

“Homecoming” New Fall Programming!

We are well into the Pentecost season, which carries far into the fall. This edition focuses on what we know at this moment; from the end of Summer through Thanksgiving. Exciting new programming for fall kicks of the year with plenty of places for anyone to plug in!

Homecoming - Sunday, September 12!

As our Fall Program Year kicks-off, we invite you to come “home” to Bethany. Our fall worship schedule begins that day with the launch of Children’s Church (during our 10:00am worship service) and the start of Bethany Community Time. That day, as part of the homecoming celebration, we will have a full Carnival with games, food, and fellowship along with a ton of information about what to expect at Bethany this fall. There’s a place for everyone to plug in!

8:30am > Traditional Worship | 10:00am > Creative Worship

11:00am > Bethany Community Time

11-11:15am Cherub Choir (For ages 3-6)

Nursery care is available all morning

CHILDREN’S CHURCH starts on September 12 during our 10:00am Creative Service

Here's how it works:

- * Children start in the Sanctuary with you.
- * After the Children's Sermon, our High Schoolers & Caring Adults will lead those who wish to the Great Hall for activities which connect with the scripture and theme of the day.
- * Afterwards, they will rejoin you in the Sanctuary for the remainder of worship.

Every Sunday, Bethany’s **COMMUNITY TIME** gives us a chance to practice our faith together.

At 11:00am folks of all ages will gather on-campus; for service projects, some education, some feast days, and a whole lot of fun!

We are still fine tuning the specifics so stay tuned to the website and email blast for more details to come!

The Bethany Staff and Elected Leadership is carefully monitoring health and safety guidelines with the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19. There may be situations where protocols are changed with little notice resulting in the cancellation of some events. We will always do our best to communicate as quickly as possible with groups effected. Bethany is currently sending two emails each week with ministry events. This is our most effective tool for communicating any updates. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, contact Sarah@Bethany-Denver.org.

MEET OUR NEW PASTORAL INTERN

Hello! My name is Rita Argus, your friendly neighborhood intern. I grew up on a hobby farm in Southeast Wisconsin raising goats and rabbits and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I majored in Biological Systems Engineering. After graduating, I served as a Sustainable Agriculture Extension Agent with Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa. Upon my return, I felt a call to ministry (had a Jonah moment and ran the opposite direction) but soon found myself moving to Columbus, Ohio to start studying at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. I am excited to have made another big move and continue growing in my call with you all at Bethany! Thank you for the warm welcome! I really appreciate all of the cards, gift cards, and other gifts that have been sent to me the last few weeks. They have made me feel so welcome and blessed to be here.



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.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!!!

Attention, musicians young and old: Bethany music groups are back in session! There are ensembles for all ages and levels of experience, and all are welcome.

Our directors and their contact info are as follows:

Chancel Choir	Dr. James Kim	James@bethany-denver.org
Sounds of Praise (Adult contemporary ensemble)	Paula Wills	Paula@bethany-denver.org
Youth Choirs	Laura Tribby	LauraT@bethany-denver.org
Carillons (adult handbell ensemble)	Nolan Oltjenbruns	Nolan@bethany-denver.org
Youth Handbells	Alex Rodasti	Alex@bethany-denver.org
Cherub Choir (preschoolers)	Zach Rodasti	Zach@bethany-denver.org

If you or your child is interested in participating, please contact your director right away. We are looking forward to an exciting year of music making together with our new enhanced Sunday morning and Wednesday evening schedules. Music groups are a great way to get involved, strengthen our faith, and contribute to the life of the church, and we hope to see you soon at rehearsals!

Wednesday Nights at Bethany

4:30-6:00	<i>Soul Schopp Study Hall</i> (homework help, conversation, games, and snacks)	
4:30-7:00	Nursery staffed for children ages 0-4 (open for drop-off)	
4:30-5:00	Alpha Ringers (Children Bell Choir 1st-5th)	Alex@bethany-denver.org
5:00-5:45	ReBELLion (Youth Bell Choir 6-12th)	Alex@bethany-denver.org
5:10-5:40	Jubilation (Choir 1st-5th)	LauraT@bethany-denver.org
5:50-6:20	Celebration (Choir 6-12 grades)	LauraT@bethany-denver.org
5:00-7:15	<i>Refuel and Refresh</i> A home-cooked meal will be available in the Fellowship Hall	
6:00-6:15	<i>Joyful Jammin'</i> (Youth led, camp inspired worship for all!)	
6:20-7:05	<i>Camp Bethany</i> (Faith Education for Preschool-1st grade & 2nd-5th grade)	Gayle@bethany-denver.org
	<i>Confirmation Large Group</i> (Grades 6-8)	Bryan@bethany-denver.org
	<i>Reconnecting with the Bible</i> (Adult Bible Studies)	Nate@bethany-denver.org
7:07pm	Carillon Ringers & Adult Choirs	Rick@bethany-denver.org
	High School Youth Ministry	Bryan@bethany-denver.org
	Confirmation Small Groups	Bryan@bethany-denver.org
	Faithful Parenting	Bryan@bethany-denver.org
7:15-7:35	Evening Prayer in the Bethany Chapel	

[Introducing Passport to Discipleship](#)

Bethany is a church that journeys together in faith.

Children and Adults are invited to chronicle their journey of faith using *The Passport to Discipleship*.

Join in Wednesdays as we travel throughout Bethany!

Earn stamps by attending classes, music groups, story times and more!

Let us cook a nice meal for you so you can enjoy time with new and old friends, as we all grow in faith together Wednesday evenings this fall!

Congregation Life Events | 2021

YTD (June - September)

Baptisms

- 6/13 - Savannah Marie Geordan
- 6/20 - Ruby Beth Rogers
- 7/4 - Sawyer Christian Michalec
- 7/18 - Lana Marie Serlet
- 7/18 - Steele Gilmore Vincent
- 8/22 - Elise Ruth Chanin



Funerals

- 6/3 - Judy Houchens
- 6/10 - Gladys Fischer
- 6/28 - Ray Fix
- 7/18 - Marilyn Guiver
- 7/30 - Claire Tulloh
- 8/15 - Kay Slocum
- 8/20 - Allison Osminer
- 8/20 - Catherine Hanstein
- 9/17 - Liz Tokheim

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 —

Cholesterol Awareness

September is cholesterol awareness month. Certainly, age and genetics play a role in cholesterol levels but there are some steps to be taken to lower cholesterol.

Here are some facts about cholesterol:

1. High cholesterol does not have symptoms.
2. More than 35 million Americans have cholesterol high enough to put them at risk for heart disease.
3. The National Cholesterol Education Program suggests people over 20 years old get their cholesterol checked every five years.
4. Lifestyle changes such as regular exercise, a diet low in fat and high in fiber, and not smoking can help lower cholesterol.
5. Most people don't need added cholesterol from their diet, their bodies make enough on their own.

For more info, go to www.cdc.gov/cholesterol/materials_for_patients.htm

- Janet Mortinsen, Director of Pastoral Care

Bethany Senior Ministries

XYZ & Young at Heart will combine this fall to enhance our ministries to our seniors. The first Tuesdays of each month you are invited to join in fellowship, conversation, and friendly games of bridge or hand and foot. A brief worship service is held at 11:30 in the Chapel. Lunch is served at 12 noon.

On the fourth Tuesday of the month we will gather at 11:30 for conversation and a short devotion. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. A program will follow.

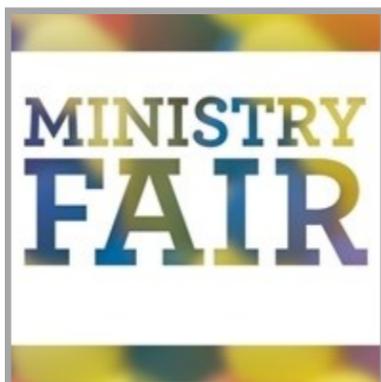
We request a donation of \$7 per lunch so that we can provide a quality meal prepared by Chef Deni.

Our first Tuesday gathering will be on Tuesday, September 14.

Bethany is seeking at Senior Ministries Coordinator to guide our Tuesday Senior Ministry gatherings. We are also looking to expand our offerings to seniors with local events and trips for those who have time open in their day schedule. These could be separate positions, and could also be shared by a team of people. Interested persons should contact Pastor Gary, Gary@Bethany-Denver.org.

this is motherhood

MOPS is back at Bethany Lutheran! If you are a Mother of a Preschooler (infant through kindergarten), we want you in our tribe! We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, with the exception of September. Our first meeting will be September 8th at 9:00am in the Great Hall. Please contact bethanylutheranmops@gmail.com to join the motherhood!



The congregation is invited to attend the **Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 19** during the 11:00am *Community Time*. Please join in so you can learn about all of the exciting opportunities to get involved with in our ministry teams at Bethany; Worship, Hospitality, Outreach, Faith Formation & Executive. There's a place for everyone!

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 & Global Exchange Coffee Sales by Aug 31

Looking for a way to brighten the day of people experiencing homelessness? The Delores Project partners with individuals experiencing barriers to housing by providing safe, reliable shelter and housing coupled with onsite services as they move towards stability. Helping them start their day with fair trade coffee would be a nice way to show care and support. Please consider donating a bag of coffee by visiting the Bethany website, use the Give button, from the fund drop down select Delores Project Coffee-\$8/bag, and enter the amount based upon the number of bags ordered. Donations are tax deductible and the coffee will be delivered directly to The Delores Project. You can also write a check made payable to Bethany Lutheran Church, put "Delores Project Coffee" in the memo line, and deliver to the Church office by Tuesday, August 31. Contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com with questions.

Maria Droste Counseling Center Annual Charity Golf Tournament



Support an outreach partner on **September 1, 2021** @ 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at Fossil Trace Golf Club. Head out to the greens with your friends and colleagues to ensure all Coloradans have access to high-quality mental health counseling! Play as a golf foursome or consider sponsoring the event to make a greater impact!

Proceeds support low/no cost mental healthcare for Coloradans who could not otherwise afford it. Maria Droste believes in mental health, regardless of wealth.

Maria Droste Golf Tournament also needs volunteers! with shifts 7-10am, 10am-1pm and 1-4pm. Interested, email emma_garcia-miller@mariadroste.org.

Food & Diaper Drive – Sunday, September 5

for Metro Caring, Integrated Family Community Services, Inner City Health Center, & There With Care.

Items collected should be brought to Bethany before and between services on Sunday, September 5th and placed in the South Portico entryway or on the Altar. A Drive-thru with volunteers will also be available between 11:00am - 1:00pm at the South Portico for you to deliver your donations. Since this is a holiday weekend, you can also drop off your items at the Church Office beginning Sunday, August 29.

Recommended Food Items

Beans, canned or dry Tuna or chicken (canned, in water)
Brown, white or long-grain rice Pasta
Quinoa
Pasta sauces
Peanut butter (or other nut butters)
Cereal, whole grain and low sugar
Oatmeal (unsweetened)
Crackers
Fruit, canned (in juice, not in light or heavy syrup)
Milk or milk substitutes (shelf-stable)
Vegetables, canned (no or low sodium)
Olive and canola oil
Tomatoes, canned (no or low sodium)
Honey or agave
Corn, canned (low sodium)

Nuts and seeds
Soups, canned (low sodium)
Dried fruits, unsweetened
Chicken/beef/vegetable stock and broth
Applesauce, unsweetened
Stews and chili, canned (low sodium)
Popcorn kernels (not microwavable)
Culturally relevant foods (lentils, naan, tortillas)
Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and other personal hygiene items)

Recommended Diaper, Etc. Items

Diapers - Newborn and Preemie, 2-3 T boys, 3-4 T girls and boys, Size 4 & 6 girls & boys, Size 5 boys
Pull-ups in any size
Baby Wipes
Please, **No** Baby Food or Formula.



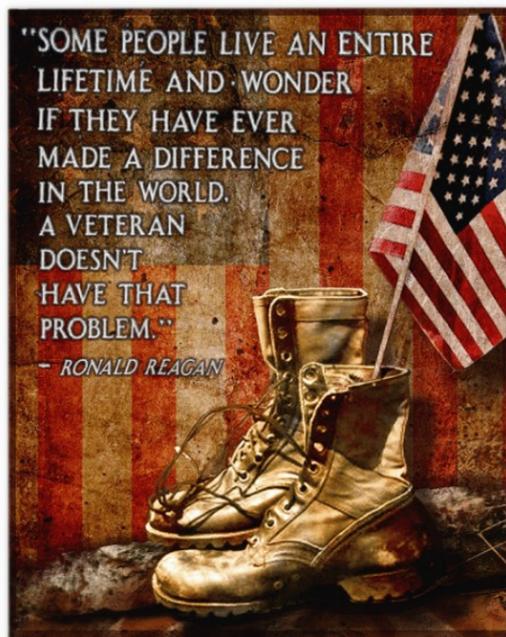
Looking for fun way to get some exercise, spend some time outdoors with your family and friends, while also raising money to provide an affordable and stable home for a family in Denver? How about joining us for a **3.0 mile Fun Walk between 9:00am - 12:00pm on Saturday, September 11 at Cottonwood Park West in Parker**. Visit runsignup.com/Race/CO/Parker/HolyHammersHustleforHumanity to register to walk, to sponsor a walker, and/or donate funds for the home construction. Special registration pricing is available for families of 3+. Registration fee includes a commemorative T-shirt. Special registration pricing is available for families with 3+ members. All funds raised will go to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver for the Holy Hammers house being built near 52nd and Federal Blvd. Please contact Kevin Dempsey for additional information on the Fun Walk or to get more involved with Holy Hammers and Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver.

OUTREACH

Operation One Nation's 2021 Couples Retreat: Fri. Oct.29 - Sun. Oct. 31

There are three ways you can be involved with this Couples Retreat at Rainbow Trail.

1. **Attend.** Military/Veteran Couples from Bethany are welcome to attend this retreat! Interested? Contact Vicky Daub at lvdaub2@gmail.com.
2. **Pray.** You can pray for Military/Veteran Couples attending this retreat.
3. **Donate.** You can donate to Operation One Nation, noting that your donation is for the Military/Veteran Couples retreat. Thank you for your support!



Operation One Nation Needs You, Consider Joining In!

This group of Bethany volunteers is once again meeting in person. You don't need to be a Veteran to join. The group meets monthly, and sponsors various Outreach activities throughout the year. All ages welcome!!

Please note, on December 31, 2021, Vicky Daub will be stepping aside after leading Operation One Nation for the past two years. The team hopes to identify a new lead in the near future. If you're interested in joining and/or leading this group that supports veteran services, please contact Vicky Daub at lvdaub2@gmail.com. *Isaiah 6:8 "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"*

What: Operation One Nation Appreciation Concert

When: November 12, 2021 7:00 PM

Where: Bethany Lutheran Sanctuary

Why: To celebrate Veterans Day together – IN PERSON!

Who: You and your family and friends



bluegrass band "Kantankerous"

Admission is FREE! Donations of canned food will be accepted for Operation Breadbasket that evening. All food gathered will be delivered to a local Veterans organization. Donations for Operation One Nation will also be accepted. Hope to see you there!

BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM GALA - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ 6:00pm MT

One of Bethany's missions is Bright Stars of Bethlehem, the American support arm of Dar al-Kalima [Arabic for "House of the Word"], Lutheran college of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem, Palestine. On Saturday, September 18 Bright Stars will sponsor an online gala to celebrate the skills and accomplishments of recent students. Members of Bethany are invited to join in. To register go to www.brightstarsbethlehem.org. Also on this website, you can learn much more about the vision of unlocking hope for young adults living under the burden of a difficult occupation. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Lutheran pastor and president of the university, says, "God is calling us to reach out in the context of conflict with a message of hope and life...to educate the next generation of creative leaders for Palestine." Also, on this website you can learn much more about the vision of unlocking hope for these students. Please join in the virtual celebration and learn more about this organization!



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!



Camp Bethany! Wednesday Evenings at Bethany

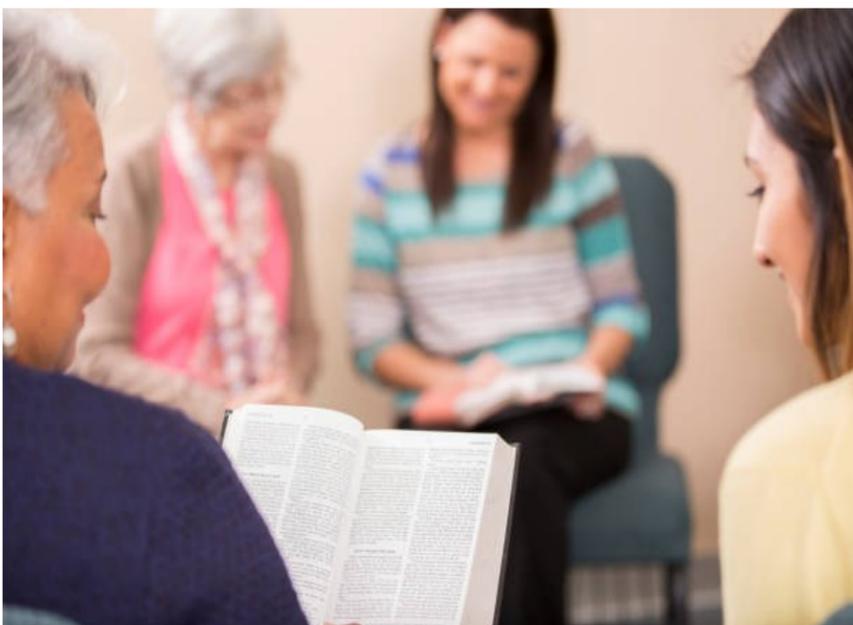
We are excited to introduce a new faith education program for our young people (during our Passport to Discipleship Wednesdays)! Children from grade preschool-1st grade & 2nd-5th graders are invited to Camp Bethany for a truly unique educational experience.

It begins at the “Camp Fire” where we all gather around to hear one of the stories of our faith shared in a dynamic and engaging way. Just as the stories of the Bible were originally told and retold around a camp fire, we will gather every week to hear a different adult pass down a story of the faith to our young people. After Camp Fire, one group will head to the craft room for a project that further expands on the lessons and themes of the story.

The other group will head to our new Low Ropes Course, where they will participate in a team-building activity that also helps them experience the lessons of the story in new ways. Save your Wednesdays and bring your friends! This fun style of learning starts with our open house on August 25 (our first full night of programming begins the following week, Sep.1).

Growth Groups this Fall!

We are getting ready for our next semester of Growth Groups at Bethany. Growth Groups are short-term, small groups gathered together around a wide variety of topics. The new semester will launch in October, with sign-ups beginning in mid-September. Do you have any idea for a Growth Group you would like to lead? Email Pastor Nate at Nate@bethany-denver.org for more information and details. And watch the website in late September for the Growth Group Catalog!



Have you been thinking about joining a Women’s Bible study this Fall? Come join in with ‘Deborah Circle’! We are an open-minded, Christ-seeking group of women who use the *Gather* magazine to lead our discussions. The *Gather* magazine is an inspirational and transformative magazine put out by the Women of the ELCA. It offers a mix of articles, theological reflections and devotions that help us grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. We will start meeting in person or virtually on **Wednesday, September 15 @ 5:00pm**. All generations welcome. Call Maren Diercks 720.238.2333

FAITH FORMATION



SAVE THE DATE! For *BOUNDLESS*

**ELCA Youth Gathering
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 21-29, 2022**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

If you are in 8th-12th grade this is a phenomenal experience for you to encounter God's boundless love known around the world, with 30,000 new friends and return to Denver with great gifts to share from our time in Minneapolis!

Our first *getting ready party* and info session is Sunday, September 19 @ noon (after the Ministry Fair). Watch for updates from Bryan Jaster, Director of Faith Formation/Youth Ministries.

To checkout what's been planned so far, go to www.elca.org/gathering.



Middle School Youth weekend at Sky Ranch!

Join Middle School Youth from across the Rocky Mountain Synod for a weekend of growing in faith, surrounded by autumn beauty.

Friday, October 1 - Sunday, October 3
\$110/per person - financial help available!!!

Please connect with Bryan Jaster (Bryan@bethany-denver.org)

www.skyranchcolorado.org/coyote-howl



High School Weekend at Rainbow Trail! November 19-21, 2021

Please go online and register, pay and get ready for a vibrant weekend together at camp. Food, lodging, activities, speakers, air, & giveaways are covered for \$135.

Our generous Bethany community provides scholarships for those unable to pay fully for our weekend retreat. For assistance or any other reason contact Bryan Jaster (Bryan@bethany-denver.org).

www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/rtlc-senior-high-retreat/



Bethany Foundation Grant applications are now open and will be received until October 15, 2021. Decisions are made by the Foundation Board members and are awarded in November according to Foundation guidelines. Last year, the Bethany Foundation awarded grants of various amounts to 7 organizations including 2 requests for needs at Bethany. Please refer to www.bethany-denver.org/foundation-page for further information and to download the application form. Guidelines for submission are found on the website.

Hiring for Hospitality Position - Help wanted:

Part time Hospitality person, mostly Saturday mornings early and some evenings as needed. Need to open the building for morning groups and monitor the entrance that is most used. Will train about building protocols and safety. Paid position. Email Laura Romig at Laura@Bethany-Denver.org.



FROM THE BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY TEAM 3rd Quarter 2021

At the Benevolence Ministry's recent meeting the following funds were dispersed:

Habitat Denver/Hoy Hammers	\$5,000	To help sponsor a home
STAR Institute	\$3,000	For their many great projects
Project Angel Heart	\$1,000	To support their Cereal Drive

This quarter's featured charity is Project Angel Heart. For many years, Bethany Lutheran Church has been at (or near) the top of the list for donations to their annual cereal drive. The cereal drive is one of many events and campaigns for Project Angel Heart to raise funds for their mission of providing healthy, medically tailored meals to people with life threatening illnesses. For 30 years (yes, it's their anniversary!) PAH has been serving their community with the help of volunteers who help fill the bags, deliver the meals, and much more. Go to projectangelheart.org for more info on how to get involved!

From the Editor - Please note the following:

The next edition of the Beacon newsletter will be for Advent and will cover - Thanksgiving - Epiphany.

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

Rita Argus

Intern Pastor

Administration

Sarah Hulslander

Executive Assistant/Missional Minister

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

Nolan Oltjenbruns

Carillons Bell 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

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Susan Pfabe-Wiggans (President Elect)

Laura Weber-Meyers (Imm. Past Pres.)

Steve Heuer (Treasurer)

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(Hospitality)

Kristin Hamilton, Jenny Walter
(Faith Formation)

Marie Friedemann, Kevin Dempsey
(Outreach)

Kathy Singh, Michelle Jones
(Worship)

Miller Duval
(Youth Rep.)