

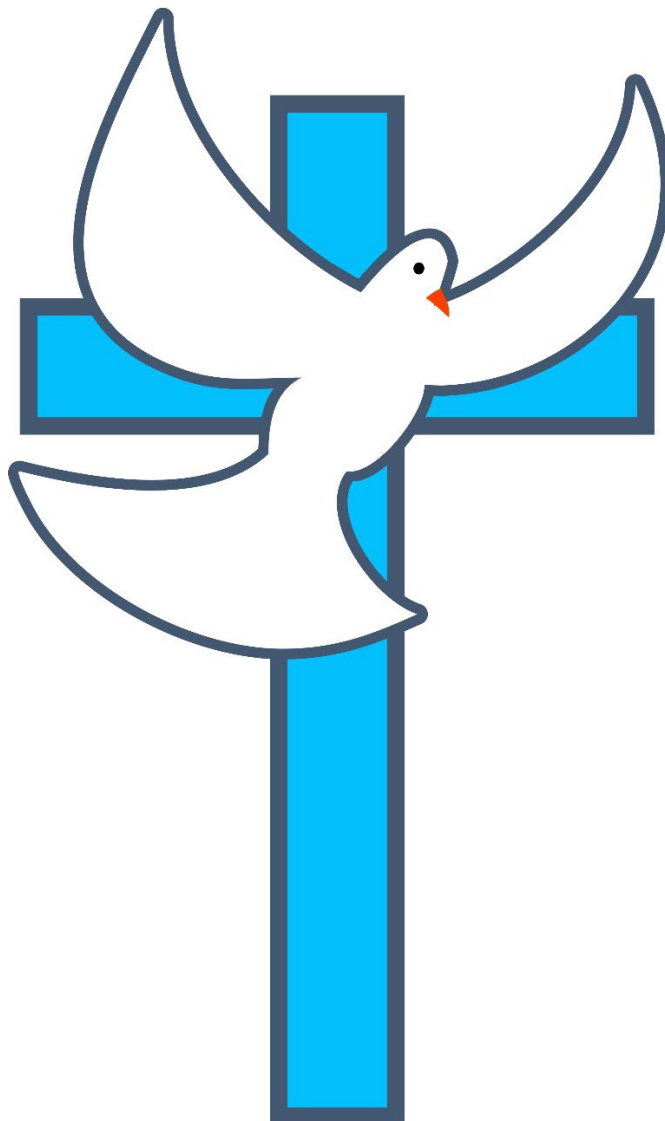
Lutheran Church By The Lake



100 Twelve Oaks Dr. McCormick SC 29835 864-391-3000
Reverend Greg Van Dyke lcbitlpastor@wctel.net 843-315-8088



Sharing the GOOD NEWS **November 2025**



Vindication: Hope for the Future, Promise for Today

We talk often about redemption and resurrection—and rightly so. But Scripture offers a companion gift we don't name as frequently: **vindication**. Vindication is God's public "Yes" to those the world has misjudged; it's the moment when the Lord brings hidden faithfulness into the light and declares, "This one is mine." It stands beside redemption as a work of grace and beside resurrection as a sign of victory—hope for the future and promise for the present.

From the opening chapters of Genesis, God hears the cry of the wronged and overlooked—Hagar in the wilderness, Joseph in the prison—and lifts up their stories in ways no human court could have arranged. The psalmists dare to pray, "Vindicate me, O God," trusting that the Lord will not let deceit have the last word. The prophets speak to a shamed people and promise that the One who "vindicates" is near. And then, at the center of the Gospel, **Easter** is not only life from the dead; it is the Father's public reversal of the world's verdict against Jesus. The cross said "guilty"; the empty tomb says "Beloved Son." In Christ, God's vindication breaks into history.

Why does this matter for us, here and now?

- **For the misunderstood and misrepresented:** Vindication means your quiet faithfulness is not wasted. God sees what others miss and will, in the right time, bring truth into the open. That future confidence steadies present hearts.
- **For the weary conscience and the accusing voice (within or without):** In Christ, the Judge becomes your Defender. "Who will bring any charge?" asks Paul—not because we've been flawless, but because we belong to the One God has vindicated. The final word over our lives is not shame, but grace.
- **For those longing for perfect justice but resisting bitterness:** Vindication allows us to entrust outcomes to God. We can do what is right, speak the truth in love, and leave the great unveiling to the Lord who judges with mercy. That frees our hands for service rather than score-keeping.
- **For our congregational witness:** Vindication invites us to live such open, Christ-shaped lives that accusations eventually fall flat. Goodness, done quietly and consistently, becomes its own testimony—today in Savannah Lakes Village, across McCormick and Lincoln Counties, and wherever the Lord sends us.

And there is more. Scripture's last word in Revelation is a world set right: the Lamb who was mocked now reigns; the saints who were overlooked are honored; every tear is noticed, named, and wiped away. That **future vindication** does not make us passive; it makes us courageous. Knowing where God is taking history helps us love more boldly in the present. We can keep forgiving, keep serving, keep telling the

truth—even when it costs—because God has promised to bring all things into the light of Christ.

So if you carry a hurt from being misread... if a season of faithful work seems unseen... if you're tempted to build a life around defending your name—hear the good news: **God's got your story.** The One who raised Jesus will also clear the names of those who have taken refuge in him. Redemption says, "You are forgiven and restored." Resurrection says, "You will live." Vindication adds, "You will not live under a lie."

As a church, let's practice that future today:

- **Tell the truth gently.** Refuse rumor; choose charity.
- **Persevere in quiet faithfulness.** Keep showing up in prayer, in care, in small mercies no one applauds.
- **Entrust outcomes to God.** Do the next right thing and let the Lord handle the unveiling.
- **Name grace out loud.** When you see Christ at work in someone, say so. Public encouragement is a small taste of holy vindication.

Friends, this is not wishful thinking; it is the logic of Easter. The Father has already vindicated the Son. Those who are in Christ share his future and his favor. Take heart. What is true in heaven is making its way, slowly and surely, into every hidden place on earth—including ours.

With you in the hope of redemption, resurrection, **and** vindication,

Pastor Greg Van Dyke

Lutheran Church By The Lake

**From the Desk of
Sherri Kumle, Council President**

Introducing the Shepherding Care Ministry

Fostering Spiritual Growth and Connection at Lutheran Church By The Lake

Welcome to Shepherding Care Ministry

At Lutheran Church By The Lake, we believe that caring for one another is a sacred calling and a joyful gift. Our new Shepherding Care Ministry is dedicated to bringing Lutheran Church to our church family through nurturing spiritual growth and deeper connections within our congregation. Rooted in compassion, encouragement, and faith, this ministry brings together lay leaders and our pastor to serve and support our people through life's joys and challenges.

Our Guiding Principles

Shepherding Care is built on partnership and community. Lay leaders work hand-in-hand with Pastor Greg to create meaningful opportunities for spiritual care. Together, we help each other stay connected to our church family, grow in faith, and experience Christ's love in tangible ways.

- Lay Partnership: Volunteers collaborate closely with the pastor, sharing in care responsibilities and ministry leadership.
- Spiritual Growth: Every act of care is a chance to deepen our faith and share God's love.
- Staying Connected: We bring the love of Christ from the church to those in our midst as we strengthen bonds across our congregation, ensuring no one feels alone.

Our Care Ministries

Shepherding Care is expressed through several caring ministries, each designed to meet specific needs:

- Home Visits: Teams offer friendly visits to members at home, bringing comfort and community. When requested, team members bring the Eucharist consecrated by the pastor during the worship service with those unable to attend worship in person.
- Friendly Check-In Calls: Volunteers make regular phone calls to let members know they are remembered, valued, and prayed for.
- Card Ministry: Thoughtful cards are sent for bereavement, celebrations, illnesses, and times of suffering—reminders of God's presence and our congregation's care.
- Prayer Ministry: Prayer warriors are paired with those seeking spiritual support, lifting up requests and concerns in daily prayer.

Pastoral Guidance and Support

Pastor Greg actively guides the Shepherding Care Ministry, providing oversight, encouragement, and accessibility to all members and team leaders. Confidentiality and healthy boundaries are respected, ensuring that our care is both compassionate

and responsible. Team leaders receive ongoing support so that everyone feels equipped and uplifted in service.

How to Request Support

If you or someone you know could benefit from Shepherding Care, there are several ways to reach out:

- Write your prayer requests in the Red Intercessory Prayer Book located in the Narthex.
- Drop a Request Form in the Gold Box in the Narthex.
- Email our dedicated and private Shepherding Care email: lcbtlshepherdingcare@gmail.com or call the church office at 864-391-3000.

No need is too small, and every request is received with confidentiality, love and prayerful attention.

Invitation to Learn More and Join

Shepherding Care thrives on the gifts and kindness of our congregation. If you would like to learn more or feel called to join this ministry, we warmly welcome your interest and involvement. Please reach out to any of our ministry leaders:

- Pastor Greg: lcbtlpastor@wctel.net 864-391-3000
- Lay Leader Sherri Kumle: skumle18@gmail.com 937-313-6640
- Team Leaders:
- Candy Zimmerman: candybz800@gmail.com
- Denise Uitto: deniseuitto@ggmail.com
- Julie Crane: jjulieprayers01@gmail.com

Serving Each Other—A Gift of Grace

In joining Shepherding Care Ministry, you become part of a team devoted to loving service, shared prayer, and lasting friendship. As we care for one another, we bear witness to God's grace in our midst. Together, we journey in faith, hope, and love.

Urgent Appeal: Feed Our Neighbors—“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” (Matt. 25:35)

Beloved in Christ,

Because of the federal shutdown, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are scheduled to stop **this Saturday, November 1, 2025**. For many in our county, that means the cupboard goes bare—immediately. Whatever our views about Washington, hunger in McCormick is not partisan. It is personal. And it is preventable—by us.

Jesus says, “*I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.*” (Matt. 25:35, 40) This is our moment to love our neighbors as if we were serving Jesus himself.

What LCBTL Will Do—Starting Now

We are focusing our response through **Helping Hands United** of McCormick County. Beginning **today**, a clearly marked **donation can/box** will be available in the **narthex**.

Please give cash or checks only (made payable to **Helping Hands United**).

Do not make checks payable to LCBTL—doing so will delay funds reaching our neighbors.

Why Cash (Not Cans) Matters Most

- **Stronger buying power:** Helping Hands pays **no sales tax**.
- **Wholesale pricing:** They purchase **in bulk at wholesale**, stretching every dollar.
- **Right food, right time:** They buy exactly **what is needed now**, avoiding shortages or excesses.
- **Efficient & safe:** Staff and volunteers can **serve clients**, not sort and discard **expired donations**.

Our Commitment

We will continue this cash-only appeal **until the shutdown ends and funding is restored**, so our neighbors are not forced to choose between food and everything else.

How to Give

- **Cash:** Place in the donation receptacle in the narthex.
- **Checks:** Make payable to **Helping Hands United** (not LCBTL) and place in the same receptacle.

Church, this is not about red or blue. It’s about the Body of Christ responding to real hunger with real help. Let’s meet Jesus in our neighbors and make sure no one in McCormick goes without food.

Come, Holy Spirit—move us to generous, joyful action. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY NEWS



Fall Bible Study

"Chuck Gresham and Bill Kite will team teach N.T. Wright's Surprised By Hope, Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church."
Dates: 11/4,11/11, 11/18 & 12/2,12/9, 12/16.

Your Guide For Requesting Prayers, Visits, Calls, Home Communion, or Cards at LCBTL



What Is Shepherd's Care?

Shepherd's Care is a ministry at Lutheran Church By The Lake that combines the **Pastoral Care** of Pastor Greg combined with lay leaders of the congregation who have volunteered to assist him by providing **Coordination of Requests**, (*Sherri Kumle*) and Caring Leadership in **Eucharistic Visits and Calls** (*Candy Zimmerman*), **Prayers** (*Julie Crane*), and **Cards** (*Denise Uitto*).

Should I Connect with Shepherd's Care?

Everyone in the congregation is invited to connect with Shepherd's Care for themselves, a loved one, or in some cases neighbors and friends if there is a need for prayer. Although prayer is always available for all those in need, Calls, visits, and cards are primarily for the people of Lutheran Church By The Lake.

Why Not Just Make a Request in Person to Pastor or A Lay Leader?

Mentioning needs is always appropriate; however, to ensure that the request is recorded and that your wishes are fulfilled, making a request through Shepherd's Care is also recommended.

How Do I Connect?

- Email Shepherd's Care anytime using a secure email address that only Pastor and the Shepherd's Care Lay Leaders will see: LCBTLshepherdscare@gmail.com
 - Or
- Call the church office at **864-391-3000** and ask for a specific request to be sent to Shepherd's Care.
 - Or
- Go to the blue covered table in the Narthex and **fill out a request form** that may be placed in the GOLD BOX for a Shepherd's Care Leader to pick up and respond to. (For your convenience, the QR CODE on the table goes directly to LCBTLshepherdscare@gmail.com).
-

What Can I Do ANYTIME To Make a Request?

- You may add a name (first name only) to the RED Intercessory Prayer Book
- You may fill out and drop a Request Form in the Gold Box for any of the three caring ministries
- You may place a name in the Prayer Vessel to be read on Sunday Morning

Important News from the Worship Team

November is here and soon we will be in Advent and then the Christmas Season. Below is a snapshot of the services coming up and when Advent starts, A Blue Christmas service scheduled for December 14th at 3:00 pm, Dates to decorate the church etc. Mark your calendars:

Calendar and planning for 2025

- 1). Reformation Sunday – October 26
- 2). All Saints Sunday – November 2
- 3). Sundays at Four Concert – Nov. 16, at 3:00 pm Garden City Bones
- 4). Christ The King Sunday – November 23
- 5). Decorate the Church for Christmas – Nov. 23, 24, 25, and 26
- 6) Thanksgiving – November 27
- 7). 1st Sunday of Advent – November 30
- 8). Blue Christmas -Sunday December 14, at 3:00pm – MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- 9). Christmas Eve services – Wed. December 24, at 4:00pm and 7pm

For Your Information

A Resolution to Confer the Title Pastor Emeritus upon the Rev. Dr. James Kinsler

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. James Kinsler was called to serve as pastor of Lutheran Church By The Lake in 2008 and faithfully shepherded this congregation until his retirement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, at his installation he made solemn vows before God to preach and teach the gospel, to tend the flock with Word and Sacrament, and to lead by example in holy living—and he kept those vows with integrity, just as this congregation pledged to receive him as a messenger of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure he led with steadiness and hope through defining seasons for church and community alike—including a severe national economic downturn (2008–2009), periods of denominational discernment and public witness that occasioned strong differences of conviction, and the COVID-19 pandemic—guiding our life together in uncharted waters with prayerful judgment and pastoral courage; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Kinsler oversaw significant stewardship of our campus, including the construction of the ARK, the remodeling of portions of the original building, and the creation of a conference room to strengthen our ministries; and

WHEREAS, he initiated and nurtured ministries that continue to bear fruit, notably Camp GRAND, which welcomes grandchildren and children of the wider community into learning, fellowship, fun, and life in the company of Jesus, and he expanded our worship life through lakeside services and blessings for those who take to the water; and

WHEREAS, throughout his pastorate he walked beside the congregation and community in sickness, death, and grief—holding confidences, carrying burdens as his own, and faithfully praying with and for the congregation; and

WHEREAS, he served with a gracious spirit, ready humor, and a playfully self-deprecating manner that never diminished his deep reverence for the office he bore; and

WHEREAS, even after retirement he continued, often quietly and without public recognition, to advise leaders, comfort the anxious, and temper fears with wise counsel; and

WHEREAS, the testimony frequently heard among us remains true: “Pastor Jim loves Jesus,” and his life and ministry among us have been a living doxology to the faithfulness of God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Lutheran Church By The Lake hereby confers upon the Rev. Dr. James Kinsler the honorary title **Pastor Emeritus**, effective **October 26, 2025**, in grateful recognition of his faithful pastoral service, steadfast leadership through challenge and change, integrity of life, and abiding love for Christ and this congregation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council’s action be presented to the congregation for joyful affirmation by acclamation at the 10:30 a.m. service, with the President of the Congregation inviting all in favor to rise in thanksgiving; and that the Secretary record both the Council’s action and the congregation’s acclamation in the permanent minutes of Lutheran Church By The Lake.

Motion made by: The Rev. N. Gregory Van Dyke, Pastor

Date of motion: September 15, 2025

Seconded by: Eileen Hurlbut

Action of the Council: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted (on October 26, 2025)



Please plan to join us:
Lutheran Church
By the Lake



**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

November 16, 2025
Following the 10:30 AM Service

LCBTL ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

It is that time of year again. The Turkey Trot will be happening at LCBTL on Thanksgiving morning. Come join your neighbors in a fun morning of moderate exercise and fellowship. Walk/run a short course in the neighborhoods near the church (approximately 2 miles, but can also shorten to about 1). All ages and pets on a leash are welcome. You can even dress up in your favorite costume.

Registration is at 8:30 with the run/walk starting at 9. Entry fee is a donation to the food pantry. Prizes are pies which go to the 1st male and 1st female, with the rest raffled to people who complete the course. There will also be a cash raffle.

Volunteers are invited to help at the event or in making/purchase pies. For more information contact Jim Snyder at runswim2@msn.com. Sign up sheets will be at the church, along with announcements at services.



FIRST STEPS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The month of November, our blessing ministry will be collecting CHRISTMAS gifts for 50 preschool children in McCormick.

An angel tree will be set up in the Narthex with name, age and clothing size.

We ask you select an angel and provide one new outfit, one new age appropriate toy and one new book.

Sign ups will begin on November 9th.

Gifts will be collected in gift bags, please do NOT wrap items.
The last day to return gifts is November 30th.

THANK-YOU for your generosity in providing gifts for these preschool children!

Please contact Ann Snyder for any questions you may have.
413 351 1748



Lutheran Women in Mission



**Lutheran Women in Mission
Invite you to a Rustic Christmas Luncheon**

**December 12, 2025 at 12 noon
Elijah Clark State Park Group Shelter #1
(\$5 entrance fee per vehicle)**

**A good will offering for the
Connie Maxwell Children's Home
will be collected
Sign up sheets are in the Narthex**

**Guests are invited but we have a
limit of 100 people**



INVITATION TO BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

In the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Have you lost a loved one, or have other loved ones far away that cannot come home? Perhaps an illness, or you might have feelings of grief, depression, despair, loneliness, or have conflicting emotions.

Lutheran Church by the Lake will be holding a **Blue Christmas Service** on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 3:00pm, performed by Pastor Greg Van Dyke. We invite the entire SLV community and surrounding area including McCormick and Lincolnton to come to this service for those who are in need of healing and hope, consolation and assurance, that you are not alone and that God loves us and knows our desire for healing.

In Christ,

Bill Hutchinson, Worship Committee Chair

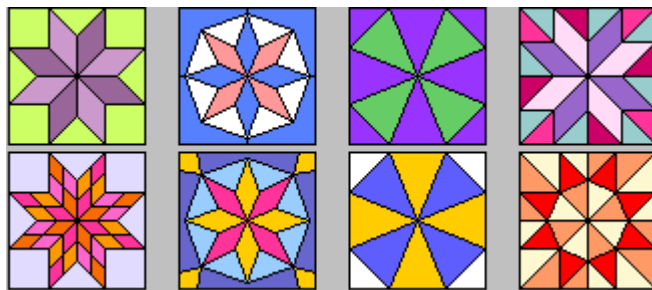


Quilt Sale Fundraiser

The Quilt Circle will be selling quilts, Christmas Quilts, Table Runners and Wall Hangings.

These items will be available for preview on Sunday, November 30th during both services. Sale Date will be December 7th in the Bridge before and after each service.

Help us raise funds for the next years quilt projects!





On behalf of Little River Electric,
I want to thank you for allowing
us to use your parking lot for
Annual meeting registrations. We
truly appreciate your generosity and the
convenience your location provides for
our members that live nearby.

Tricia Smith

A THANK YOU FROM OUR PASTOR EMERITUS

Dear Pastor Greg, Church Council Members,
and People of God at L.C.B.T.L.,
Martha and I, as well as our whole family,
would like to express our sincere gratitude,
deep appreciation, and overflowing joy for
the recognition on Reformation Sunday,
One of the great privileges of Martha and
my life together is a sense of shared
ministry. Lutheran Church By The Lake will
always have a prominent place in our
hearts! God's Riches Blessing!
Pastor Emeritus Jim + Martha

May you know...
Joy in your journey,
Peace on the path,
Wonder in the walk of life,
And Hope, Healing, and Wholeness you seek,
SLW journey

God's Work, Our Hands

Lutheran Church By The Lake welcomed Deacon Pegi Roberts to lead us in worship as part of our ***God's Work, Our Hands*** recognition. Pegi is currently employed by SC Lutheran Retreat Centers, and as a gesture of thanks, our congregation received a good-will offering for Camp Kinard on her behalf to be presented to Camp Kinard for the good work they do in providing fellowship and worship experiences for our region. The following is their response to our contribution:

MAIN OFFICE & CAMP KINARD / 6053 Two Notch Road / Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070 / PHONE 803.532.3183
COASTAL RETREAT / PO Box 224 / 2101 Palm Blvd / Isle of Palms, SC 29451 / PHONE 843.886.4630
A ministry of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



October 13, 2025

Lutheran Church by the Lake
100 Twelve Oaks Dr
Mc Cormick, SC 29835-2916

Dear Friends

Thank you! With your gift, a beautiful multipurpose chapel is coming closer to reality at Camp Kinard!

THANK YOU for your generous gift of \$360.00 to the Building+Renewing+Believing: Holy Spaces campaign on 10/10/2025.

You are helping to make dreams come true as together we envision more opportunities for people of all ages to grow in faith and experience radical hospitality at Camp Kinard. Thank you for your generous support and investment in the future of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers as we provide holy spaces for God to change lives!

Blessings and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dallas J. Shealy".

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director, South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers
dallas@sclrc.com

For more information regarding the building campaign, visit [SCLRC.com/campaign](https://sclrc.com/campaign)!

GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare 13 week session is starting Tuesday, September 9th, 2025. It is held in the Conference Room at 3:30pm till 5:15pm.

GriefShare has been a part of one of our outreach programs for over 14 years. We have had many folks coming to our program, grief is not only the loss of a spouse, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren and friends. Members have come from Augusta, Lincolnton, Abbeville, SLV, and McCormick.

Grief does not have a time line on it. You can't feel better without working on your feelings. We meet in small discussion groups, you can participate if you want or just listen, that helps.

We have three trained facilitators.

If you have any questions please call or text at 864-323-7142.
Jeanne Thayer



Prayer Shawl



Prayer Shawl Circle takes place the third Monday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Bridge. Here are all the upcoming dates for 2025:

November 17th
December 15th

Come join us and make something special!



Deadline for the December Newsletter
is November 19th



1st

**Leon Kern
Linda Van Dyke**

5th

Steve Detrick

7th

Debbie Frederickson

8th

Betty Corbeil

13th

Eric Randall

14th

Doug McEvoy

15th

Hilda Brissey

19th

David Swiecki

22nd

**Dick Selby
Ann Snyder**

24th

Rick Weiers

28th

**Glenn Heffner
Stephen Schoppe**

29th

David Pund



1st

**Cherlyn and Bryce Johnson
Bev and Lee Sautter**

19th

Mike and Peggy Thomas

20th

Linda and Steve Manion



NOVEMBER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Communion Assistants 9:00 AM

2nd Gloria Bramble and Gerry Wasserman
9th Gloria Bramble and Linda McCullough
16th Raylene Emerich and Chuck Gresham
23rd Anne And Gerry Wasserman
30th Jeanne Thayer and Linda McCullough

Communion Assistants 10:30 AM

2nd Donna Irmis and Debbie Frederickson
9th Judy Greiger and Lynn Flom
16th Candy Zimmerman & Maureen Mooney
23rd Ann and Jim Snyder
30th Donna Irmis and Maureen Mooney

Lectors 9:00 am

2nd Gerry Wasserman
9th Linda McCullough
16th Chuck Gresham
23rd Gerry Wasserman
30th Julie Crane

Lectors 10:30 am

2nd Eric Randall
9th Linda Wakefield
16th Barbara Hinkel
23rd Dale Nixon
30th Ann Snyder

Ushers 9:00 am

2nd Gloria Bramble and Robin Bush
9th Gloria Bramble and Gail Rivell
16th Raylene Emerich and Chuck Gresham
23rd Anne and Gerry Wasserman
30th Jeanne Thayer and Gail Rivell

Ushers 10:30 am

2nd Paul Klein, Maureen Mooney
9th Margo and Bill Kite
16th Lynn and David Flom
23rd Candy and Mike Zimmerman
30th Elaine Beggs, Maureen Mooney

November Altar Flowers

2nd Rita Danna
9th Fred Frederickson
16th Joy and David Swecki
23rd Jim Snyder
30th (Open)

Altar Guild

Lorna Soule, Linda Klug, Gloria Bramble, LuAnn Danielski and Denise Uitto



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

President	Sherri Kumle
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Paul Klein

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Sherri Kumle
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Paul Klein
Financial Secretary	Eileen Hurlbut
Discipleship of Education	Bill Kite
Discipleship of Evangelism	
Fellowship Leader	Judy Greiger
Servant Leadership	Jeanne Thayer
Stewardship of Life	Charlie Clark
Stewardship of Property	Bill Kumle
Stewardship of Technology	Doug Bauer
Worship Leader	Bill Hutchinson

ORGANIZATION OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Endowment	Candy Zimmerman	
	Elaine Beggs	Treasurer
	Carol Hornung	Secretary
LMM	Bill Kumle and Fred Frederickson	
	Co-Chairs	
	Doug Chalifour	Treasurer
	Paul Klein	Quartermaster
LWM	Karen Spilker, Christie Ziebelle	
	Co-Chairs	
	Debbie Frederickson	Vice President
	Karen Divita	Secretary
	Susan Mazur	Treasurer

LUTHERAN CHURCH BY THE LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

We are called as a community of faith to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission to our neighbors and the world.