

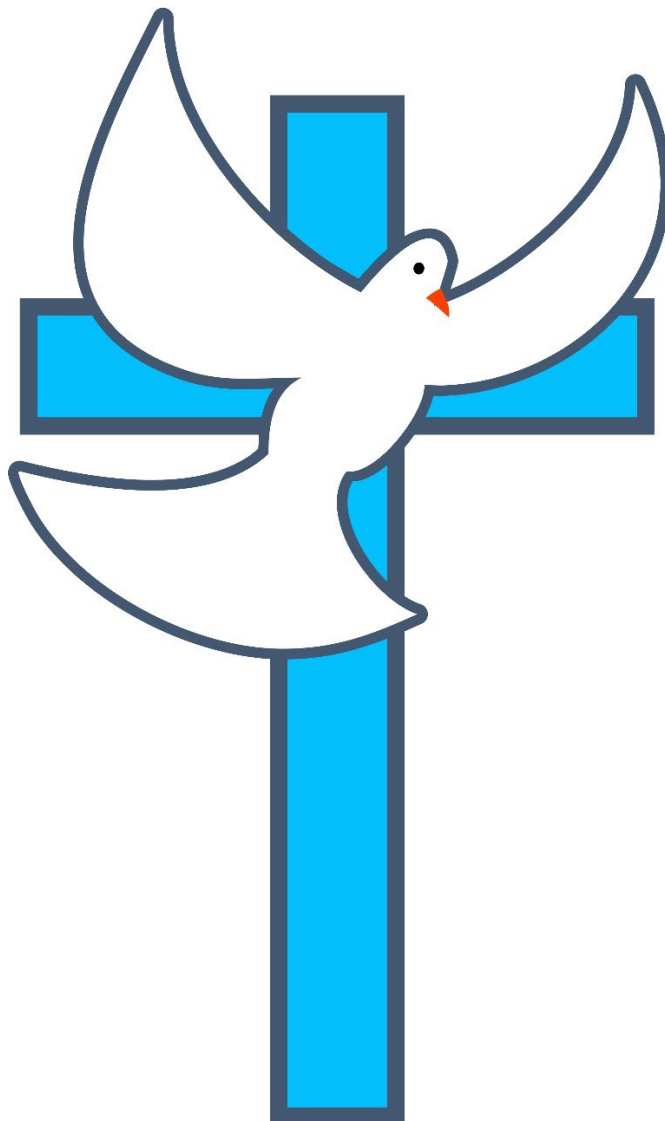
Lutheran Church By The Lake



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



Sharing the GOOD NEWS **February 2026**



Pastor's Corner

February 2026

When Peace Cries Out Past Our Front Yard: Keeping the Peace of Christ in a Noisy World

Not long ago, a group of Buddhist monks walked through McCormick County in a “Walk for Peace.” They were not claiming to *be* peace, nor to embody peace in the way Christians confess Jesus Christ as peace incarnate. Their quiet steps were a public plea—calling for peace, highlighting peace, crying out for peace in a world that can feel loud with contempt and thin on mercy.

And their walk pressed a question into my own discipleship: **If peace is being cried out for right here—near our homes, near our roads, near our church—how do we keep from letting the fear of the world walk right through the doors of the place where Christ has promised to meet us?**

Because for us, peace is not first an aspiration. Peace is a Person.

Scripture says it plainly: **“He is our peace”** (Ephesians 2:14). Jesus does not merely speak about peace; he gives himself to us as peace—peace taught, peace lived, peace embraced, peace poured out. On the night of betrayal, Jesus did not offer a slogan. He offered a gift: **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives”** (John 14:27). The world’s “peace” often means silence through dominance, unity through exclusion, or calm through avoiding hard truth. Christ’s peace is different: it is reconciliation purchased at the cross, strong enough to tell the truth and still refuse hatred.

That is why the church’s calling in anxious times is not to become more partisan, more reactive, or more suspicious. It is to become more recognizably the Body of Christ—formed by Word and Sacrament, shaped by repentance, strengthened for love.

A disciple’s response begins in the mirror

Micah refuses to let faith become performance. God does not ask us to out-shout the world, but to live differently within it: **“to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”** (Micah 6:8). That triad—justice, kindness, humility—doesn’t flatter any of us. It searches us.

Psalms 15 does the same. It asks, **“O LORD, who may abide in your tent?”** (Psalm 15:1). The answer is not “those who are always right,” or “those who defeated their enemies,” or “those who kept their tribe pure.” The psalm describes integrity, truth-telling, restraint in speech, refusal to harm a neighbor. It is not a window for judging others; it is a mirror held up to the soul. And Scripture insists this posture is not optional: **“Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall”** (1 Corinthians 10:12).

In times of division, we are tempted to stare through a single pane of glass—watching others, dissecting motives, assuming we know all the facts. Discipleship says: take the longer look in the mirror. That does not mean abandoning conviction. It means submitting conviction to Christ.

A faithful response refuses both naïveté and cynicism

Some situations and injustices truly are clear. Others are complex—especially in the heat of fear, mistrust, and pressure. Scripture does not ask us to be naïve. It asks us to be wise—and the Bible’s wisdom is never mere cleverness. It is a way of being: **“quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger”** (James 1:19). That is not weakness. It is spiritual discipline.

We do not honor truth by rushing past it. We do not honor neighbor by reducing people to categories. We do not honor God by baptizing our assumptions. **“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,**

willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits” (James 3:17). Notice: *peaceable* does not mean spineless. It means refusing to treat a person as disposable.

The cross redefines “strength”

In moments of social strain, many voices compete to define strength: win the argument, defeat the opponent, expose the enemy, secure your side. Paul confronts that entire storyline: **“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”** (1 Corinthians 1:18). In Christ crucified, God unmasks our addiction to victory and replaces it with a different power: self-giving love that tells the truth without becoming cruel.

So when we feel the pull to contempt, the cross asks: *Is my “rightness” producing the fruit of Christ, or the fruit of the flesh?* Scripture is clear that the Spirit’s fruit has a recognizable shape: **“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity...”** (Galatians 5:22–23). Peace is not only a goal; it is a fruit. And fruit reveals the root.

A congregational response is practiced—weekly and daily

Jesus blesses peacemakers (Matthew 5:9), but he does not bless peace *talkers* who stir up rage. He blesses those who *make* peace—often at cost. And the Beatitudes show how: mercy, purity of heart, hunger for righteousness, willingness to absorb insult without returning evil for evil (Matthew 5:1–12).

That is why what we do at church matters so much. We confess—not to grovel, but to tell the truth. We hear the Word—not as information, but as formation. We gather at the Table—not as reward for the worthy, but as grace for sinners. And we share the peace—not as a polite greeting, but as a practiced commitment: we will meet one another as neighbors in Christ, not as threats.

Then we carry that practice out the doors. Scripture puts it in our mouths and hands: **“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”** (Colossians 3:15). **“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all”** (Romans 12:18). **“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”** (Romans 12:21). This is not a call to ignore harm or excuse wrongdoing. It is a call to reject hatred as a method.

So in days like these, here is a faithful response that fits any headline and any heartache:

Pray before you pronounce.

Listen before you label.

Hold justice and mercy together.

Tell the truth without cruelty.

Refuse contempt.

And when you do not know what to do, begin where Jesus begins—with your own heart and with his promise: **“Blessed are the peacemakers”** (Matthew 5:9), and **“My peace I give to you”** (John 14:27).

Peace is in our midst—because Christ is in our midst. And by his Spirit, peace can remain in our midst, even when the world tries to move in.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Greg

President's Page- February 2025

Sherri Kumle

With Deepest Appreciation - 2025 Thanks To All!

The New Year is always a time of reflection, and doing so conjures up endless lists of things for which we can be so thankful. At Lutheran Church By The Lake, we all serve a God who has great plans for our congregation, and we believe that for all things He has a very specific plan. Long ago, he found a special person in Jackie who through her devotion and love for the church and its purpose, has steadfastly worked to maintain our church buildings while bringing her own faith and love for Jesus into the building each time she enters.

On Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings, David brings his music as an offering to God as he pours his heart into accompanying the choir while at the same time, bringing his personal and professional spirituality into our worship setting. Harry studies and reviews music to assure that it is appropriate for this specific place of worship, then infuses his own love for music into the hearts and voices of his choir.

The Administrative Office is the hub of everything that flows at Lutheran Church By The Lake, connecting the pastor, the congregation, the council, the ministry and lay leaders, our neighbors and community, the synod, and so many others. Debbie and Susan share this responsibility and juggle every request, every suggestion, question, and priority with patience and grace, assuring that the needs of the pastor and the congregation are met from season to season of our church calendar year.

Pastor Greg – the newest, yet now not so very new link in our staff, wears many, many hats along with his clerical collar. His guidance in our spiritual lives, his attention to pastoral care and development of beneficial lay involvement in caring for our church family, the management expertise he brings, his attention to the needs of our community, and so much more. He is the pastor for whom we waited and for whom we prayed during our time of transition.

We are indeed blessed by each of these people in our midst and appreciated more than words can express. Our LCBTL Council and the congregation wishes to thank you all most sincerely for your servant hearts and sharing of your special gifts for God's glory and in service to Lutheran Church By The Lake.

Best Wishes for a Blessed 2026!
Sherri Kumle, President
Lutheran Church By The Lake

Invitation to walk with Jesus During this Lenten Season

Lutheran Church by The Lake invites you to walk with Jesus during this Lenten Season, beginning on Ash Wednesday with a Service on February 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM. This journey then will continue weekly on Wednesday evenings for our Mid-Week Lenten/shared meal and service, to include a gathering in the ARK for conversation and fellowship, then a simple shared meal, then a Mid-week Service.

We will start to gather at 4:45pm in the ARK, have a Blessing for the meal at approximately 5:10, with the meal at 5:15pm. At approximately 5:45 we will begin clean-up and transition for the service to begin at 6:00pm.

We will share in the Eucharist of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, at all services.

Our weekly service schedule including Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am every Sunday, with the following special services during Lent:

Ash Wednesday – February 18 – 6:00pm – including disposition of ashes.

Mid-week Lenten Soup/Service – February 25 – 5:15/6:00pm

Mid-week Lenten Soup/Service – March 4 – 5:15/6:00pm

Mid-week Lenten Soup/Service – March 11 – 5:15/6:00pm

Mid-week Lenten Soup/Service – March 18 – 5:15/6:00pm

Mid-week Lenten Soup/Service – March 25 – 5:15/6:00pm

Palm Sunday – March 29 – 9:00am and 10:30am

Maundy Thursday – April 2 – 6:00pm Service

Good Friday – April 3 – 6:00 pm Service

Easter Vigil – Saturday April 4 – 6:00pm Service

EASTER SUNDAY – April 5 – 9:00am and 10:30Am

Come, bring something to share for the mid-week meal and join us on this walk with Jesus!

In Christ,

Bill Hutchinson

Worship Team Chair



Winter Bible Study

Bible Study: Jim Kinsler in the Ark @ 10:00 A.M. will be presenting "Walking in Faith Along the Appalachian Trail" on 2/3, 2/10, & 2/17.

*Feb.- March - Candy Zimmerman will take us on an in-depth study of King David, a man who was a brilliant poet and singer. Dates: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 & 3/31.

April- May- Pastor Scott Crane will present a study entitled "Practicing Changing Yourself To Change The World." The study will begin just after Easter and continue into May. Dates: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 & 5/5.

May- June- The Three Amigos will present team taught lessons on denominational church practice- Pastor Greg, Pastor Crane, and Pastor Chris/Craig Jones will be ! ! officiating. Dates: 5/12, 5/19, 5/26 & 6/2

June- July- Chuck Gresham will study Paul's Books over three or four sessions. Dates: 6/9, 6/16, 6/23 & 7/7 or 7/14.

*Our "David" Bible Study begins February 24th. David grabs our attention with his vigor, his energy, his wholeheartedness, his God-heartedness. In the middle of Psalm 18, he shouts Yea, by thee I can crush a Troop, And by my God I can leap over a wall! (Ps. 18:29) Join us as we do a deep dive into stories in the life of a man "after God's own heart". 1 Samuel 13:14. We will work in 1st and 2nd Samuel for the six-week study. While the book is not necessary to participate, we will be using "Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians" by Eugene Peterson. It is available on Amazon in Kindle and in paperback. You may order it on your own, or call Candy Zimmerman at 727-215-5881 if you want her to order a copy for you (\$15).

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



What Is Shepherding Care?

Shepherding 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 Shepherding Care?

Everyone in the congregation is invited to connect with Shepherding 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 Shepherding Care is also recommended.

How Do I Connect?

- Email Shepherding Care anytime using a secure email address that only Pastor and the Shepherding Care Lay Leaders will see: LCBTLshepherdingcare@gmail.com
 - Or
- Call the church office at **864-391-3000** and ask for a specific request to be sent to Shepherding 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 Shepherding Care Leader to pick up and respond to. (For your convenience, the QR CODE on the table goes directly to LCBTLshepherdingcare@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

How To Get Your Group Info to church members and the wider SLV Community

Miscommunication is a problem for everyone. There are 4 methods to get your announcements out to our church members and also those within the SLV community.

Sunday Bulletin: Our bulletin is printed each **Wednesday** for the upcoming Sunday. Please email your announcement to the church office by **noon on Tuesdays**. We will then print your information in the bulletin. Please write out exactly how you want it stated in the bulletin and instruct the office that you want it placed in the Sunday bulletin

Realm Email "Blast": If you would like to see your announcement sent via email , again, write out exactly how you want it stated in the email and instruct the office that you want an email sent out through Realm and what date you would like to have it sent. Please allow the office staff enough time to prepare the email for distribution. It usually takes us an hour to turn it around.

Monthly Newsletter: Please email your announcement/news exactly how you want it printed in the newsletter. **Deadline for submissions is the 19th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. Again, instruct the office that you are submitting this item for the Newsletter.

SLV NeighborLink: If you would like to see your announcement in NeighborLink, write out exactly how you want it stated in an email and submit to either the Council President or Pastor Greg for approval. They will then send your approved announcement to the office. Please allow all involved enough time to prepare your announcement for submission to NeighborLink. Please inform the Council President or Pastor Greg the dates you want the submission to run. Also make yourself aware of the guidelines involved in a NeighborLink submission.

Most important is the fact that you let the office staff know how you want your communication to be handled:

Bulletin
Email Blast
Newsletter
NeighborLink

We try hard to help you with your communication needs, and your help with this is truly appreciated.



QUILT CIRCLE

Thanks to everyone who participated in the quilt fundraiser. It was a huge success!

Our next quilt circle will be announced soon, the weather knocked us off track!

Karen Divita and Denise Uitto

DID YOU KNOW?

The Church office and Pastor Greg have a new e-mail addresses.

Church Office: lcctl@lcctl.org

Pastor Greg: Pastor.greg@lcctl.org

A Thank You to
Lutheran Women in Mission



December 29, 2025

Lutheran Church by the Lake
Women in Mission
100 Twelve Oaks Dr
McCormick, SC 29835

Dear Women in Mission,

Thank you for bringing the magic of Christmas to the children and families of Connie Maxwell!

Because of you, cottages are glowing a little brighter, laughter rings a little louder, and little hearts are reminded—again and again—that they are seen, cherished, and never forgotten. Your \$428.00 turns this season into the “most wonderful time of the year” for every child in our care.

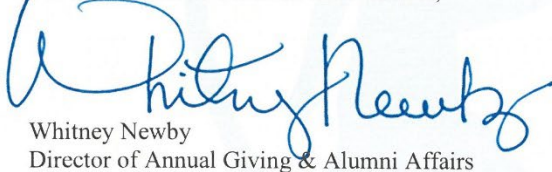
On our Greenwood campus, one of our favorite traditions is coming to life once more: our live Nativity. Picture it—our children bundled in robes and halos, sheep and donkeys in tow, proudly telling the Christmas story under a sky full of stars. For many, this is the moment they get to stand tall and declare to every visitor the greatest gift the world has ever received: Jesus.

Moments like these don't just happen—they're made possible by friends like you.

As we step into 2026, we're filled with hope and excitement for all the Lord has planned. Your partnership is carrying *A Decade of Dreams* forward—helping us reach and heal even more hurting children and families across South Carolina and beyond. Thank you for being part of what's ahead!

This Christmas, may your home overflow with the same joy you've given our children—the joy of knowing you are loved beyond measure. From the bottom of our hearts, Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!

For the Dreams of Children and Families,

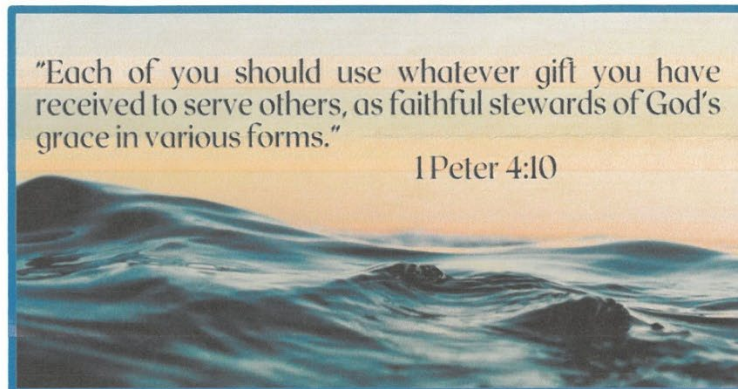

Whitney Newby
Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Affairs



This is your gift receipt. Please retain this letter for your tax records.
This donor received nothing of value for this contribution except our sincere thanks and the joy that comes from helping children.

All Women Are Invited

**Spring Foothills Conference Gathering
Saturday, March 14th, 2026
University Lutheran Church
111 Sloan St., Clemson, SC 29631**



The women of University Lutheran Church in Clemson, SC are pleased to host the Spring Conference for the Foothills Region on Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with registration beginning at 9:30 am. A light lunch will be served.

Our guest speaker will be from **Ripple of One**, an organization that empowers families and young adults to move beyond the need for public assistance and into their full God-given potential. Ripple's vision is to transform poverty into generational success one client at a time, and to walk alongside their clients by providing them with emotional, educational, and financial support. Please plan to join us as we gather to celebrate and act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. **ALL ladies are invited. No need to be a member of a church to attend!**

Please RSVP with the number of ladies planning to attend by Sunday, March 8th to Lena Jones at lenajones038@gmail.com or (864) 425-2622.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

*Peace,
Lena Jones*



January 13, 2026

Lutheran Church By The Lake
100 Twelve Oaks Drive
McCormick, SC 29835

Dear Parishioners of Lutheran Church by The Lake,

McCormick Helping Hands United would like to express our sincere Thank You for your generous donation made to us. Your funds will help us out greatly this year as the prices of food has been on an upward turn.

We currently help out 190 to 225 families a month in McCormick County and try to do our best in giving them assistance in their food insecurity. This year I am trying to re-invent the system and I am going to give them fresh produce one month, dairy another month to help them with nutrition that the need rather than all the can goods. Your donation will help the pantry in the effort!

Heartfelt thank you again for your continued support to the pantry,

Mary Davidson
Pantry Manager & Treasurer, along with all our dedicated volunteers at the Food Pantry, Thrift Store and Board of Directors

McCORMICK COUNTY HELPING HANDS UNITED

P.O. BOX 419, McCormick, SC 29835

PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE

The members of the Prayer Shawl Circle wanted to tell you where our knitted/crocheted pieces have gone in the past year. We have donated more than 30 hats to First Steps of McCormick. "Premie" hats have been given to Self Hospital. Prayer Shawl have gone out to members of LCBTL and others in the community. We have also given larger pieces to the Veterans Home in Anderson, SC. Other pieces have been given to hospitals and homebound people. Pocket Prayer Shawls are being given out to visiting guests at Lutheran Church By The Lake. We meet on the third Monday of each month in the church conference room or The Bridge. Please come and see what we do. We can teach you how to knit or crochet. We can also provide yarn and needles.

If you have any questions, call either co-chair:

Gail Oust: (864) 554-4503 or

Jean Randall: (864) 602-9563

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 16th 2026

If you would like to make a donation to purchase yarn, make out your check to LCBTL with Prayer Shawl Circle in the memo field.





Deadline for the March Newsletter
is February 19th



5th
Fran Castle
Roger Stielow

6th
Harry Klug

9th
Bob Oust

10th
Marjorie Phillips

13th
Denny Steele

15th
Ada Rousseau

25th
Jim Emerich
Garry Kline
Jim Lane

26th
Mae Lee Hafer
Gary Hannah

29th
Norm Francavilla



1st
Bill and Fran Castle

12th
Bob and Gail Oust



FEBRUARY SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Communion Assistants 9:00 AM

1st Marvin Decker and Gloria Bramble
8th Jeanne Thayer and Chuck Gresham
15th Gail Rivell and Raylene Emerich
22nd Dusty and Helene Rhodes

Communion Assistants 10:30 AM

1st Judy Greiger & Deb Frederickson
8th Donna Irmis and Lynn Flom
15th Bill and Margo Kite
22nd Candy Zimmerman & Deb Frederickson

Lectors 9:00 am

1st Joanna Feloni
8th Julie Crane
15th Jerry Wasserman
22nd Helene Rhodes

Lectors 10:30 am

1st Dale Nixon
8th Ann Snyder
15th Linda Wakefield
22nd Dale Nixon

Ushers 9:00 am

1st Marvin Decker and Gloria Bramble
8th Jeanne Thayer and Chuck Gresham
15th Gail Rivell & Raylene Emerich
22nd Dusty and Helene Rhodes

Ushers 10:30 am

1st Candy and Mike Zimmerman
8th Paul Kline and Betty Palone
15th David and Lynn Flom
22nd Ann and Jim Snyder

February Altar Flowers

1st Candy and Mike Zimmerman
8th Open
15th Open
22nd Walter, Ian and Ethan Riddick

(Please consider an open date on the Flower Chart in the Narthex for 2026)

Altar Guild

Donna Irmis, Maureen Mooney, Sue Hefner and Gloria Bramble

CHURCH COUNCIL

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	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.

