



*Knowing Christ*

*Living Christ*

*Sharing Christ*

1400 North Texas Blvd, Alice, Texas 78332

Office 361-664-6691 email: [ilc@ilcfamily.org](mailto:ilc@ilcfamily.org) [www.ilcfamily.org](http://www.ilcfamily.org)

## **Glad Tidings – January 2025**

**Fellow Christians,**

***HAPPY NEW YEAR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!!!***

As I was growing up, I always thought of Mondays as a new week and a new beginning. A “Do Over” so to speak. The same for the first of every month and of course the first of every year. Here we are at the end of 2024 and ready to begin 2025. The opportunity to start again in making decisions that will make us disciples of Christ, loving our neighbors as ourselves and spreading the word of God.

As the clock strikes midnight and the calendar turns to a new year, we are reminded of the gift of fresh starts and new opportunities. The beginning of a new year offers us a chance to **reflect**, **reset**, and **renew** our commitment to growth, faith, and purpose. Through the lens of Scripture, we can find inspiration and encouragement to embrace this season of transformation.

Here are some powerful Bible verses to guide us as we step into 2025, the new year:

### **1. Embrace the New Creation.**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" — **2 Corinthians 5:17**

This verse reminds us that through Christ, we have the opportunity to leave behind old habits and burdens. As we move into the new year, we can walk confidently in the identity of being made new.

### **2. Trust in God's Plans**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — **Jeremiah 29:11**

God's plans are filled with hope and promise. As you set your goals and intentions for the year, trust in His divine guidance to lead you into a future filled with blessings.

### 3. Seek Renewal Daily

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." — **Lamentations 3:22-23**

Each day is a new opportunity to experience God's mercy and grace. Let this verse encourage you to seek Him daily as you navigate the journey ahead.

### 4. Forget the Past, Press Forward

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." — **Philippians 3:13-14**

This verse speaks to the importance of letting go of past mistakes and focusing on the future with purpose and determination. The new year is an ideal time to align your heart and mind with God's calling.

### 5. Delight in New Beginnings

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." — **Isaiah 43:19**

God specializes in creating new paths and opportunities where there seem to be none. As you embrace the new year, open your heart to the possibilities He is unfolding in your life.

### Tips for a Faith-Filled New Year

- **Start with Prayer:** Dedicate the first moments of your year to prayer, seeking God's guidance and blessings.
- **Set Spiritual Goals:** Whether it's reading the Bible daily, joining a small group, or volunteering, set goals that strengthen your faith.
- **Practice Gratitude:** Reflect on God's faithfulness in the past year and thank Him for His continued presence.
- **Embrace Community:** Surround yourself with people who encourage and uplift you in your walk with Christ.

This new year holds endless potential for spiritual growth and renewal for Immanuel Lutheran. By anchoring ourselves in God's word and trusting His promises, we can step into this season with confidence and joy. Let 2025 be a year where your faith flourishes and our lives reflect His glory.

In Christ,

*Amy B. Koenning*

Amy B. Koenning, Governing Board President

**KNOWING CHRIST, LIVING CHRIST, and SHARING CHRIST!**



*Texas District*

# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



**HARVEST**  
WORKERS

## A New Command

As Jesus gathered with his disciples for his last supper, he not only communed with them, but he also served them in a unique way. Before the meal began, he took off his outer robe, knelt down with a basin of water and a towel, and washed their feet. It was a stunning act of service by the King of kings and Lord of lords! Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: *"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13:34-35)

This familiar text is a reminder of what sets Jesus' followers apart: a self-sacrificing love for one another. Jesus did not say "it would be really neat if you would be nice to one another." He was not asking his followers to tolerate or put up with one another. He did not offer his example of humble service as a suggestion among a buffet of options. He clearly states this as a new command that is a mark of every single disciple of Jesus. Jesus makes the clear connection that this love will be noticed by the world and is key to sharing Jesus' love and bearing witness to the Gospel to the world. So, this loving one another thing is *really* important for our mission in the world!

But what does it mean to love one another? What does this look like in your local church and current ministry context? How do we relate to and connect with one another in ways that are loving, forgiving, serving, encouraging, and, in all ways, build up the body of Christ? As an association of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, I believe that it is essential to connect and relate to one another in ways that strengthen our mutual mission and ministry and lead to healthier churches in each of our communities.

For this reason, I would like you to join me and others from across our association as we take two days to dive deeper into this topic. Our Winter Retreats will gather in beautiful Concan, Texas next month around the theme of "One Another". There are two identical retreats being offered, so choose the one that best fits in your schedule: Sunday evening, February 2 through Tuesday noon, February 4 or Wednesday evening, February 5 through Friday noon, February 7. Each retreat will feature two teaching tracks. LCMC's Coordinator for Leadership and Pastoral Development Christian Huntley will be teaching the Leadership Track while Texas District Council member Barbara Hoover will be leading the Devotional Track.

The retreat is open to all and is an affordable opportunity to grow in your walk with God and develop your relational capacity to love others as Jesus loves us. If you register by January 11, the retreat registration costs \$120 and includes the program, food, and lodging. To learn more and register online, go to [www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat](http://www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat). Feel free to reach out with any questions as we are here to help: 512-942-7776 or [info@lcmctexas.org](mailto:info@lcmctexas.org).

*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org).*

# WINTER RETREAT

## One Another

"A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

John 13:34

February 2-4 or 5-7, 2025

Concan, Texas

(90 miles west of San Antonio)

**\$120 - early bird pricing**

(includes meals and lodging)

**CHOOSE A TRACK:**

**LEADERSHIP** - led by Christian Huntley

OR

**DEVOTIONAL** - led by Barbara Hoover

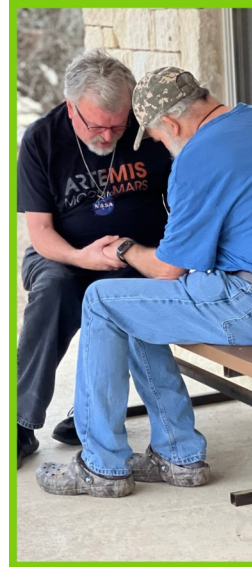


Scan for more info  
and registration.



[www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat](http://www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat)

## WORSHIP & PRAYER



## TEACHING



## FREE TIME



**ALTAR GUILD - Given to the glory of God . . .**

**ALTAR & ETERNAL CANDLES:**

**January** – Given by Ruben & Cristina R. Soliz to the glory of God!!

**COMMUNION ELEMENTS:**

**January 5** – Given by Clint & Tessie Colle in honor of our 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and in honor of Eric & Melba Andersen’s 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**January 19** – Open

**ALTAR & STANDING VASE FLOWERS**

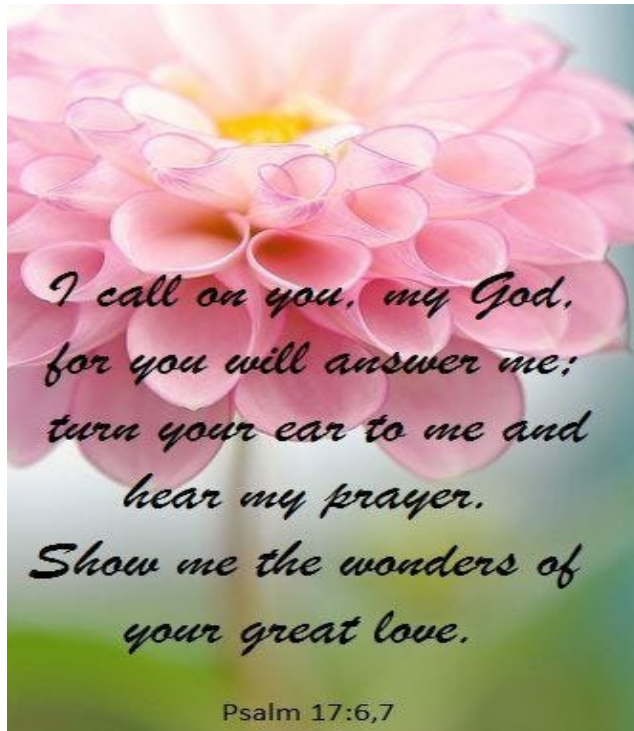
**January 5** – Given by Jimmie Shoup in loving memory of Travis Shoup and Louis Morizot.

**January 12** – Given by Eric & Melba Andersen to the glory of God!!

**January 19** – Given by Evelyn Hutchinson in honor of Carol Ness’ birthday and for everyone who celebrates a birthday in January.

**January 26** – Open

<p><b><u>Birthdays</u></b> 01/01 Susie Spaniel 01/05 Phillip Flanders</p>	<p>01/09 Lydia Guzman 01/22 Steven Buendel</p>	<p>01/24 Grace Slaughter 01/26 Ethan Salinas</p>
<p><b><u>Baptism Birthdays</u></b> 01/01 Richard Myers 01/01 Waldyne Nesloney</p>	<p>01/01 Jeraldine Schulte 01/01 Sylvia Work</p>	<p>01/03 Graciela Barrett 01/14 Ruth Brower 01/28 Camila Gonzalez</p>
<p><b><u>Wedding Anniversaries</u></b> 01/02 Clint &amp; Tessie Colle</p>	<p>01/09 Eric &amp; Melba Anderson</p>	
<p><b><u>Council Reports/Agenda</u></b> <b><u>Always Due 2nd Monday</u></b> <b><u>of each month by 5:00P</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter Information</u></b> <b><u>Always Due 3rd Monday</u></b> <b><u>of each month by 5:00P</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Church Council Mtg</u></b> <b>January 19, 2025</b> <b>12:00 p.m.</b></p>
<p>Pastor: Open President: Amy Koenning Vice Pres: Darrell Kennemer Secretary/Treasurer: Brandy Kennemer</p>		<p>Christian Life: Open Communications: Billy Scoggins Education: Open Property/Grounds: Bill Botard Stewardship: Melba Andersen Worship: Alicia Carlisle Youth: Open</p>



#### Prayers of the Church:

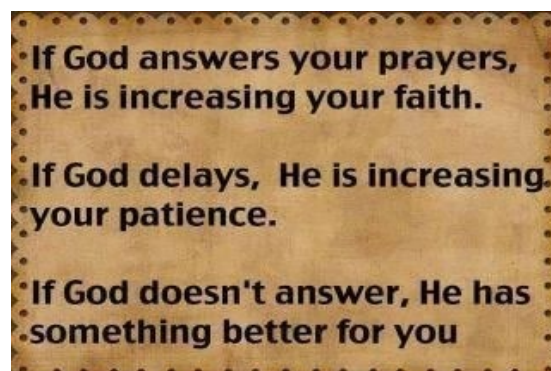
Lord, we ask that you comfort and heal all who are suffering in body or spirit. Please send healing to our brothers and sisters: Cathy Richter, Evelyn Starr, James Appleby, Noel Schuette, Steve & Dana Maresch, Mary Lee Crane, Inez Zulauf, Waldyne Nesloney, Edsel & Alicia Renken, Ashley Marie Jimenez, Larry Hodges, Karen Crawford, Delphi Flores, Nora Lopez, Vanessa Kelly, Nelda Hinojosa, Gwen Martin, Emmitt Pearson, Cathy Goldapp, Smiley Gonzalez, Melissa Boston, Stacy Hunter, Elaine Boreshe, Carolyn Kelley, Wesley Boerm, Sherill Perez, Mike Gibbs, Jim Jochen, Jim Schuchert, Sam Jackson, Celia Kaiser, and all who have been affected by hurricane Helene.

Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commended your spirit to your Father. We

seek your mercy for those we brought before you and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to everlasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you, Heather Perkins, Marina Ramirez, Melissa "Missy" Mendieta, Robert Pena, Lonnie Adams, and Dale Jones, with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, forever.

Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all, grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care.

O Lord God, look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring them isolation, distress, or weakness. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



**If God answers your prayers,  
He is increasing your faith.**

**If God delays, He is increasing  
your patience.**

**If God doesn't answer, He has  
something better for you**



**Poinsettias given to the Glory of God**

**December 24, 2024**

**Jack & Renee McMonagle**

In honor of Leona Owen

**Clint and Tessie Colle**

In honor of Evelyn "Grandma" Starr

In loving memory of Dick "Popo" Starr, Henrietta "Nana" Colle, Lucille "Granny" Colle, and Dan "Gampy" DeSantis

**Susie Spaniel**

In loving memory of her son, Kirby Park

**Rey & Karen Zepeda**

In loving memory of Clifton Boerm, Seledonio Zepeda, and Anita Zepeda

**Ruben B. and Cristina Rosales Soliz**

To the honor of God

**Amy Koenning**

In honor of Denise & Logan Blanchard, Momma J, Mary, Anna & Robert Jenkins III, and Megan Moore

In loving memory of Doc Koenning, Ray & Rosalie Piper, Selma & Anton Koenning, and Fredna & Walt Becker

**Bill Botard**

In memory of his parents, Ernest & Katherine Botard, and his grandparents

**Linda Benson**

In loving memory of Mitchell Sens



## Emmanuel Baptist Church of Alice

(FORMERLY LA PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA MEXICANA)  
PRESENTS...

# 100 YEAR Celebration Service

*God's Faithfulness Through the Ages.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

10:00am - Noon,  
Followed by a fellowship luncheon.

Location: 701 Hickey St. Alice, Tx 78332  
Please RSVP by Friday, January 3, 2025 at 361-664-6007  
(more details on back)

You can also **RSVP** online at:  
<https://subspla.sh/3jmf8j>

Or email Pastor Craig Blakeslee at:  
[pastor.ebcalice@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.ebcalice@gmail.com)

Or scan &  
register  
with your  
phone



### Please Note:

- Nursery will be available for 2 years and under, but please RSVP.
- There will be a special worship time for kids ages 3 to 9 during the celebration service.

### **We serve a mighty, faithful God!**

From its unofficial beginning on the ranches of Concepción Franco and Guadalupe Torres, in 1921, worshipping under an old Palo Blanco tree, to the official establishment of La Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana of Alice on January 11, 1925, and to being renamed "Emmanuel Baptist Church of Alice, Texas" in 2007, our church has seen God's immense faithfulness in countless ways through the past 100 years! God has empowered this community of Christ followers to accomplish much!

It will be a tremendous joy to celebrate the past 100 years with you, and to consider how the Lord will be leading us for the next 100! We hope you can join us as we praise and thank God, reflecting on the past and looking forward with excitement to the future.

### Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

- If you have any photos (or even videos) that you would like to share with us, please let us know.
- Or if you're unable to attend, but you would like to share something (written or through a short video), please don't hesitate to contact us.

God bless you!



## **LCMC Churches Respond to *HURRICANE DISASTER* in North Carolina**

By Craig Bollinger, Lead Pastor, Christ the King Church, Charlotte, NC

Hurricane Helene brought unprecedented disaster to individuals and communities in western NC in late September 2024. This caused at least 101 deaths and over \$55.6 BILLION in estimated damage, including losses of homes, businesses and infrastructures of roads, electricity and bridges.

Many came quickly to the rescue, including a consistent and ongoing offering of prayer and resources from LCMC churches across the U. S. Christ the King Church in Charlotte, NC, has served as a hub for channeling needed resources from generous individuals and churches to the frontlines of those needing housing, repairs and hope.

As of November 2024, over \$125,000 has been contributed and pledged. These resources have already gone to help with church relief efforts, the purchase of mobile homes for families who have lost everything, and materials and supplies for individuals helping on the front line.

To help assist with long-term relief efforts, a relationship has been established with North Carolina Lutheran Camps: <https://novusway.org>.

Novus Way has two camps-one in the Asheville, NC, area and the other in the Boone, NC, area. These camps are now ready to host work teams to serve in disaster relief in the surrounding communities. If your church wants to send a work team, contact Novus Way. They will soon have a disaster relief coordinator in place to help teams identify and serve the neediest.

As financial resources come in from LCMC churches to Christ the King Church, we will designate those funds to the most urgent needs and help provide material and resources for teams working out of Novas Way camps for front-line recovery. To donate or get more information, contact Christ the King Church's Outreach Director, Sarah Green: [sarah@ctkcharlotte.org](mailto:sarah@ctkcharlotte.org).

**Way to go Church!!**

Thanks for being the generous hands and hearts of Jesus.



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day - OFFICE CLOSED	2 6pm Grief Share Counseling	3	4
5 10am Worship/HC <i>Take down Xmas Decorations after Worship Svc.</i>	6 5pm Bulletin Info Due <i>Day of Epiphany</i>  <b>12pm Schallert Luncheon</b>	7 6pm Doing for the Least	8 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	9 6pm Grief Share Counseling	10	11
12 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service <b>Take down Manger Scene &amp; store after Worship Svc.</b>	13 5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>5pm Council Meeting Info Due</b>	14 6pm Doing for the Least	15 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	16 6pm Grief Share Counseling	17	18
19 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship/HC <b>12pm Council Meeting</b>	20 5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>5pm Newsletter Info Due</b>	21 6pm Doing for the Least	22 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	23 6pm Grief Share Counseling	24	25
26 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>	27 5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>6pm Women's Bible Study</b>	28 6pm Doing for the Least	29 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	30 6pm Grief Share Counseling	31	Updated 2024-12-30 by Tessie Colle Rev 2

# January 2025

	January 5, 2025	January 12, 2025	January 19, 2025	January 26, 2025
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Philip Flanders	Kloe Fox	Alicia Carlisle????????	Susie Yocum
<b>Minister</b>	Alicia Carlisle	??OPEN??	Alicia Carlisle	Pstr Bryce Formwalt
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Amy Calvez Ann Menking		Laurie Buegeler Jerri Schulte	
<b>Ushers</b>	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Allan Schulte Bill Botard
<b>Acolytes</b>	Logan Blanchard	Logan Blanchard	Wiley Fox	Wiley Fox
<b>Lector</b>	Darrell Kennemer	Bridget Gentry	Amy Calvez	Gracie Barrett
<b>Greeters</b>	Jimmie Shoup	Melba Andersen	Jerri Schulte	Bert Buegeler
<b>Coffee Maker</b>	Gaby Cantu	Jerri/Allan Schulte	Brandy Kennemer	Laurie Buegeler
<b>Sound Tech</b>	George Chaney	George Chaney	George Chaney	George Chaney
<b>Camera/Streaming Tech</b>	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
<b>Presentation Tech</b>	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox
<b>Deacon</b>	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b>	<b><u>CANDLES</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>PARAMENTS</u></b>
January	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer	Susie Yocum
February	Susie Yocum	Melba Andersen	Kandace Fox	Susie Yocum

**Emergency Contact Numbers:**  
**Pastor:**

**President:**  
 Amy Koenning  
 361-215-5007

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship/HC	<b>3</b> 5pm Bulletin Info Due	<b>4</b> 6pm Doing for the Least	<b>5</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>6</b> 6pm Grief Share Counseling	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid orange; display: inline-block; padding: 5px;"> <span style="color: purple;">Alicia Carlisle @ LCMC Winter Retreat, Concan, Texas</span> <span style="color: purple; font-weight: bold;">February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025</span> </div>						
<b>9</b> 10am Worship Service	<b>10</b> 5pm Bulletin Info Due <span style="background-color: yellow;">5pm Council Meeting Info Due</span>	<b>11</b> 6pm Doing for the Least	<b>12</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>13</b> 6pm Grief Share Counseling	<b>14</b> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Valentine's Day</span>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship/HC <span style="background-color: yellow;">12pm Council Meeting</span> <span style="background-color: #d3d3d3; color: brown;">Potluck Luncheon &amp; Recipe Party</span>	<b>17</b> 5pm Bulletin Info Due <span style="background-color: yellow;">5pm Newsletter Info Due</span>	<b>18</b> 6pm Doing for the Least	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6pm Grief Share Counseling	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10am Worship Service	<b>24</b> 5pm Bulletin Info Due <span style="background-color: yellow;">6pm Women's Bible Study</span>	<b>25</b> 6pm Doing for the Least	<b>26</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6pm Grief Share Counseling	<b>28</b>	Updated 2024-12-30 by Tessie Colle Rev 1

# February 2025

	February 2, 2025	February 9, 2025	February 16, 2025	February 23, 2025
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Amy Koenning	Kloe Fox	Alicia Carlisle??????	Phillip Flanders
<b>Minister</b>	Alicia Carlisle	??OPEN??	Alicia Carlisle	Pastor Bryce Formwalt
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Amy Calvez Laurie Buegeler		Susie Yocum Jerri Schulte	
<b>Ushers</b>	Phillip Flanders Bert Buegeler	Phillip Flanders Bert Buegeler	Clint Colle Bill Botard	Bill Botard Clint Colle
<b>Acolytes</b>	Logan Blanchard	Logan Blanchard	Wiley Fox	Wiley Fox
<b>Lector</b>	Karen Zepeda	Logan Blanchard	Megan Moore	Olivia Carlisle
<b>Greeters</b>	Karen Zepeda	Susie Spaniel	Laurie Buegeler	Amy Calvez
<b>Coffee Maker</b>	Gaby Cantu	Melba Andersen	Amy Koenning	Laurie Buegeler
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer
<b>Camera/Streaming Tech</b>	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
<b>Presentation Tech</b>	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox
<b>Deacon</b>	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

<b>February</b>	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b> Susie Yocum	<b><u>CANDLES</u></b> Melba Andersen	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b> Kandace Fox	<b><u>PARAMENTS</u></b> Susie Yocum
<b>March</b>	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Laurie Buegeler	Susie Yocum

**Emergency Contact Numbers:**  
**Pastor:**

**President:**  
 Amy Koenning  
 361-215-5007