



The VOICE of Our Savior

Volume 52 • Number 12

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

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DECEMBER 2008

Pastor's Message

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:8-11)

We have all been there . . . many are there right now . . . caught up in a whirlpool of fear and anxiety, our minds frantically searching for something to hold on to for stability and sure-footing. They don't stop – when we are afraid, our minds do not stop, but are often racing ahead of ourselves, imagining the worst, grasping at straws. And in the midst of the deafening noise of our fears, God shouts to us: **STOP IT AND LISTEN!** And when we quiet our minds enough to listen, we hear the message of the angels – “be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy!” The God who was made known to the shepherds in the person of the child in the

manger is the same God who comes to us each day – in Word and Sacrament, in the comfort of family and friends – assuring us that no matter what we face in life, God will see us through, if we but trust and believe.

So, turn off the media fear merchants and open your Bible. You want “fair and balanced”? Try the WORD! God has an amazingly joyous message to share with you.

In Christ's peace,
Gary

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WORSHIP NOTES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Chapel

Sunday, 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. -
Sanctuary

WORSHIP THEMES

December 7, Second Sunday in Advent

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

December 14, Third Sunday in Advent

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

December 21, Fourth Sunday in Advent

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

December 24, The Nativity of Our Lord

We gather to hear, once again, that joyous message of the angels to all humanity – "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Family Service, 4:00 p.m. This service will feature the children of the congregation bringing us the message of Emmanuel, God with us, including the singing of carols, candlelighting, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Traditional Candlelight Service, 10:00 p.m. In addition to the candlelighting, we will hear the reading of the Christmas gospel, sing plenty of carols, celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and enjoy special music from our Chancel Choir.

December 28, First Sunday of Christmas

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Council Update

This month, council started the major task of developing the budget for next year. This process starts with all the committee chairs submitting their budgets to Dave Dickerson, finance chair, and preparing the spread sheet. As council discussed the very preliminary numbers the general consensus of council was that considering the current economic conditions we should try to keep the budget at or below 2008 budget.

Pastor Gary Eichhorn urged and reminded council to make sure they keep the many long-time members that are having health issues in their prayers.

I'm sure many of you will be glad to hear that Rachel Lammi brought up the need for new microphones. We have received a quote from a supplier and should have the money in December to purchase them.

Steve Swedlund was pleased to announce he has the five nominees for council members. They are Sue Harbaugh, who will fill the remaining 2 years of Nancy Henry's term; Tricia Murphy; Mike Essman and Ansel John, all new members to council, and Doug Hammer agreed to serve another three-year term. We will hold a congregation meeting after the December 14 10:30 service to approve this slate.

Stewardship and Foundation committees announced they are in the process of forming a task force to investigate ideas to educate our congregation in financial planning. This education could be used for everyday personal finance and estate planning.

I announced to council that I was going to

suspend the regular scheduled executive meeting every month. I felt they really weren't needed anymore to prepare for the agenda for the council meeting.

Since there were no other issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

- Doug Hammer



RED 6 1/2" 4 - 6 Blooms • \$7.00 each

They will be in the Sanctuary on December 24 and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. Service. Registration form (available in the church office and narthex), along with \$7.00, must be turned in to the church office by Friday, December 12. Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church of Our Savior.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Rev. Gary Eichhorn, *Pastor*
Terri Balsom, *Office Manager*
Don Hartman, *Treasurer*
Donna Gorrell, *Financial Secretary*
Ginger Minneman, *Music Director*
Rachel Spry Lammi, *Family Ministries Coordinator, Organist*
Celeste Hoerner, *Youth Ministry Coordinator, Children's Choir*
Elizabeth Beal, *Sonshine Choir*
Richard Freudenberger, *Handbell Choir*
Doug Hammer, *Council President*
Rev. Robert A. Willauer, *Pastor Emeritus*



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT / FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



This Shall Be a Sign to You
December 24 @ 4pm

You can still be part of the pageant! Contact Vicki Auditore, Sonia Davila, Rachel Lammi, or Julie Zimmeran. Or show up December 7 at 12 noon.

Rehearsal Dates

Sunday, December 7 @
12noon – Pizza and Practice
Saturday, December 13 @
9am

Friday, December 19 @ 6pm – Dinner and Practice

Wednesday, December 24 @ 10am – Practice

Wednesday, December 24 @ 3:40pm – Get costumes on and lead worship!



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Nursery care available from 9:15am through 10:30 worship

Preschool Sunday School:

Chrystl Kronbergs and Melissa Carpenters work with our youngest learners, sharing the stories of faith from Jesus' Birth to Noah's Ark, Moses, and More. They use the *Toddlers and Twos* curriculum by Abingdon Press.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Please take time to drop a kind note to our youth celebrating their Baptisms this month.

Rachael Stowe 12-2



COULD IT BE YOU?

Each year we have two volunteers coordinate the activities for Holy Terrors, our fellowship group for families with children through grade 6. Various families sponsor each event. The Holy Terrors coordinators simply remind families of their event and assist with event mailings & emails.

TIME = 1 – 2 hours a month for 1 year.

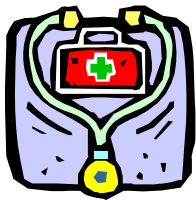
If you are interested, please contact Rachel Lammi at ras@oursaviordayton.org or 293-1147.

STAFF EMAIL

- GARY - gwe@oursaviordayton.org
- TERRI - teb@oursaviordayton.org
- DON - hartmansandon@sbcglobal.net
- DONNA - kgorell@ameritech.net
- GINGER - dminneman@woh.rr.com
- RACHEL - ras@oursaviordayton.org
- CELESTE - CMZimmer38@aol.com
- ELIZABETH - musicmusic@woh.rr.com
- DICK - ralbf@aol.com

OFFICE HOURS (Mon. - Fri.):

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year ... or is It?

With the holidays come extra shopping, many parties, family gatherings and more. These can be fun, but do cause stress. Stress, whether good or bad, can be harmful to one's health. How can you keep the stress to a minimum during the holiday season? Here are a few suggestions:

- Take 5 minutes a day for prayer. This can be first thing in the morning when you wake up, during your commute or lunch break, or in bed as you are falling asleep. Not sure what to say to God? Just talk to God like you do a trusted friend. And remember to "be still and know that God is God."
- Participate in regular corporate worship. It's a time to help refocus priorities, be with God, and share mutual support with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Keep to your regular exercise schedule.
- Plan shopping ahead; know what you are buying and who you are buying for before you get to the mall.
- Or, shop online to avoid the crowds.
- Make and stay within your holiday spending budget. There's no need to go in debt for stuff.
- Spend leisure time with your family. Play board games, enjoy dinner together, go for a walk in the snow, even have a snowball fight.

- Limit the number of events you attend. It's okay to say "No thanks."

- Listen to your favorite music.

Use your imagination. You know yourself better than anyone (except God). Do those things you enjoy the most.

FREE CONFIDENTIAL BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood Pressure checks are offered the second weekend of each month. The next checks will take place on December 13 and 14 after all the worship services.

DRIVERS AVAILABLE

Do you need a ride to and from the doctor's office or pharmacy? We have volunteer drivers ready to help you. If you need a ride, call the church office at 293-1147. If you want to be a driver, please contact Rachel Lammi.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On Sunday, December 14, at 11:30 a.m., we will hold a brief **congregational meeting** to elect 5 member-disciples to serve on the Congregation Council. Normally, we elect 4 council members every year, but due to Nancy Henry's death, we are also electing a person to serve out the remaining two years of her term. The five nominees are:

- Mike Essman - first term, ending 2011
- Doug Hammer - second term, ending 2011
- Sue Harbaugh - first term, ending 2010
- Ansel John - first term, ending 2011
- Tricia Murphy - first term, ending 2011

Special thanks to these five people for agreeing to share their time and abilities with Lutheran Church of Our Savior in this leadership position!

Youth Group News



In the month of November we had a great turn out for our youth lunch. It was great to see some new faces of youth who want to be involved, as well as members of their families! During a lunch of pizza from Milano's the group took a look at the numerous things youth group has done over the years, and an interest inventory was distributed so that we could begin talking about what types of things people would like to see happening in youth group. Dates were set for events through the end of the year.

If you missed this lunch don't despair! We are just getting started. Our next lunch and planning meeting will be held at Panera on Brown Street on December 14, and we would love to see you there! In December, in addition to meeting for lunch, the youth group will be organizing and shopping for our Adopt-A-Family. We will also be holding a lock-in over Christmas break. Watch your mail for more details. In January we will be traveling to Cincinnati to shake things up at YouthQuake. This annual event is an exciting, faith affirming event full of fun, music and inspiration. Don't miss it.

Youth group events will always be listed in the *Voice*, in the bulletin, in letters and postcards sent home, on the bulletin board near the office AND you can ALWAYS call me if you just want to ask what is going on.

- Celeste

HANG THIS ON YOUR FRIDGE!

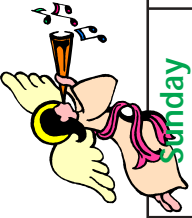
- November 29 - Adventure Awaiting food prep 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
- November 30 - Adventure Awaiting following second service
- December 14 - Lunch at Panera following second service
- December 20 - Adopt-A-Family delivery 10:00 a.m.
- December ? - Lock-in at church (date tba) 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- January 16-18 - Youth Quake in Cincinnati



HOLY TERRORS CAROLING


The congregation is invited to join the Holy Terrors for their annual **Christmas caroling** event to members who are sick or homebound on **Sunday, December 14**. A light lunch will be served after the 10:30 worship service, and we will carol following lunch at approximately 1:00 p.m. at Bethany. After caroling we will go to Graeters.





DECEMBER 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 p.m. Circle - Brown	2 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 9:30 a.m. Sewing 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 3:30 p.m. Staff @ Applebees 7:30 p.m. Christian Ed	3 7:00 a.m. AA 6:45 p.m. "Escape the Noise" - Chapel 7:30 p.m. Social Ministry	4 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	5	6 9:00 a.m. At-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & At-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
7 ADVENT 2 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 12:00 Pageant rehearsal & pizza	8	9 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	10 7:00 a.m. AA 10:00 a.m. Circle - Meckstroth 6:45 p.m. "Escape the Noise" - Chapel	11 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13 9:00 a.m. Pageant reh. 9:00 a.m. At-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & At-Anon 11:00 a.m. Chancel Choir 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
14 ADVENT 3 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 11:45 a.m. Property 12:00 p.m. Youth lunch Holy Terrors carolling 3:00 p.m. Musical concert	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 p.m. Council	16 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 6:30 p.m. Staff Dinner	17 7:00 a.m. AA 6:30 p.m. Circle - Davila 6:45 p.m. "Escape the Noise" - Chapel	18 9:30 a.m. Chorus 11:30 a.m. JOY Group luncheon NCR 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	19 2:00 p.m. Bethany Communion 6:00 p.m. Pageant reh. & dinner	20 Deliver Adopt-A-Family 9:00 a.m. At-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & At-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
21 ADVENT 4 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells	22	23 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	24 + 7:00 a.m. AA 10:00 a.m. Pageant reh. 4:00 p.m. Worship 10:00 p.m. Worship	25 A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 9:00 a.m. At-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & At-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
28 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 3:00 p.m. Sacred Harp	29 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	30 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	31 7:00 a.m. AA			

Wel ca News

Women Enthusiastically Living Christian Actions

Dates of interest for women:

Church Women United is having their Christmas Tea on December 1 at the Community United Methodist Church on Meyer Ave. in Dayton. This organization is composed of women from all faiths, worshipping together, united by their witnessing. Each month they meet in a different church which enables all to learn from others. Carolyn Haman is our Key Woman if you want more information call her, 845-8766.

Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We Care Arts is having their annual Cookie Walk. As you start your walk, you get a plastic glove and a box for the cookies you select as you proceed along the tables. When you have completed your walk, your box will be weighed and you pay \$5.00 per pound for the best variety of delicious cookies to be found! Stop by at WE CARE ARTS, 3035 Wilmington Ave.

When you receive this issue of *The Voice*, Advent will be in progress! We anticipate and prepare for Jesus' birth! God's gift as the hope of the world! Be sure to make a note of the important dates and times of our Christmas events at our church. Advent is an important journey. Christmas Day is the destination. Not a pretty wrapped gift under the tree but the gift of love in your heart.

Have a blessed Christmas!

See you in church.

- Shirley Coen

DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Monday, December 1 - Margaret Brown 1:00 p.m., 4318 Overland Trail
 - Wednesday, December 10 - Wilma Meckstroth, Christmas Brunch 10:00 a.m. 2142 E. Rahn Rd.
 - Wednesday, December 17 - Sonia Davila (RSVP) for time, 444 Greenmount Blvd.
- BRING AN ORNAMENT TO EXCHANGE

Joy Group

The JOY Group of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior will meet at the NCR Country Club on Thursday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m. for a Christmas luncheon buffet. Reservations should be made with the Meckstroth's (Ph 434-5033) by Thursday, December 11. Cost per person is \$25.00 for lunch and program. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. The menu includes roast turkey, pork loin or salmon plus vegetables, salad and dessert.

PROJECT BLESSING

Members from LCOS served lunch to 138 hungry folks at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Monday, November 17. The meal consisted of hamburger pie (with green beans, tomato soup and mashed potatoes), cole slaw with pineapple and marshmallows, diced peaches with grapes and bananas, cupcakes, bread and butter. LCOS workers were; Ansel John, Ron Iverson, Betty Savage, Greg & Jackie Dawson. Cupcakes were provided by Georgia Culbertson, Sue Harbaugh, Wilma Meckstroth, Karen Tyson and Susie Woolery.

Foundation News

MISSION STATEMENT

To invigorate the ministry of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior for this present time and for a time we will not see.

YOUR FOUNDATION IS AT WORK...

During 2008 the Foundation has allocated \$129,532.84 for our church. In 2009 the approved allocation will be \$128,193. This figure represents the 4.5 rate of distribution that has been used in years past.

In addition to your regular annual giving, have you ever thought of making a gift to your church? The LCOS Foundation is the vehicle for that.

Whether you wish to donate to support the building, worship and music, educational programs for our members, Social Ministry concerns, or wherever the need is greatest, the LCOS Foundation can assist you. Your gift may be a one-time gift, a long-term pledge, or an estate gift. We have attorneys who are willing to assist in every step of the way, or you may work through your own attorney. Feel free to discuss this with Pr. Eichhorn or any of the Foundation Trustees – we are here for you.

Trustees: Pam Stephens, Chair; Chris Becker, Vice-Chair; Jay Lane, Secretary-Treasurer; Wes Boord; Don Hartman; Steve Harper; Harriett Uphoff; Roger Bloomfield, Counsel.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Below is a listing of people who have made donations to Lutheran Church of Our Savior in memory of member-disciples who

have recently died. Their donations go directly into our LCOS Foundation, and are loving, creative ways in which to remember friends and loved ones. Their donations also held to ensure that God's ministry will be carried out in this place in the years to come.

The following people have donated:

In memory of Caryl Rader:

Robert & Sara Faulk

In memory of Alan Crandall:

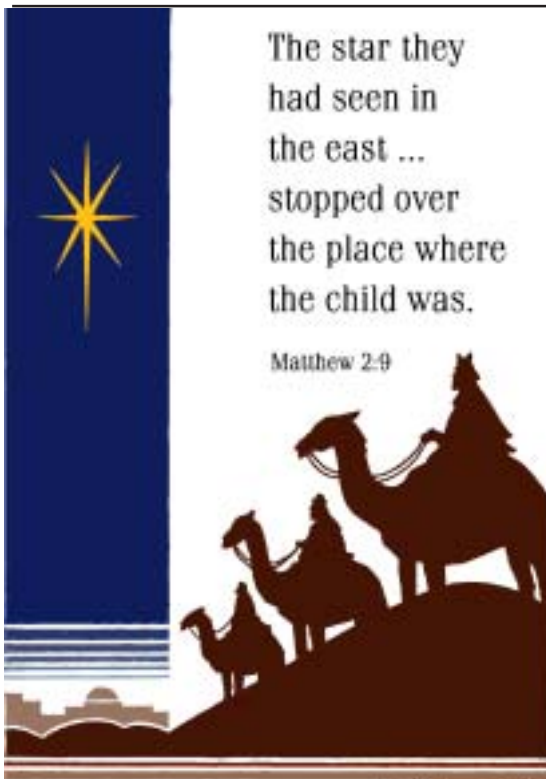
Richard Crandall
Charles & Linda Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Glennon
Rick & Mary Jo Pinnell
Mr. & Mrs. David Schaefer

In memory of Nancy Henry:

Joan Thiele
Patti Ballard
Tim & Bonnie Prunk
Mr. & Mrs. David Schaefer
THMG, LTD.
Andrea Haldeman / Randy Ready
Joe & Cathy Rouske
Hunter Fan Co.
Royce & Dianne Remington
Berglund Marketing, Inc.
Oatey
Casablanca Fan Co.
Bob & Barbara O'Hara
Richard & Carol Pohl
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meckstroth
Mrs. Jane Ross
Mrs. Bettie Savage
Christine Mayne
Source One Business Services, LLC

(Continued on page 10)

Four Seasons Garden Club
 Steve & Thelma Yeonas
 James & Lata Stefano
 InfoCision
 Randall & Daphney Silva
 Samantha Jones & family
 Mr. & Mrs. William Winger
 Ms. Karen Lingle
 LCOS JOY Group
 Mr. & Mrs. William O'Connor
 Leadership 100
 Greek Orthodox Community of St.
 Demetrios
 Vi Delaney
 Robert & Debra Colberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stephens



Stewardship

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OPERATING FUND STATUS

October 2008

Offerings (against budget):	\$26,634.19
Foundation (against budget):	0.00
HVAC loan payment (savings)	3,426.03
Other collections (non-budget):	
Social Ministry:	1,151.00
Memorials:	2,640.00
HVAC Project:	2,566.00
Rest of Foundation monies:	0.00
Expenses:	\$45,336.57
(Receipts - Expenses)	-\$46,878.57

2008 Totals (as of November 15)

YTD collections (against budget):	\$319,631.64
Foundation (against budget):	102,997.72
HVAC loan payment (from savings):	54,260.30
YTD non-budget collections:	
Social Ministry:	10,556.71
Memorials:	5,820.00
HVAC Project totals (2008):	40,759.82
Foundation(scholarship/benev):	2,989.86
YTD Expenses:	\$477,099.48
YTD Balance (rcpts-expenses):	-\$54,470.12

- Submitted by Don Hartman



MONDAY,
DECEMBER 15

Remember in Prayer

When we pray for others, we lift them to God, seeking God's grace and blessing in their individual situations. When we ask others to pray for us, we honor them with our trust.

MEMBERS

Judith Ault

Dorothy Belleman

Marion Bieser

John Buechele

Don Cox

Al & Helen Davis

Nancy Freudenberger

Bryan Griffin (in Iraq)

Bob Haman

Lucille Loundenslager

Phyllis Mayne

Loren Metzler

Pastor Robert Neeb

Hema Rajaratnam

Jack Somers

Dorothy Zinkiewicz

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sam Auditore, Steve's dad

Jean Black, Jan Swedlund's grandma

Roger Boord, son of Wes and Rita

Barbie Conlin, Laurie Harper's sister

Elam family, friends of Todd Stowe

Sybille Gerull, friend of Moira Levant

Jeanne Gossel, Jan Swedlund's sister-in-law

Morgan Gross, Lee and Sandy Scamp's son-in-law

Caelan Guthrie, grandson of Cap and Nancy Phillips

Ron Harper, Steve's dad

Angela Lenhart, Lois Smith's niece

Collette McFarland, Shawn's mom

Donna Miller, Pastor Bob's wife

O'Leary family, Rita Boord's cousin

Bevy Jo Parker, co-worker of Kim Buechele

Gary Poteat, Eric Snead's uncle

Matt Reichardt, Kim Buechele's cousin, in Iraq

Marguerite Ressler, Lora Stowe's mother

Kent Swedlund, Steve's dad

Pat Tierney, friend of the Stephens

Jack Wiegman, cousin of Moira Levant

Zachary, Lynn Wirtanen's nephew



Mission Statement

To foster a vibrant, visible community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

To continue to grow spiritually and physically as a community of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to make a difference in the larger community.

