

Let's Have A Sunny Summer Season!

We are just beginning the Pentecost season (which lasts well into the Fall) and this edition focuses on what we know at this moment; from Holy Trinity Sunday through the end of Summer. Sunday worship will have ongoing opportunities to be present in the Sanctuary!

+ WORSHIP MATTERS CALENDAR +

Summer Worship - Sundays 8:30 & 10:00am (the later service will be live-streamed at Bethany-Denver.org/worship)

In June we are in the early days of the season of Pentecost.

On July 11 join in a special All-Star Worship and Summer Picnic. With the MLB All-Star game will be held at Coors Field, we will kick off the Bethany festivities with a *Biblical All-Star team*. Voting will take place in June for your favorite Prophet, King, Disciple, Judge, Gospel writer and Utility Player from the Bible.

August will bring a worship series on God's Mercy. We will use the Dakota Road worship setting. August will also be Favorite Hymns Month. This summer you will have an opportunity to suggest a hymn to be sung, along with a commentary about why it's your favorite. We'll also have themed dress up days and a blessing for Educators.

September 5 will be Take-a-Chance Sunday with Pastor Gary and Pastor Nate delivering a dialog sermon extemporaneously.

September 12 - "Homecoming" (aka Rally Day) Ministry Fair

Summer Worship Servants

As we navigate having an open Sanctuary this Summer, we anticipate some aspects of our Sunday morning life will be new. You are encouraged to sign up to be a Worship Servant: Greeter, Usher, etc. As needs expand notices will come in the emails sent to the people of Bethany. A big thank you to all who have been a part of assisting in Bethany opening up the Sanctuary this Spring.

July 11 All-Star Summer Picnic

Join your Bethany family for a Summer picnic on campus. After the 10:00am worship we will gather for hot-dogs, chips and crackerjacks. And, with a little luck, the return of the Bethany All-Star band. Look for details about assisting in the email blasts and on the web site.



Facility Re-Opening Update

The Bethany campus will continue to remain closed to community groups to ensure the health and safety of the Bethany Early Childhood Center and church staff. There will be some limited on-campus opportunities soon for church groups, which will require scheduling. We may be able to open to some groups after July 4th, but stay tuned! Call the office (Mon-Fri: 10am - 2pm) for more info at 303.758.2820.

"God Shatters Expectations"

As we turn towards the summer, my mind drifts to memories at age 16 of my time at summer camp in western New York. I still remember the opening night devotional that the camp counselor led for my cabin. He walked us into the woods and gave each of us paper and pen. We were asked to write our expectations for the week; what we were hoping for, what we thought would happen, what we wanted to get out of the week and then we placed them all in one glass bottle. After all the "expectations" had been placed in the bottle, our counselor took it, walked a few paces away from the group, picked up a rock and smashed the bottle into pieces!

He explained: "All of us have a lot of expectations about this week. We all expect this week at camp to be a certain way, or for certain things to happen, but we need to remember that God is in the business of shattering our expectations."

Since the pandemic began, life has been filled with a lot that did not work out the way we might have hoped, and yet God has remained faithful. As difficult as these past 15 months have been, I am amazed by the ways that God has guided and held our church together. I believe that God is up to something special at Bethany and so I am looking towards the future with a hopeful eye and with excitement for the ways that God will shatter our expectations.

-Pastor Nate

WORSHIP & EXECUTIVE

Worship at Bethany takes many forms and is essential for our faith's expression and growth. We warmly welcome you to join in serving and share in this fellowship together.

The Bethany Masked Singers

The date was March 15, 2020. It was the first Sunday that Bethany suspended public worship in response to COVID-19. The Sounds of Praise choir sang for worship that morning and it was very emotional singing to empty pews not knowing when we could gather as a community again. We also didn't know that it would be our last time singing together un-muffled and mask-free. Singing in choir while social distancing and wearing masks has definitely been a challenge this past year. Triple-layered singer masks solved the problem of masks slipping down, but they also made it triple-hard to project clearly and breathe deeply. So even though the "The Masked Singer" on tv is fun to watch, we would prefer not to renew "The Bethany Masked Singers" next season. Instead we are hoping to soon sing mask-free with joyful smiles for all to see! - {S.O.P.}

BENEVOLENCE TEAM - SECOND QUARTER 2021

The Benevolence Team met in April to discuss the Quarterly disbursements. We are so grateful to our generous congregation to help us support a variety of local charities!

The BMT Disbursements in April are as follows:

\$6,500 - Lutheran Family Services

\$1,000 - Urban Servant Corps

\$2,500 - Maria Droste Counseling Center

\$1,500 - IFCS, There With Care & Inner City Health (from Food & Diaper Drive on Mar. 7)

Our charity highlight for this quarter is Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver. Since 1979, HFH has been helping families realize their dream of homeownership. These families help build their own homes alongside volunteers and get to pay an affordable mortgage. Besides monetary donations, there are several ways to help: volunteer on a job site (no experience necessary!), volunteer/donate items/shop at their *ReStores (4 locations locally)*. For the complete story of this amazing organization, go to habitatmetrodenver.org.

Bethany to Host a 2-year Pastoral Intern, Beginning August 15

Trinity Lutheran Seminary contacted Pastor Gary with a request for Bethany to host an intern beginning this summer. While this had not been in our initial planning, we had great discussion at both Ministry Council and Executive Council. It was decided that Bethany is a congregation that has served the greater church well by hosting interns, and that we have received untold blessings in this process as well. As we considered budget/time factors it was decided that this is the right move forward for Bethany as a congregation. So, Intern **Rita Argus** will be joining Bethany on Sunday, August 15!

Annual Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church will be held **June 13, 2021, at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary**. The meeting will be live-streamed; however, active participation in the meeting is limited to attendees present in the Sanctuary. Note that the Annual Meeting of the Bethany Foundation will be held concurrently with the congregational meeting.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, a **Town Hall will be held on June 6 immediately following the 10:00am worship service**.

The congregation's annual budget and the Foundation's proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws will be the main topics. We will also be voting for elected lay leadership. Questions will be taken from attendees in the Sanctuary as well as those attending via the live-stream.

Learn More About the Bethany Foundation - Before the Town Hall

The Foundation gives scholarships to congregation students studying at Lutheran colleges and seminaries. Additionally, we award grants to organizations, including Bethany Lutheran Church. The Foundation has over one million dollars in the endowment and gives out about \$55,000 per year in scholarships and grants.

A letter detailing the recommended changes to the Articles and By-Laws was sent in the email blasts. For questions, contact the office at 303.758.2820 or the Chair of the Foundation, Carol Haller, at 303.419.1036.

Members of the Foundation board will be present at the Town Hall on June 6 to answer any questions about recommended changes. The Bethany Foundation will have its meeting concurrently with the Annual Congregation Meeting.



Are you or a family member attending College or Seminary this next year?

If so, the Bethany Foundation is here to help! The foundation offers scholarships to students who attend Lutheran Colleges (or Christian colleges in full communion with the ELCA) as well as Lutheran Seminaries. As an extra incentive, most Lutheran colleges offer \$500 - \$1,000 in matching funds. Applications can be found on the Foundation page of our website. Once filled out, they should be emailed to blc4500@gmail.com or mailed to the church office.

Our deadline has been extended to June 15 this year.

We're excited to hear from you!

Go to bethany-denver.org/foundation-page/.

Congregation Life Events | 2021

YTD (Apr.1 - May 31)

Baptisms

- Apr. 18 - Caroline Ida Unertl
- May 2 - Vernon Townes Huber
- May 9 - Quinn Ethan Steckler
- May 16 - Walker Scott Overton
- May 30 - Vance Lee Henderson

Funerals

- Apr. 10 - Bill Schuster
- Apr. 11 - Mary Krueger
- May 1 - Joni Grundman
- May 15 - Leo Rostermundt
- May 13 - Arla Haley
- May 23 - Rick Will



The Hospitality Ministry at Bethany equips and helps each of us find ways that we can gather together in Christian fellowship. Join one of the meetup groups for dinners, men's, women's, seniors or welcome team groups and continue to make Bethany hospitable and welcoming for all worshippers.

HOSPITALITY

— WELLNESS CORNER —

Alzheimer's Awareness

On summer solstice, June 20, the Alzheimer's association is hosting a fundraiser to help fight this disease as June is recognized as the Alzheimer's & Brain awareness month.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. It is a progressive disease that affects the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language. Some of the early warning signs include getting lost in a familiar place, difficulty completing familiar tasks, and changes in mood or personality.

To best support those you know who are living with Alzheimer's, learn as much as you can about the disease. Letters and phone calls mean a lot as well as offering a listening ear. Be patient and encourage interaction with the person affected. Providing a meal, a reprieve for the caregiver or running an errand is often welcomed. Alzheimer's can be so isolating so staying in community is essential.

For more info, go to www.alz.org.

- Janet Mortinsen, Director of Pastoral Care

SAVE THE DATE !! September 12 - For "Homecoming" (aka Rally Day)

Thanks for your feedback from the Fall Planning survey! We have a tentative plan for this special congregational day to celebrate with our Bethany family, as our program year begins. There will be activities, community, information, worship, and exciting things for the coming year! Be on the lookout for more details in the weekly email blasts (and Fall Beacon) as we're able to finalize plans in the coming summer months.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

Where can you plug in? Here's a list of groups that are currently meeting!

Centering Prayer Group

Centering Prayer is an ancient form of Christian meditation and prayer. The Centering Prayer group meets for an hour-long session each week that includes time for meditation, contemplation, silent prayer and a book study.

Currently meeting on Zoom at 6:00pm on Thursdays. Contact Karen Witt (karenwi33@gmail.com) for more details.

God's Word for the Week

Weekly Bible Study of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday

Held on Zoom at 9:00am every Monday (except July 5)

Contact: Sarah Hulslander (sarah@bethany-denver.org) for info.

Saturday Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study group that meets weekly for scripture study and prayer.

Meets on Zoom on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Scott Zimmerman (scottzimmerman@comcast.net) for more details.

Thursday Men's Fellowship Gathering

A Men's group that meets weekly for fellowship and prayer.

Meets on Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Justin March (phinsphan71@comcast.net) for more details.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Ministry Team at Bethany evaluates opportunities to assist a wide variety of organizations that help people in need. Throughout the year, we coordinate service projects that support both our local partners as well as the global community. Please join in the work of spreading God's grace!

DELORES PROJECT - Helps Homeless Women

This organization is requesting coffee! As it happens, Global Mission's fair trade coffee is planning to make another order soon, so if you'd like to purchase coffee to donate to the Delores Project it will help out both organizations! Please email Sarah **before May 31** at Sarah@Bethany-Denver.org. Cost is \$8/bag and you can pay via cash, check or online: use the give button at the top of the Bethany website and select Global Mission coffee from the fund dropdown.

Bethany will host a dinner for *Delores* on June 12 @ 5:30pm.

By providing shelter, housing and supportive services, The Delores Project works alongside individuals as they overcome challenges. Each year, they serve nearly 450 individuals experiencing barriers to housing and provide 20,000 nights of shelter through the Emergency and Extended Stay Shelter programs. Please sign up to help prepare the meal or serve it for 40 individuals at signupschedule.com/bethany.

The address will be provided to those who sign up to serve. Others who sign up to cook can drop off their food at the church on Friday, June 11 between 10:00am - 5:00pm. Please contact Maren Diercks with any questions at 720.238.2333.



Spring Planting - Volunteers Needed

5-7 volunteers are needed for weeding, mulching and planting at the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorders located at 6911 S. Yosemite on **Saturday, June 5 @ 9:00-11:00am**. Flowers, vegetables and herbs are used by STAR in therapy sessions with their clients. Contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com or 303.699.1629 with questions. To volunteer, go to signupschedule.com/bethany.

GMMT is Supporting a new ELCA Mission in Sudan
 Reconciliation Lutheran Church models reconciliation between warring tribes, teaches the love of God, & computer skills too. The staff at the new hospital started by Dr. Mark Jacobsen (whom Bethany also has supported at his mission in Tanzania) have successfully performed corrective surgeries on many young women who were married in early adolescence, had babies, and sustained reproductive damage which cause them to be banned from their communities. The surgical repairs, done by Dr. Jacobsen and team, allow them to be reintegrated into their families & communities. Sudanese children have some of the highest childhood death rates in the world, but at this hospital children are vaccinated and cared for. Bethany's Global Mission Ministry team is blessed to be able to support all of this healing work.



Habitat Metro Denver & Holy Hammers Home Build - 52nd & Federal - Volunteers Needed

Construction volunteers are needed on **June 5 & 18, and July 17**. Must be at least 16 years old. Please sign up at least 2 weeks in advance at holyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com. Contact Kevin Dempsey at 303.699.1629 for any questions.

Note: A new date has been added on **Friday, June 25** when 4 volunteers are needed for critical repair work at a home in the Globeville neighborhood in Denver.



OUTREACH

Ready, Set, School!

Integrated Family Community Services

In July, Outreach Ministry will highlight this annual program to sponsor a child through *Ready, Set, School* 2021 online shopping donations.

Bethany Lutheran Church and community partner, IFCS provide low-income families with new backpacks, school supplies, gift cards and groceries.

Stay tuned for more details to come in the weekly email blast and the Outreach page of Bethany's website: Bethany-Denver.org.

Thank you for considering helping this wonderful cause and organization!



photo courtesy of IFCS website



Meal Deliveries Happening Now & Annual Cereal Drive in July

Project Angel Heart, one of Bethany's Ministry Partners, provides medically tailored meals to those in the community with life-threatening illnesses. Would you like to learn more about Project Angel Heart by participating in a one-time food delivery? If so, please contact Jean Scott at stlax@comcast.net or by phone 303.519.7061.

On July 17, 3 teams of 2 people from Bethany will meet at Project Angel Heart at 12:30pm to pick up meals for delivery between 1:00-3:00pm that afternoon. In order to participate, you will need to attend a virtual training/orientation at your convenience.

Please contact Jean by July 6th for further details in order to participate in this service opportunity! For more info about this ministry partner, visit ProjectAngelHeart.org.

Project Angel Heart's Cereal Drive for 2021 will take place July 1 - 31. It's virtual again – saving you a trip to the grocery store! Watch the weekly emails for more info!

Save the Date - Sunday, September 5

Bethany's 2nd Annual Labor Day
Food /Diaper/Warm Clothing Drive
to Benefit our Partner Organizations



SAVE THE DATE: September 1 - Join in the Maria Droste Counseling Center Charity Golf Tournament

Support mental health in Colorado!

Maria Droste Counseling Center is partnering with Fossil Trace Golf Club (Golden, CO), voted a 4 ½ Star Place to Play in America by Golf Digest and the premier golf destination in Colorado, for their 9th Annual Golf Tournament.

With every dollar raised at their charity golf tournament, you're supporting access to quality mental health care, regardless of a client's ability to pay!

Register now through July 31 during their early bird sale to save for your 2021 golf four person team! Sponsorships are also available. For more info or to sponsor, please go to mariadroste.org/community-engagement/charity-golf-tournament-denver



FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation Ministry Team at Bethany supports a caring, committed and Christ-centered community for all ages. We work with BECC, Confirmation, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Youth Gatherings, Cross Generational Faith, special worship services and creating events that foster the growth and kinship of our Bethany family!



Podcast – The Summer of Interviews

If you haven't been listening to Bethany's *Together 4 Good* podcast, now is the time to begin! Over the summer, Pastor Nate will be posting a series of interviews with interesting people. These interviews will be with people from a variety of areas of experience and expertise, including Bethany members and staff! While the topics will vary, every episode will help provide a new angle for thinking about your life of faith.

You can find the podcast on the Bethany website on the Media page, or go to anchor.fm/bethanydenver, or search "together 4 good" wherever you listen to podcasts.

Devotional Resources

Whether you are spending your summer traveling or sticking closer to home, it's nice to have reminders of God's love and grace in your life. That's why the Bethany devotional website exists! No matter where you are, you can find blog posts, recordings of sermons, pictures, and devotionals on the Bethany devotional website. Just click on the Tumblr icon on the media page of Bethany-Denver.org to peruse our 500+ posts. New content is added daily!



Growth Groups

Our Spring Semester of Growth Groups is drawing to a close and Pastor Nate wants to give a big thank you to all those who led and participated in this new ministry throughout the 2020-21 program year! In total we offered 27 different Growth Groups with over 150 participants across these three semesters.

Start dreaming up your Growth Group for the fall! We would love to see new leaders and new topics.

This summer, join in "**God's Word for the Week**" Bible study every Monday at 9:00am (MT) on Zoom thru June 28. We'll study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday worship. Beginning July 12, you can join on Zoom or on campus. Join whenever you're able but note that we're NOT MEETING July 5! Zoom.us/join Meeting Id: 764 238 526 Password: 917976

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Camps!!

Rainbow Trail DAY CAMP/VBS *June 29 – July 2*

Day Camp is a fun-filled week of Bible Study, Arts & Crafts, Recreation, Music and lots & lots of fun! Day Camp is for Preschool – 5th Grade and will meet Monday – Friday, June 28 – July 2. Preschool 9:00 – 11:30 am., Kindergarten – 5th grade 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. You can find the registration form on our website – www.bethany-denver.org or contact Gayle Newell at gayle@bethany-denver.org or 303-758-2820. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting week! Registrations must be in no later then June 20! NO EXCEPTIONS - Thank You For Your Understanding!



ART CAMP

Do your children like arts and crafts? Do they love creating? Sign them up to have fun here at Bethany **July 19 – 23, 9:00am – 12:00pm**. Cost will be \$10 per day and the children can attend as many days as you would like to sign them up for. Get this on your calendar for your children to have fun and for you to have a few of hours to yourself. Contact Gayle for registration info, at Gayle@bethany-denver.org. or 303.758.2820.

Bethany Family Camp @ Sky Ranch! - 4th of July Week | July 4-9

Come to an amazing slice of God's good creation full of all the fun of camp - hiking, worship, games, Bible Study, and more - for ALL ages! Go to skyranchcolorado.org for info on projects, places to stay and schedule your trip.

Bryan Jaster is leading family camp with Sky Ranch counselors and is excited for adventures we get to have together. Please connect with Bryan@Bethany-Denver.org for any questions.

Youth Gathering—SAVE THE DATE!

We will join 30,000 high school youth and adults in Minneapolis, Minnesota for "BOUNDLESS - God Beyond Measure" for the ELCA youth gathering!

It will be **July 24-28, 2022** and is for all youth who will be in grades 8-12 within school year of 2021-2022.

First info date: Sunday August 15 @ 11:00am.

We are already looking for caring, trusting and adventurous adults for a significant week in the lives of our youth. For more info, please connect with Bryan Jaster at Bryan@Bethany-Denver.org. More details coming - for now, see videos, stories and more at www.elca.org/gathering.

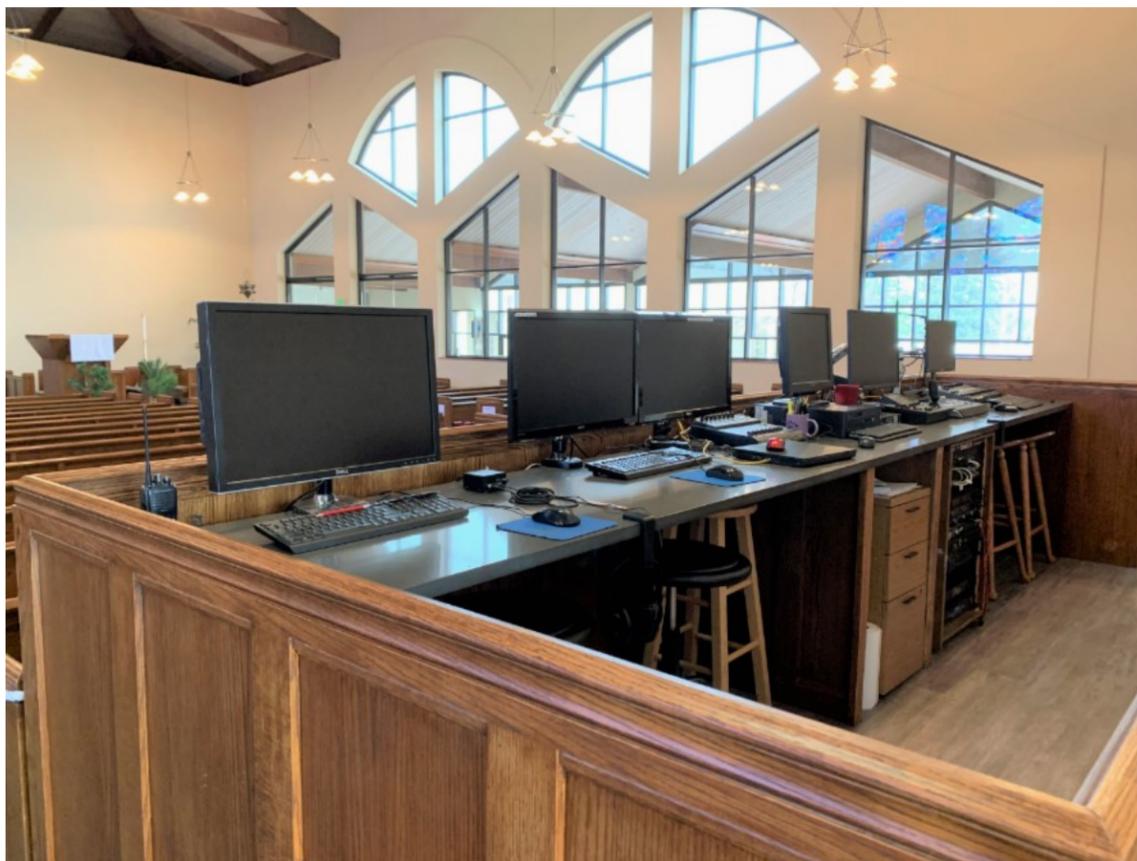


Facilities Corner

Audio Video Upgrades: If you have not seen the new sound booth, just inside the middle entrance doors to the Sanctuary, make sure you stop by and have a look.

The sound team thanks everyone for their new work space — no more climbing over each other to do the job! The quartz counter top and flooring are all donated by the builder, Earth Saving Solutions. They made a trim mold to blend in and the craftsmanship is so close to the surrounding pews it's as if it was always there.

Come by and see the next time you're at Bethany for worship!



As we move forward towards more occasions to be on-campus, there will likely be more emphasis placed on grounds work so please stay tuned for some opportunities to get involved - your help is always greatly appreciated!

From the Editor - Please note the following:

If we receive many more events for Summer, we may put out a supplemental...otherwise, the next edition of the Beacon newsletter will be for Autumn and will cover September - Thanksgiving.

As a kindly reminder, I've created a simple submission form on the website so you will no longer email me your articles. Please find the form on the Media tab and use the Beacon button to submit your articles/photos (next deadline; TBD). The website will be refreshed regularly to keep you informed of seasonal updates and submission deadlines. We will also put the next publications' dates in our email blasts.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed content for this issue! - Leo

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Team

- Gary Sandberg
Lead Pastor
- Nate Preisinger
Pastor
- Janet Mortinsen
Director of Pastoral Care

Administration

- Sarah Hulslander
Executive Assistant/Missional Minister
- Tim Caldwell
Senior Ministries Coordinator
- Laura Eaton-Ortega
Director of Communications
- Shelley Hook
Accounting Supervisor
- Mike Johnson
Technology Supervisor
- Tom Maes & Josh Patillo
Custodians
- Laura Romig
Director of Facilities and Technology
- Melissa Russ
Gifts Processor

Faith Formation

- Bryan Jaster
Director of Youth Ministries
- Gayle Newell
Director of Children's Ministries

Music

- Rick Seaton
Director of Music and Organist
- Dr. James Kim
Chancel Choir Director
- Alex Rodasti
Children's Handbell Choir Director
- Zach Rodasti
Cherub Choir Director
- Laura Tribby
Children & Youth Choirs Director
- Paula Wills
Creative Arts & Dir. Sounds of Praise

Bethany Early Childhood Center

- Vicki Hare
Director

- Congregation Council -

Executive Council

- Laura Weber-Meyers (President)
- Tim Eklund (President Elect)
- Jack Lindsey (Immediate Past Pres.)
- Arlis Adolf (Vice President - Personnel)
- Mary Brook (Treasurer)
- Judi Burchfield (Secretary)

Ministry Council

- Jim Katschke, Matthew Kersten-Gray
(Hospitality)
- Dave Craven, Kristin Hamilton
(Faith Formation)
- Marie Friedemann, Cathy Nixon
(Outreach)
- Sally Lieb, Kathy Singh
(Worship)