathy Bortner at 717-637-6973 or e-mail at <u>kabortner@comcast.net</u> with any questions you might have

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

published by ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 York Street, Hanover, PA 17331

Purpose: We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously"

Church phone: 717-637-5941

E-mail: <u>stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>www.stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Facebook: St Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor E. Robert Burkhart – Pastor/Administrator srpastor_stpauls@comcast.net

Reverend Jack R. Hoffman - Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright – Director of Music steven.ruppright@comcast.net

Lori Rebling – Bell Choir Director lori.rebling@comcast.net

Gretchen Walter – Children's Choir Director stpaulschildrensmusic @gmail.com

Carmen Buckley – Administrative Assistant stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net

Sue Wineholt – Office Assistant/Financial Secretary swineholt@comcast.net

> Rebecca Kiser - Housekeeper Toby Tasker – Sexton

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Frank Hueske, Russ Johnson, Russ Kaltreider, Dan Kiser, Dave Maus, Tom Miller, Peg Sennett, Jon Shaw, Laura Silver, Nancy Smith, and 2 vacancies

President – Russ Kaltreider Secretary – Linda Zellers Vice-President – Nancy Smith Treasurer – Frank Hueske