

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
*Transforming the world & ourselves,
together in community,
fellowship and faith.*



February 2019

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the March 2019 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Tuesday, February 12th.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

The **deadline** for inclusion in the **weekly bulletin** is at noon on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday the bulletin will be released.

Thank you,
Teresa Easterly
Church Administrator

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170
703-437-1883

Find us online!

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



@HolyCrossELCA



HolyCrossELCA

STAFF NEWS



FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

⁵I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

What does it mean to bear much fruit? What would that look like in our lives and in the life of Holy Cross?

The starting point for fruitfulness is Jesus. Jesus tells his disciples to abide in him, to rest in him. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit unless it is connected to the vine, neither can we, either as individuals or as a congregation of faith, be fruitful unless we stay connected to Jesus.

Jesus' words suggest that fruitfulness is as not so much about doing as it is about becoming. The question to ask is not, "What must we do to bear fruit?" but rather, "How are we becoming more deeply rooted in Jesus?" For only as we abide in Jesus will our lives bear the fruits we long for.

Over the next few months, your congregational council will be reading *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Robert Schnase. Each of the five practices reflect Jesus. Jesus practiced:

- *Radical Hospitality*—Jesus welcomed everyone: young and old, friends and strangers, the pious and the sinner.
- *Passionate Worship*—Jesus gathered in the synagogue with others, to read the scriptures, sing and pray. His worship life also extended beyond the walls of the synagogue. He set aside time for prayer and connecting with God.
- *Intentional Faith Development*—Jesus took care to nurture and teach his disciples. He knew that discipleship would be a life-long process of becoming.
- *Risk-taking mission and service*—Jesus took risks to be with those whom society rejected. He ate with sinners and embraced lepers.
- *Extravagant generosity*—Jesus spoke regularly about wealth and poverty, about givers and takers. Ultimately, his life, death and resurrections are an expressions of God’s extravagant generosity.

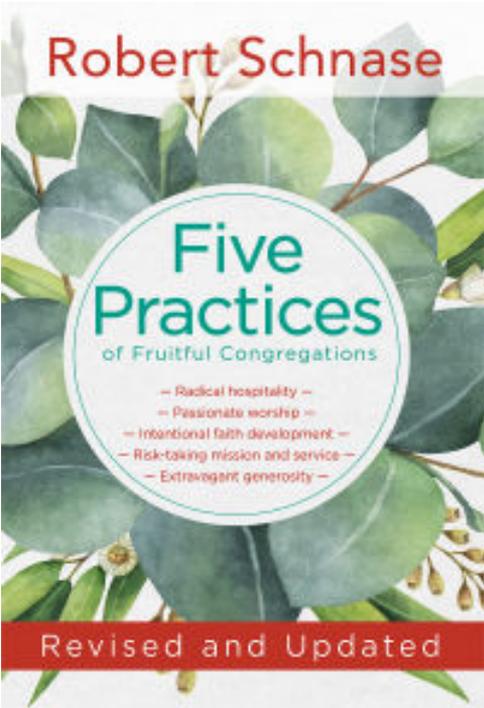
While it is understandable that some may see these five practices as doing ministry, ***it is more helpful to see them as practices that root us more deeply in Jesus.*** Congregations and individuals who abide in Jesus will practice radical hospitality, worship passionately, develop faith intentionally, take risks in service, and give generously, because this reflects Jesus himself. Such congregations and individuals are fruitful because they take seriously their calling to becoming Jesus in the world, being the body of Christ.

Although my time at Holy Cross is growing short, it is my hope and prayer that this faith community will become ever more rooted in Jesus. I look forward to seeing how God will bring forth fruit in the life of this congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Kleiber

P.S. I hope you might be inspired to pick up this book and join the council’s discussion on fruitfulness!



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CHOIR POSITIONS OPEN!

Positions in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass
No others need apply

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS: You must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary. You must have sufficient vision to see the director.

EXPERIENCE: No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the bathtub or shower at some time.

BEGINNING WAGE: Increased satisfaction and joy in service of God.

FRINGE BENEFITS: Social Security. We promise you the security of social fellowship with other choir members.

HOURS: Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 PM and Sunday mornings. There is occasional opportunity for overtime.

RETIREMENT: Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small, the hymnal too heavy, notes too high, the sanctuary too hot or too cold, or the organist unable to play the notes you sing.

We are an equal opportunity employer!

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact me at 703-437-1883 or MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net



Soli Deo Gloria!
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries

COUNCIL NEWS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN — BUILDING ON THE BEST

So, I'm just a few weeks into serving as your new Council President... All I can say is that Mike Berg left some VERY big shoes to fill!

In January, we formally launched the "Building on the Best" Capital Campaign, and I could not feel more JOY if I tried!! Our goal is to welcome 48 new people to Holy Cross in the next three years. To do that, we plan to accelerate our Evangelism work, upgrade our facilities, and ask YOU to bring your friends, family and neighbors to join us in worship, service activities, and fellowship events.

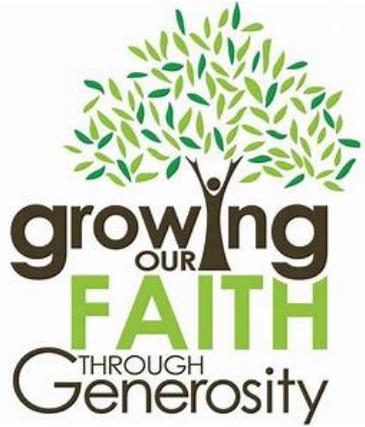
Through your exceptional generosity, our congregation generated more than \$164,000 in gifts and commitments to the campaign. With the gifts received, we have already replaced the roof on the administrative wing of the church... it's no longer raining in Jeremy's office!

For those who were unable to participate in the campaign on launch day, we pray that you will join us in the campaign, as we work to reach our financial goal of \$200,000. Commitment cards are available in the Narthex.

There is much work to do, but I am confident that with all of us working together, we will achieve our goals. Please feel free to reach out to me, Roy Geiger (Evangelism Ministry Chair), Suzanne Flegal (Outreach Ministry Chair) or Pam Darby (Fellowship Ministry Chair) to offer your time and talents!

With Joy,

Deb Reilly



WORSHIP

INTRODUCING ROBBIE THE DRAGON!

HCLC's Family Friendly Worship Team is excited to offer a new way of introducing and explaining each Sunday's Gospel lesson:

**Dragon Talks for Kids AND
Adults**
Starring Robbie the Dragon



These humorous and thoroughly engaging Dragon Talks are scripted dialogues between **Robbie the Dragon** and the Pastor. “**Robbie** asks questions of the texts and points out confusing parts in a way that ‘sophisticated’ church people are often afraid to do.” Though a dragon may seem a strange choice for a church puppet, **Robbie** is simply a lovable entity who takes the burden away from asking leading questions of kids who may or may not have any idea where the question is going.

It is our great hope and expectation that through **Robbie the Dragon**, children, youth, and adults alike will be drawn into the lectionary texts in a fun, open, and irreverent (in the best sense of the word) way that everyone will look forward to each week.

Psst! **Robbie** will only appear, after he hears: “**1, 2, 3, Robbie!**”

These lectionary-based talks were written by Rev. Dr. James Lepard, an ordained minister at Forest Grove United Church in Toronto, Canada. James Lepard holds an undergraduate degree in drama and music from Augustana University College, and theological degrees from St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, and from Chicago Theological Seminary.

FELLOWSHIP

Family and Friends Game Day



- What:** Family and Friends Board Game Extravaganza
Place: Holy Cross - Fellowship Hall
Date: Saturday, February 23rd
Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Holy Cross will be hosting a family-friendly board game day where church members and their invited friends can play games and share some refreshments. Games for all ages will be available so everyone is invited to attend and you are also invited to bring other games to share.

Any questions can be directed to Chris Nelson - chrisnelson@hotmail.com or (202) 549-6192.

BLUE GRASS CONCERT



Danny Paisley and The Southern Grass

Danny Paisley and The Southern Grass have made their own niche in the bluegrass world. Their album, ***The Room Over Mine***, earned accolades and significant chart action, and the song, “*Don’t Throw Mama’s Flowers Away*” won the 2009 IBMA Award for Song of the Year and the group has received several IBMA nominations for Emerging Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year throughout the years. In 2016 Danny won the Male Vocalist of the Year award, a moment revered by his peers who gave him a standing ovation. Danny Paisley and The Southern Grass are a national and international touring band who frequently get invited for return engagements. They will be performing at the Bluegrass Concert Series at Holy Cross! For more information visit — www.dannypaisley.com.

Saturday, February 9th, 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Tickets: Ages 13+ - \$15, Ages 12 and younger - Free

EVANGELISM



Join our “Holy Cross Social Media Evangelism Team”!!

Do you have a Facebook, Twitter or other social media account(s)? Do you enjoy connecting with family, friends, neighbors, work and/or school colleagues, etc. via social media?

If your answer is “YES”, then I have a request and an invitation for you! Please volunteer to join our newly organizing “***Holy Cross Social Media Evangelism Team***”!!

It’s about as simple as simple gets. Just. . .

1. Follow Holy Cross on Facebook, Twitter, etc.; and,
2. If you see a posting from Jeremy Shoop or anyone else from Holy Cross that you enjoy, “**LIKE**” that posting and “**SHARE**” it with all your personal connections.

3. If you wish, make time to add your own personalized comment or invitation to join you at Holy Cross for a service and/or event.

That's all there is to it. Your connections – both near and far – might get so interested in our activities at Holy Cross that they might ask you for more information. Offer to forward them a copy of our weekly e-blast and invite them to sign-up to receive their own personal weekly e-blast. Who knows, the Holy Spirit might even inspire them to visit Holy Cross, check us out or maybe even join! If they are at distance, but want to support our efforts, such as our Capital Campaign, tell them how they can support us through our online donation opportunities!

You can do this. We should be doing this! Join us and help us get our message out to the world!

Thanks and Happy February!

Roy Geiger

LIFE PASSAGES

We invite your friends and family to pray for those Holy Cross members and friends as they go through these life passages.

Those preparing for marriage:



Steven Corpus and Marie Clay – July 27, 2019

OUTREACH

Student Peace Awards



Last year Holy Cross was approached and invited to become a sponsor of the Student Peace Awards. We accepted gladly and are a sponsor again this year. I suspect that many of you, like me, had no idea that this existed so I thought it would be

valuable to spread the word about an important Outreach opportunity in which we are involved in. Here's the story from their website, <http://fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org>.

Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County was begun in 2006 with the hope of encouraging people to think more about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers.

We started with one school (Herndon High School) and one sponsor (Herndon Friends Meeting) and gradually expanded from there. In 2013, for the first time, it was offered to every public high school in Fairfax County. Two private schools are also included. We currently have eighteen sponsoring organizations.

Peacemaking is vital in our world, and students active in the pursuit of peace should be encouraged in every way possible. The sponsors, family, and friends celebrate the accomplishments of the recipients at a public reception in early March. The award consists of a monetary gift for each recipient and for a peace-focused charity of his or her choice, and a framed certificate, generally presented at each participating school's annual awards ceremony.

A Thank You with one correction 😊



Our Christmas collection for LAWS (Loudon Abused Women's Shelter) was most successful. Anecdotally, I was told that a friend of a church member was shopping with her and when she was told what the shopping was for she decided to add her contribution. What a heart-warming story!

To appreciate what our contributions do, here is the letter we received from LAWS. There is a typo in the attached letter, I confirmed that we donated and they received more than one gift card from us.



105 East Market Street · Leesburg, VA 20176

Tel. 703-771-3398
laws@lcsj.org

Fax. 703-771-7865
www.lcsj.org

24-Hour Hotline • 703-771-3398
Shelter Staff Office • 703-771-7293
LAWS Legal Services • 703-771-3397
Sexual Assault Services • 703-771-9020
Teen Violence Prevention • 703-771-4265
Domestic Violence Services • 703-771-7845
Bilingual Services (español) • 703-443-2810
Nurturing Parenting Program • 703-771-3973
Youth and Children's Services • 703-771-3973
Loudoun Child Advocacy Center • 703-779-5643
Resourceful Woman Thrift Shop • 703-771-8173

December 28, 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Attn: Suzanne Flegal
1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your wonderful donation of items from our wish list, received on December 19, 2018! All of them will be welcome additions to our Shelter! The Safeway gift card (\$30.00) will be a great help to one of our clients who struggles to afford the groceries or medications she needs.

We're grateful for your generosity and concern for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse who have had the courage to ask for our help.

Again, thank you for your donation and best wishes for a joyful New Year!

Sincerely,

Judith A. Hanley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice/LAWS is a 501(C)(3) organization and our Federal Identification Number is 54-1282756. No goods or services were provided in return for your donation.

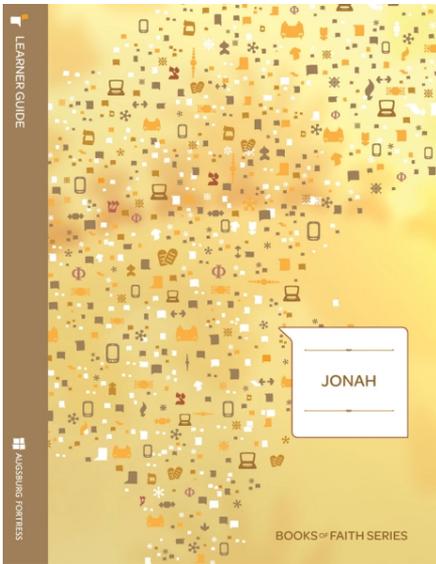
United Way Designation No. 8145 - Combined Federal Campaign No. 23867

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JONAH

How are we to understand the book of Jonah? Is it simply a quaint children's tale or is it something more?

The book of Jonah paints a picture of a God who pushes God's people to go beyond religious and ethnic boundaries to share the love and mercy of God. It depicts God's desire to save all people. This study explores how Jonah offers a vision in which God's love and mercy is not only available to the people of Israel, but to other peoples as well.



Feb. 10 - Where Was Jonah Going? (Jonah 1:1-17)

Feb. 17 - What Was Jonah Praying? (Jonah 2:1-10)

Feb. 24 - What Was Jonah Saying? (Jonah 3:1-10)

Mar. 3 - What Was Jonah Thinking? (Jonah 4:1-11)

Join Pastor Kleiber on Sunday mornings in February in Room 205 at 9:45 am.

Who is St. Valentine and How is He Connected to Valentine's Day?

In the early martyrologies, three different St. Valentines are mentioned, all sharing February 14th for a feast day. Unfortunately, the historical record is sparse.



The first St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. Encouraging men and women to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. He secretly married them because of the edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died. Eventually he was condemned to death for his faith, beaten with clubs, and finally beheaded on February 14, AD270.

The second St. Valentine was the Bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Located about 50 miles from Rome). Under the orders of Prefect Placidus, he too was arrested, scourged and decapitated, again suffering persecution during the time of Emperor Claudius II.

The third St. Valentine suffered martyrdom in Africa with several companions. However, nothing more is known about this saint. In

all, these men, each named St. Valentine, showed heroic love for the Lord and His Church.

A common belief in England and France was that birds began to pair on February 14, “half-way through the second month of the year.” For this reason, the day was dedicated to “lovers” and prompted the sending of letters, gifts, or other signs of affection. While it seems that the exchange of valentines is more the result of secular custom rather than the memory of St. Valentine, and that the celebration has been further paganized with cupids and the like, there is a Christian message that should be remembered.

The love of our Lord, depicted beautifully in the image of his most Sacred Heart, is a sacrificial, self-less, and unconditional love. Such is the love that each Christian is called to express in his own life, for God and neighbor. Clearly, St. Valentine - no matter which one - showed much love, bearing witness to the faith in his dedication as a priest and in the offering of his own life in martyrdom.

On this Valentine’s day, looking to the example of this great saint, each person should offer again his love to the Lord, for only by doing so can he properly love those who are entrusted to his care and any other neighbor. Each person should again pledge his love to those loved ones, praying for their intentions, promising fidelity to them, and thanking them for their love in return. Never forget Jesus said, “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:12-13). St. Valentine fulfilled this command, and may we do the same.

STEWARDSHIP

2018 Advent Appeal



On behalf of our ESOL program we wish to thank the congregation for supporting this year's Advent Appeal. We raised \$1,205, which will be used to provide the program with additional text books, dictionaries, notebooks and other classroom supplies. Our ESOL classes have been a long-standing outreach ministry at Holy Cross and are a valuable connection to the Herndon community.

Once again, many thanks for your continued generosity.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective.

We appreciate your online giving. To give electronically:

1. Go to our website, <http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net>
2. Click "Donate"
3. Fill out the safe and secure donation form

OR

1. Download the **Give+** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.
2. Search for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. (It will appear near the bottom of the list.)
3. Follow the prompts as desired

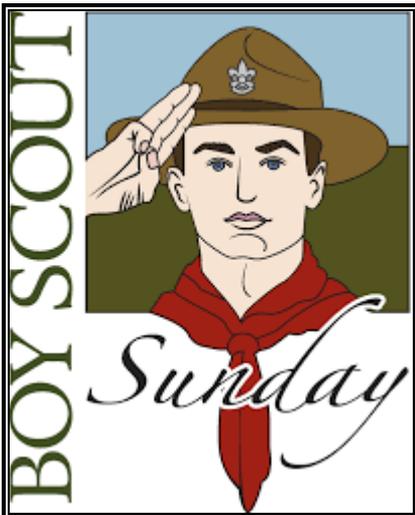
YOUTH

Scout Sunday 2019

Sunday, February 10, 2019 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Scouts and Scouters: Please wear your uniforms to church on Scout Sunday as we celebrate 109 years of Scouting in America (109 years for Boy Scouts; 107 years of Girl Scouts; and 89 years for Cub Scouts).

Our own Boy Scout Troop 12 will be recognized at the late service as Holy Cross officially renews its charter for another year. Troop 12 is a troop that includes special needs scouts. If you would like to help with Troop 12 in any way, or if you know of a boy who would like to join Troop 12, please contact Anne Geiger, Chartered Organization Representative at 703-437-9413 or Gei2@verizon.net.

Go to <http://www.scouting.org> for more information on the Boy Scouts of America and <http://www.girlscouts.org> for more information on the Girl Scouts of America.



SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 19, 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Rd
Herndon, VA 20170-3805

Thank You

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."
(Matthew 1:23)*

Dear Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$340.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

In the wake of fire and flood, wind, drought and disasters of every kind, you have joined with the whole church to offer prayers, presence, and physical and spiritual comfort. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are in many places here and around the globe all at once – on the front line with families and communities – bearing witness to the power and grace of the Christ child, born to bring wholeness and peace to all who suffer.

Thank you for your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response this holy season.

With the light and hope of Christ,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

Always
MADE
New.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8765 West Higgins Road · Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 · 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 · ELCA.org

A passion for justice —and Jesus

A simple pot of rice and beans originally brought Eidas Rivas to Santuario Lutheran, Waltham, Mass. Rivas, who is 34, made them at her mother's request for a potluck following evening worship. She hadn't planned on getting involved at Santuario; her intention was to "just come that Sunday and be done with it."

But it was the way the community embraced her three children—all with special needs—that kept Rivas coming back. Today she's deeply invested in the new ELCA congregation and so are her children, who serve as acolytes there.

For Rivas, belonging to Santuario is important because "we do a lot of social justice." This passion for service is a common thread among the congregation's young Latino membership, said Ángel Marrero, pastor and mission developer there.

Members lead a variety of outreach efforts, including a free food pantry, GED classes and more. Last fall, in the wake of Hurricane María, Rivas and two other young adults at Santuario organized a donation drive for Puerto Rican families whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

Rivas remembers the constant flow of people and donations and calling Marrero to announce that a 24-foot truck had arrived—full of canned food for the people on the island.

"I was expecting 10 boxes," Marrero said of the effort. "We filled two airplanes (of donations) out of this mission church!"

He said the event was a turning point in his ministry with Santuario. New young people had found the congregation through it and asked him: "What's keeping you all together?"

**STORIES
OF FAITH**
IN ACTION
2018 • 2019

Marrero answered,
"We do this
because of Jesus."

Now 78 people—and counting—are involved in Santuario's life and ministry, a reality that wouldn't be possible, Marrero said, without Mission Support.

Mission Support from the ELCA New England Synod and the ELCA churchwide organization fund Marrero's work with Santuario, which shares space and a partnership with First Lutheran Church of Waltham.

"The dollars you put in your offering ... is what allows me the freedom to work in Waltham [with the Latino community]," Marrero said. "Through the partnership with the larger church, it is possible to do ministry among them."



To read more stories, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA and download a copy of Stories of Faith in Action.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

February 3	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
Worship Leaders	Sarah Moran Jo Roe Sylvia Moran	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras Marcia Kratzke
Asst. Minister	Becky Morgan	Andy Krueger
Altar Guild	Lori Newcomb Thomas Newcomb Alice Shaw	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
Greeters/Readers	Jo Roe	John Kratzke
Ushers	Joe Baggett Suzanne Baggett	Mike Faulkner Howard Miller Roy Geiger Diana Virgo

February 10	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
Worship Leaders	Deb Reilly Chris Nelson Logan Esposito	Thomas Newcomb Clay Newcomb Lori Newcomb
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Anne Geiger
Altar Guild	Pat Berg Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
Greeters/Readers	Chris Nelson	Craig Reichow
Ushers	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

February 17	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
Worship Leaders	Mike Faulkner Chris Nelson Vivian Jefferson	Katelyn Hunter John Breene Tammy Breene
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Andy Krueger
Altar Guild	Sally Moser Lynn Russo	Cathy Pfisterer Brian Virnelson Hope Russell
Greeters/Readers	Chris Nelson	John Breene Tammy Breene
Ushers	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

February 24	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
Worship Leaders	Thomas Newcomb Lynn Russo Vincent Russo	Jon Morgan Samuel Contreras Daniel Contreras
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
Altar Guild	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
Greeters/Readers	Lynn Russo Vincent Russo	Samuel Contreras
Ushers	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger

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