

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

September, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings



For the last few years at Grace, we've used the Narrative Lectionary, a schedule of Bible readings for worship that starts each fall in Genesis. And through the course of the school year, we travel through the narrative of the Bible so it's easier for us to connect the stories to one another and to see how God's story of salvation all fits together. Since the lectionary ends at Pentecost, it leaves the summer wide open for us to explore other things. So this year we chose a worship series called, "Unraveled: Seeking God When our Plans Fall Apart."

I was a little hesitant because "Unraveled" seemed to be the theme of 2020 – we all hoped that 2021 would be a little more neatly "raveled." But it turned out that the "Unraveled" theme worked just as well this year as life has often continued to feel frayed and unraveled. While we started to recover from some of life's unravelings with increased vaccinations, more events happening, and more freedom; other unravelings are slower to recover from – restoring mental health, dealing with supply shortages, protecting the unvaccinated, building the work force back, and now the Delta variant of COVID.

I've appreciated having visual representations of the Bible stories, original hymns that fit the weekly themes so perfectly, and our "Unraveled Art Project," which has become so meaningful. Pira Mueller and Michael Rehak created this weaving with the help of worshipers who tore fabric as expressions of lament and wrote prayers on the fabric strips to be woven into the project. Each week, the weaving has grown fuller and more beautiful, creating this striking piece from what first seemed like worthless scraps.



What a perfect illustration of living life in difficult times. Throughout this series, we've seen how again and again, God has worked in the lives of people who dealt with unexpected and sometimes difficult situations. God does a pretty impressive job of doing amazing things with what seem like scraps and broken pieces, to create beauty and new life. Often the "re-raveling" and weaving of life happens much more slowly than we want or in ways we might not have chosen, but God is with us in our journeys – the struggles and the triumphs and everything in between. While we're still dealing with "unravelings" and looking at what can stay unraveled, what should be re-woven in a new way, and what needs to be put back together, God is working in us and in our congregation, guiding us, blessing us, and weaving us together to support one another, to build up our faith, and to serve the world around us.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

P.S. Did you miss some of the "Unraveled" series? Weekly sermons are always available on our YouTube channel, and full services are on Facebook



Introducing Kenneth Hoversten

We are pleased to introduce you to Grace's new Organist– Kenneth Hoversten. Kenneth grew up in Viroqua, WI and attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He's currently working toward a Master's Degree at the University of Wisconsin in vocal performance. Please help us make Kenneth feel welcome. We're blessed to have him.

Outdoor Coffee Hour begins in September



As Sunday School returns, our Outdoor Worship comes to a close. But why not still enjoy the September weather? As long as weather permits, we're going to have Coffee Hour after worship outside in the yard. So we're looking for people who might be willing to bring treats and serve coffee outside. We don't have a coffee hour volunteer schedule this year, so we're hoping to get enough volunteers to make this happen. Interested in helping? E-mail/call the office or sign up at church.



Mask Requirement

As you now know, Dane County has reissued a mask mandate for all people gathering inside buildings. To continue protecting our children, our immunocompromised, and everybody else, Grace has returned to requiring masks for worship and other gatherings in the building. Thank you for once again caring for the welfare of your neighbors in this way.

Worship Broadcasts

Sunday worship services are live broadcast on Charter channel 987 and on Grace's Facebook page. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship, as well as on the Grace website.

Touch-a-Truck Concessions 10 a.m.–noon

On **Saturday, September 11**, CAP is holding Touch-a-Truck in the Cambridge High School parking lot. Grace Youth will be holding a concession stand at the event from 10:00-noon. Feel free to stop by for goodies early or grilled items closer to lunchtime. Interested in helping? Talk to Pastor Jennifer.



Join us for some outdoor gabbing! We're not back to coffee hour chats yet, so feel free to join us for some fellowship time Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the back church parking lot. It's just a great time to chat and catch up with others from Grace.



The ELCA Youth Gathering will be **July 23 -28, 2022**. Grace students currently going into 8th-12th grades are able to attend. If you haven't attended an informational meeting and are interested, please **contact Pastor Jennifer ASAP**.

All registrations and \$100 deposit are due by October 1.

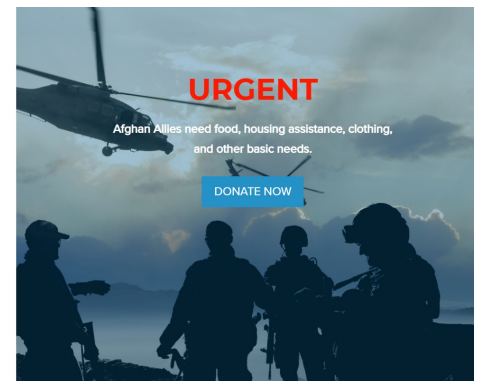
What is LIRS?

If you've watched the news in the last few months, you know about the enormous crisis in Afghanistan and the tens of thousands of Afghan allies who have been trying to flee the country to come to places like the United States. Many are you are concerned for the welfare of these neighbors who have been allies to the U.S. and to American troops in Afghanistan for so many years, and some have asked, "What can we do to help?" Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is a non-profit organization that has worked to help settle over half a million immigrants and refugees over the last 80 years. LIRS is currently working hard to assist these Afghan allies and their families once they arrive here in the U.S. If you're interested in learning or in find a way you can help, go to www.lirs.org for more information.

Welcome To

LIRS

ASYLUM SEEKER.
IMMIGRANT. REFUGEE.
HUMAN.



Confirmation Corner- *Orientation 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8th*

Orientation for 7th & 8th grade students and parents will be **Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes will begin on **Wed., Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

Grace Office Hours

Grace **office hours 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday**. There are additional office hours, but those will vary more. Please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. Contact information is on pg.12

Stewardship for All Ages and Looking for Ideas

As summer winds down we are looking ahead to the annual fall stewardship drive. More detailed planning will be discussed at our September 12 meeting.

The committee is exploring ideas for Sunday School participation with Teresa Neuenschwander. High school committee members, Kendra and Emma, think they could get a group together for a beam painting party (see p. 9). Stewardship includes taking good care of our church property, and this project could be an opportunity for adults to work with our young people.

What is your best way to come up with ideas? Brainstorm with a group and throw out anything and everything? Maybe you prefer to think carefully, perhaps with guidance from the Bible, before you share your thoughts with others.

Let's say you're looking for something in your house, your closet, your refrigerator, your garage, file drawer, or whatever. In my experience, to find what you're looking for, you often need to move something else out of the way. (A person in my household has heard these words!)

This concept might work with ideas, too. God is loving and generous to us every day and for all time. Let's look behind and beyond our standard ideas that stewardship is just about money or time given to the church.

-Submitted by Janet Koepp, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

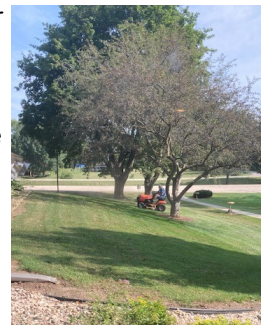
Out the Office Window



You might think there's not much going on at church, except on Sunday mornings. Well, volunteers like Michael Rehak and Gary Haberkorn were photographed busily keeping our church property maintained and looking great "behind the scenes."

If you have some time to give to Grace, please inquire through the office. There are always tasks that need doing and places that need sprucing.

Thank you Michael and Gary for sharing your time & talents!



September Grace Volunteers

September 5th- 9 a.m. Greeters/Ushers: Richard & Jean Scott Reader: Jean Scott
Communion Set-Up- Lydia Circle - Donna Punsel & Wendy Lehr

September 12th Greeters/Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Reader: Shawn Koebe
Communion Set Up- Tom & Chris Watson

September 19th-9 a.m. Greeters/Ushers: Tim & Evy Jeffers Reader: Tim Jeffers
Communion Set-Up - Lydia Circle - Claire Frey & Cindy Hartman

September 26th- 9 a.m. Greeters/Ushers: Keith & Barbara Johnston Reader: Pat Hall
Communion Set Up - Steve & Jenny Horgan-Geis

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	2		1 9 a.m. Ruth Circle at Grace	2	3	4
5 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	6 OFFICE closed in observance of Labor Day	7 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	8 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Orientation	9 9 a.m. Lydia Circle at Grace	10 School Bag donations due	11
12 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 a.m. First day of Sunday School! (First 15 min. parent meeting)	13 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m.	14 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab 7:30 p.m. Grace Council Mtg.	15 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation	16	17	18 LWR Boxcar Loading
19 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15-11:00 Sunday School	20 9:00 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m.	21 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	22 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation	23	24	25
26 27 Bishop Convocation 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15-11:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. First Communion Class with pastor	27 9:00 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m.	28 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	29 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation	30		



Welcome our newly baptized!

August 29, 2021

Wyatt Thomas Perry

Parents: Nicole & Nathan Perry

Grandparents; Mike & Amy Day

Sponsors: Rachel Day & Michael Perry

**Remembering
Bev
Nottestad**

**Burial Service:
August 7th
Rockdale
Cemetery**

Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander,
Christian Education Coordinator
teresa478@hotmail.com
608-658-7844



Hi Sunday School Families!

If you would like to sign your child up for Sunday School, please let me know by email teresa478@hotmail.com. If they were enrolled last year, they will automatically be enrolled this year. Any questions please let me know. Thank You!

Do you have friends who you'd like to invite to Sunday School? We'd love that! Share our Sunday School posts with them or invite them to join our Grace Sunday School Facebook page for more information!

September 12th– First Day of Sunday School! **WELCOME BACK!**

- ⇒ **Meet your teachers** and we will work on a class project
- ⇒ **There will be a short 15-minute parent meeting at 10:15**

September 19th , 26th– Regular Class

October 3rd, 10th– Regular Class

5th Grade



September 26th– 10:15-11:30

10:15-11:30 • 5th Grade First Communion Class (Parents and Students) with Pastor Jennifer

October 3rd– 10:15-11:45 • 5th Grade First Communion Class engraving chalices with Jill Jensen

October 10th– 10:15-11:45 • 5th Grade First Communion Class make Communion Bread with Jill Jensen

October 17th – 5th Grade First Communion during 9 a.m. service

Outreach & Social Justice News

The Outreach Committee will continue to collect school supplies for our school kits **until September 10th.**


Bags are available at church to pick up and fill with new items.

School kits provide a chance for kids to attend school whose parents would not be able to send them because they cannot supply them with what they need to attend school. Thank you for your generosity!



During September, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee will once again be focusing the attention of the Grace congregation and the Cambridge community on the important efforts of the Madison Area Jail Ministry and the Jail Tutoring Program, a ministry Grace has supported for many years. As a part of the worship services on September 5th and 12th, Outreach members will present information about MAJM. On **September 18th, from 10 am - 2 pm**, at the **Cambridge Piggly Wiggly**, the committee will host a **Brat and Burger Cookout** as a fundraiser to assist MAJM in the support of its pastoral and tutoring services at the Dane County Jail.

Two years ago the congregation and community made a similar cookout event a big success, with over \$1000 raised; the Outreach Committee hopes that the fundraising effort this year will be just as successful. **Join us, everyone, on the 18th: come and get a brat!** (We welcome volunteer workers for the cookout; let Bob Koepp know—at 608-417-9502—if you can help out.)

Lutherdale Fest With the sale of **325** donated quilts, this annual event raised a **record \$72,577** to support youth Lutherdale campers!
 **Thank you to our Grace Quilters for contributing 2 quilts.**

QUILT AUCTION



"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words" (Psalm 17:6).

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning, August 14. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are over-

whelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

Your gifts will support earthquake survivors in Haiti. Gifts to "Haiti Crisis" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake. (right click and hit Open Link)

Together, as church, we can be there for our neighbors in Haiti.



The Cambridge Food Pantry is seeing more new clients every week. Donations and volunteers are needed. Thank you to Grace Lutheran for your continued support!

Here is the current "wish list" for the food pantry.

Items in need at the pantry include:

- *Laundry detergent *Dish soap *Shampoo and Conditioner
- *Personal items (Depends, feminine hygiene products) *Baby wipes
- *Cookies/Snacks *Fruit Snacks *Crackers (Ritz,etc) *Spam *Egg Noodles

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated!

Please call or email Kerry if you have any questions at (608)423-8142 or

foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us **Thank you!**

Drivers Needed!

CART, Cambridge Area Resource Team, is looking for part time volunteer drivers to take residents to appointments a few times a month. Fort Atkinson & Dean Clinic East are the most popular rides. Must have a driver's license and insurance.

Please call 608-423-1423 for more information.

Glue Lam Painting Party!



High school Stewardship Committee members, Kendra and Emma, got a group together for a beam painting party!

Dale Klemp, Michael Rehak & Richard Scott helped them get organized!



Cards to Show We Care
Want to brighten someone's day? Send a card to show we care. Here are a few members who don't get out much:

OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken
309 Oriole Lane
Cambridge, WI 53523

Mary Ellen Smith
912 Monroe St., Apt. 11
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Louise Eastland
Nazareth Rehab Center
Room 321
814 Jackson St,
Stoughton, WI 53589

Char Kenseth
555 W. Madison #5
Cambridge, WI 53523



2021 Update

Koats for Kids

Koats for Kids is a community-wide effort to provide coats for families in Dane and Jefferson Counties. Since the program's start in 1986, Koats for Kids has collected, cleaned and distributed 334,935 coats to those of need in Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties.

This year's goal: 10,000 coats!



DONATE

Coat collection runs Sept. 14 through October 10.

Donate gently-used or new winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves and mittens.

Visit cacscw.org to learn how you can donate a winter jacket.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers make Koats for Kids a success!

Individuals can apply at our website. Groups should email Oliver Soler at olivers@cacscw.org.

Snacks, t-shirts, and name tags will be provided.



SPONSOR

New sponsors are always welcome.

Financial sponsors help keep our community support programs running year after year.

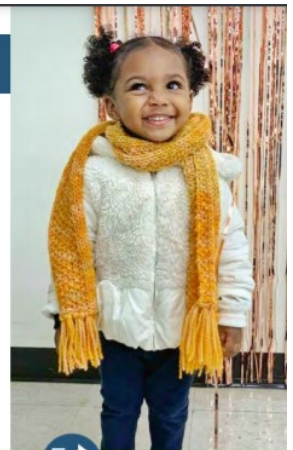
Visit cacscw.org to learn how you can contribute.



SHARE

Encourage others to get involved!

Post on social media, include Koats for Kids in your organization's newsletter, and encourage friends, family, and your colleagues to donate or volunteer.



Koats for Kids is a program to collect and provide warm coats for families in our area. This year, CART is a drop off center for coat donations.

Between **September 14 and October 10**, people in our community can drop off donations to Koats for Kids. The CART office will definitely be open on Mondays 11am-3pm and Wednesdays 1-5pm. The address is 223 Jefferson Street Suite #1; Cambridge, Wi 53523.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2021 Via Zoom from Home (*Minutes below aren't approved until next month's meeting*)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance. Steve Geis, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Jean Scott, Mary Behling, Jennifer Hellberg, Shawn Whitman, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Absent: Kari Jermain. Pastor offered a prayer to open the meeting.

Approval of June and July Minutes. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the June Minutes, Tim Neuenschwander seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved. Jean Scott moved to approve the July Special Meeting Minutes, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda. Jean Scott (Outreach) indicated that they have had a great response to collecting school bag items and will be continuing through September 10. They are looking at a possible fundraiser for jail ministry next. Jennifer Hellberg reported on the Stewardship meetings and particularly on the mobile giving plan. The intention is to provide a way for visitors to easily make donations, not to replace the general giving methods. They are recommending we use Venmo and would like to start slowly, advertising it in the bulletin and the newsletter and concentrating on events that have greater visitor attendance. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the mobile giving plan and Kris Tobias seconded the motion. Discussion was had and the motion was then passed unanimously. Kris Tobias (Tech) indicated that they have not had any meetings lately but have been working on tech issues and are seeing some improvements in the broadcasting. He noted that Cambridge is probably going to be updating its video equipment in the next year and that could require us to update our equipment, as well, in order to continue using the cable channel. He brought up some fundraising possibilities as it could cost around \$8,000. No decisions were made.

Property Report. Tommy Kosanda reported that the Richter maintenance contract is up for renewal and the fee is \$545. Mary Behling moved to renew the contract, Tim Neuenschwander seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed. Tommy then noted that the downstairs floors and carpeting are due for cleaning. He was advised to go ahead and get an estimate and, if it's within the budget, to proceed in August if possible. Lastly, he indicated that Michael Rehak, Dale Klemp, and Steve Geis have been working on the painting and that some others have offered to assist. Jennifer Hellberg will follow up with some of the youth members. Steve noted they will be moving on this quickly.

Treasurer's Report. Tim Neuenschwander provided his reports and summary. He noted that we were in the black for July due to an increase in general giving and a decrease in expenses in July. Total giving remained flat month-over-month and, without the PPP loan we would be operating in the red. However, we are pretty even with where we were this time of year in 2019, so no big concerns. He also reported that Hometown Bank is requiring that the church sign a General Business Security Agreement for the line of credit. That line is currently unsecured, and the bank's policy now is to require all the churches who have lines of credit with them to sign these. Grace has no balance on the LOC at this time but will sign the form as required. Jean Scott moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer reported that she has received many positive comments on the current sermon series. She has had a couple of meetings regarding the next youth trip and has reached out to East Koshkonong to see if they want to piggyback on our trip since they are in-between pastors and youth leaders right now. They would still need to do their own fundraising. She is looking forward to starting confirmation classes soon and expects up to 10 students.

New Business. Personnel matters. The Personnel committee has been working on job descriptions for all positions and Pastor Jennifer presented their proposal for the Administrative Assistant position. It provides for less hours than we have used in the past and tries to better cover the varied duties called for in this position than the old description does. After some discussion, Tim Neuenschwander moved to approve the job description, Ann Engelstad seconded and motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Future Sabbatical. Pastor Jennifer presented the Synod's statement on Sabbaticals for Pastors. In general, many congregations offer their pastors a sabbatical after 5-7 years of service, usually a 3-month period for renewal, study, and re-energizing. The intent is to avoid pastor burn-out and allow for re-energization of the pastor and the congregation together. Jennifer indicated she has been here almost 5 years now and would be thinking about this probably in the summer of 2023 if possible, so she'd like us to start thinking about this. We would need to consider a budget, a plan for a pastor during that time, a plan for the sabbatical, etc. No action was taken.

Synod webinar questions. The Synod sent questions to each Council for their upcoming seminar. We brainstormed some responses and Steve will provide them to the Synod.

Old Business. Music Director Update. The organist candidate came back for a second trial run last Sunday and did a good job. He seems to want to be involved with the community and Personnel would like to move forward. Accordingly, they are running a background check and will then make an offer.

Return to worship planning. Much discussion was held and it was agreed not to return to a mask mandate yet. However, the decision was made to change the sign to say that masks are strongly encouraged, especially during singing, and it was agreed that if Dane County imposes a mask mandate, we will pivot to that as well.

Ramp for community member. No one has heard anything more on this recently. Pastor Jennifer will ask Virginia if she requested a grant and if there has been any action on this issue.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded, and was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be September 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Tommy Kosanda will provide devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer. -Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary

Grace's Annual Picnic- August 8th

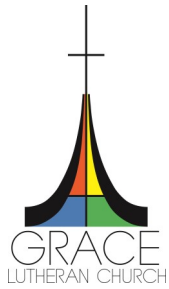


Water balloon fun was a highlight of this summer's picnic, and, of course, the food was great!



Thank you to the Hospitality Committee and all those who helped set up and clean up!





Grace Lutheran Church
E.L.C.A.
501 Skogen Road
Cambridge, WI 53523

Place
stamp
here

Place address sticker here;
not any higher

Gathering in grace, Growing in faith, Serving in love.

www.gracelutherancambridge.org

"Like Us" on Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA Cambridge, WI

Please note:
We broadcast
on Channel 987

Staff & Council Contacts

<u>Pastor:</u>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Virginia Becker	Church Office: (608) 423-3135	Cell: (623) 680-3696	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		Cell: (847) 826-0131	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Organist:</u>	Kenneth Hoversten			kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		Cell: (608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>President :</u>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President</u>	Kris Tobias	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mary Behling	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott	
<u>Education:</u>	Amanda Kosanda	
<u>Stewardship</u>	Jennifer Hellberg	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Kari Jermain	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Shawn Whitman	
<u>Worship:</u>	Ann Engelstad	
<u>Property:</u>	Tom Kosanda	