



# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Parish Paper of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church  
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara)  
Naples Florida 34113

**APRIL, 2025**  
**Volume 28- Issue 4**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore

## *Easter Sunday*

H E I S R I S E N

*Services: 7:00, 8:30, and  
10:30 a.m.*

**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

Anyone who says that Florida does not have seasons is not paying attention. On the first day of Spring, I noticed beautiful yellow flower buds growing on our bush in the front of the house. I also know that some of the trees will change color in the fall from green to a beautiful purple. There are the balding cypress trees that lose their needles in the Fall that begin to show new life in the Spring. And anyone with allergies certainly has noticed the Spring pollen. So many seasonal changes are occurring even in Florida when we are willing to pay attention. And finally, another seasonal change is when our snowbirds begin returning home. I want to say thank you for joining us for a season. Your presence adds so much to our Worship time together, and we look forward to the return of many of you next year. Sadly, I know that there will be some snowbirds who will not be returning due to health or other reasons that we will not see again until we meet in heaven. You will be missed. To you, we say “until we meet again” as we give God thanks for the upcoming holiday known as Easter. It is the season and the promise of new life.



This Easter we will once again have Worship at 7AM, 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. You might remember that we printed the word “Alleluia” in large letters on brightly colored card stock paper and put it away. Following the 7 AM sunrise service, we will invite any children to search for each letter so we can put it together again and sing Alleluia again. We will have the traditional Easter egg hunt with the Easter bunnies following the 8:30 service. We will celebrate Easter with joy and thanksgiving. Lent can be a difficult season as we focus on our sinfulness and the need to repent and turn towards God. We put away the Alleluia for a time so that we are reminded of the power of Resurrection Sunday. Singing and speaking the word Alleluia feels so good! We believe in the power of the resurrection to new life! Even death has no power over us. Just like the trees and the plants that go dormant in winter but come to new life in the Spring, we are reminded that when we die, death has no power over us. We have the promise of the resurrection to new and eternal life in heaven with the saints who have gone before us.

Easter is a time for joy, even when we are grieving. Because Jesus died and rose from the grave, we too have the promise of rising with Christ from death to new life. *“We shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.” (1Corinthians 15: 52)*

## **PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .**

We who remain alive are transformed because we do not grieve as those without hope. We hold fast to the promise of eternal life for those who believe in Jesus. And when the cold Winter and storms of this life end, we shall see the beauty of new life. That is what Easter is all about. Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Have a blessed and safe Easter.

+ Pastor Jeff

## **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .**

Good day to all of Shepherd of the Glades! As I look around I can hear and see the changing signs of spring beginning, even here in SW Florida. The lilies are growing taller. The daylight is longer and birds are singing. I am reminded that seasons continue to change. I am thankful for a God who is always present and unchanging. A Creator who loves, cares and wants to be a part of every moment of our lives. Prayer is a consistent opportunity to communicate with God. Prayer lets us share everyday, every part of our lives with the one who created and loves us unconditionally. The Prayer Warriors invite you to join in the communication. If you would like to pray for others or you have a prayer request please contact the office. Please know dear church you are being held in prayer before our gracious loving God who wants a continuous line of communication with each of us.

Shepherd of the Glades Prayer Warriors

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES . . .**

Shepherd of the Glades will be celebrating with the following services during Holy Week: Passion/Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 9:30 a.m. worship service.

April 17, 2025 - Maundy Thursday, 5:30 p.m. service

April 18, 2025 - Good Friday Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m.

April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday services at 7:00, 8:30, and 10:30 a.m.

There will be three (3) worship services on Easter. The Sunrise worship service will be held outside in the courtyard at 7:00 a.m. Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. will be held in the sanctuary. Come join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

# COUNCIL CORNER . . .

## MARCH 11, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (unapproved)

Members in attendance: Pastor Unga, Penny Morken, Pam Bathena, Bob Tidmore, Bonny Dery, Charlotte Wahlig, Gunar Strungs, Becky McDanel, Sue Kautz, William Nicklay and Mary Winsor. Absent: Colleen Hoffman and Brad Caulder

Call to order by President Penny Morken and devotions by: Penny Morken

A motion to approve the Council meeting minutes of February 11, 2025 and the Congregational Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2025, was made, seconded, and approved as written.

**Pastors Report:** No weddings, funerals or Baptisms for the record since February council meeting. \*Congregational annual February meeting \*Strawberry Sundae Sunday - Thank you fellowship committee. \*1:00 PM weekly Saturday Revelation Bible study has started and is well attended. \*Ash Wednesday and Lent Mid-week prayer services are underway. Thank you fellowship committee for organizing and sponsoring this event. Looking for council members to sign up for this week. \*Thank you John Sherman for "Reunion" concert - DVD's available. \*The new grief support group has started and meets weekly. Former grief support groups meet monthly. This has been a very helpful ministry for those who attend. \*Church organ was tuned by someone new. Although he was more expensive, he was very meticulous and made some changes. \*Movie matinee had around 16 people attend including 5 children to watch the video and many requested we continue this ministry. \*Worked with Mary on coordinating blessing bags and Evangelism committee on Grace Place backpack ministry as offerings for Lent.

**Regular meetings:** Caloosa Conference, Pastor's text study, SOTG weekly Wednesday bible study, Revelation Saturday bible study, **Pastoral calls:** Congregation home bound communions (6) Member home visit (4) hospital calls (6) hospice call (1).

**Upcoming events:** Holden Evening prayer service and soup supper - every Wednesday 5:30 PM during Lent. Memorial service for Susie Esperson March 22nd, 10 AM.

**Treasurer Report:** February income was less than expenses and less than the budget. Funds are transferred from the Sebe Church Growth account to cover the Director of Discipleship salary each month. The year-to-date income is more than year-to-date expenses and the investment account increased in value. We transferred funds to our checking account from the investment account to cover the Hanson Hall roof replacement, resulting in a decrease in value.

**Committee Reports:** **Evangelism/Local Missions Committee** – The Evangelism Committee has started up the backpack project for Grace Place. They are now accepting monetary donations as well as new youth backpacks. The backpacks will be filled next month on Palm Sunday. **Sew-Sew-Sews** – This committee extends a huge thank you to the church for the approval of the purchase of a new sewing machine. The group has now completed 32 quilts (more weeks yet to go), exceeding their number of 29 last year. Many thanks for all the donations of materials, they are greatly appreciated. **Local Missions Committee** – This committee wants to thank everyone for another outstanding amount of food donations during the month of February. These donations were taken to St. Mathews House. Please remember to drop off boxes or sturdy bags to help with transferring the food. Thank You. Submitted by Becky McDanel and Pam Bathena, co-Chair. **Endowment Committee Report** – As of January 2025 this fund has increased since December of last year. Submitted by Charlotte Wahlig. **Property** – Fertilizer will be applied to the church lawn along with a weed control application. The committee is currently working on additional lights in the parking lot. Submitted by Bill Nicklay. **Education Committee** – We continue to offer Sunday School for children during the Sunday service and Charlotte Wahlig, assisted by Becky McDanel, are our teachers. There will be two Easter Bunnies this year for Easter Sunday. Easter Eggs will be placed on the lawn for children to look for and small gift bags will be given to the children after the 8:30 a.m. service. Submitted by Bonny Dery.

## **COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .**

**Director for Discipleship** – Five visitations within the past month since our February meeting. Still meeting people who are at home for the first time and have started 2<sup>nd</sup> visits with people as well – Organized the Blessing Bag project with Pastor Jeff. We have had an overall positive response, and people are already bringing in donations. Wednesday evening service offerings will go to the blessing bags and backpacks for Grace Place. Blessing Bags will be put together alongside the backpacks for Grace Place following church service on Palm Sunday – Organized the Habitat for Humanity tour for Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen people have signed up. Excited to see how that goes and grateful to all of the interested members! – Have joined the grief group to learn more about how it works and to see/learn how it can function as a means of pastoral care and community within the church. Attending regularly every Thursday – Assisted with the movie matinee after church. Decided to try it on a Sunday and the attendance was still good, allowing us more flexibility between Saturdays and Sundays for future planning – Lenten services have started, Director of Discipleship leading them alongside Pastor Jeff. Will be leading and singing Holden Evening Prayer for all Lent services starting this week – Led a bible study which went well. Continue to be active in the daily church happenings including Sew Sews, Women’s bible study, and Wednesday weekly bible studies – Grace Place monthly volunteering idea has been put on pause for March due to the Habitat for Humanity Tour, this will be revisited in April or May depending on interest of the congregation and other church activities/church schedule. Submitted by Mary Winsor.

A motion to approve the Pastor’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, and all Committee Reports were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.

### New Business:

Ministry Minutes will be presented next Sunday regarding our Property Committee. Council Members will provide the soup after service on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers to help serve will be appreciated.

### Old Business:

Discussion on Chapter 4 of Canoeing the Mountains – Competence and Credibility, which certainly ties in with what we have been discussing with our committee members and to get the word out on what is happening in our congregation. Also our ministry minutes during Sunday Services is another way to spread the word out to our community.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer from Pastor Jeff.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Devotions: Charlotte Wahlig

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

## **REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .**

Staff Sergeant Adam Crown

Airman Corey Malinowski

Marine Tom McJilton

Army Sergeant Kendra Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY

Warrant Officer Robert Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY

Lieutenant Sterling Payne, 205 Ming St. Warrensburg, MO



## NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



### HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

April 1	Vicki Dunlop
April 2	La Morris Cook
April 5	Marlyn Bowers
April 5	Elizabeth Cianflone
April 7	Jacqueline Masterson
April 7	Shari Presentin
April 12	Marilyn Barikmo
April 14	Beverly Smith
April 14	Lester Larrabee
April 15	Gary Dieterichs
April 16	Vern Rasmussen
April 16	Linda Salisbury
April 17	Don Pryor
April 17	Be Oppermann
April 23	Leslie Ann Beers
April 30	Lawrence Buettner
April 30	Marjorie Oberst

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the office so we can update our information and not miss you next time! YOU are special to us!

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

April 17	Bob & Linda Tidmore
April 20	Daniel & Stephanie Bernabei
April 29	Harlo & Karen Peterson
April 30	Steve & Diana Snover



## FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

“The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection.” *Billy Graham*

“Easter opened up a crack in a universe winding down toward entropy and decay, sealing the promise that someday God will enlarge the miracle of Easter to cosmic scale.”

*Philip Yancey*

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

*Martin Luther*

## PAST HAPPENINGS! . . .

On Sunday, March 30th, Shepherd of the Glades celebrated its annual Farewell Brunch to bid safe travels to our northern traveling family. Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee for hosting this wonderful event!! A good time was had by all!!!



# CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Donna Accetta	Anthony Garafalo	Willie Nation
Charlie & Lauren Alves	Shelia Gardeneer	Peter Newell
Rob	Barbara Gega	The Parker family
Rod Barikmo & Family	Mary Gehr	“Pete” Peterson
Ron Blasig	Family of Nola Halverson	Vernon Rasmussen
Theresa Chiorazzi	Pastor Bob Hoffman	The Sebe family
Kate Connell	Joe	Family of Leila Sellman
Family of Marilyn Day	Anita & Nick Lehr	Cornelia Setzkorn
Jackson Drum	Desiree Lentini	Jim Shaw
Vicki Dunlop	The Linda Lentini family	The Elaine Sima family
David Einink	Sandy Lofthouse	Micah Smith
Family of Susie Espersen	Family of Bill Marderness	Ryan Smith
The Fetzer family	Ed Michael	The Swain Family
Gail Fesnak	Patty Musielak	Family of Marvin Thor

Please let us know when someone should be added or removed from the Prayer list.

## AA GROUPS . . .

### Mixed AA Group

On Mondays at noon, a mixed AA group meets in Hanson Hall. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact the office for more information.

On Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., a mixed AA group meets in Hanson Hall. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact the office for more information.

At 10:00 a.m., a women’s AA group meets in Hanson Hall on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact the office for more information.

## FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Three Months Ended March 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$115,937	\$124,586	(\$8,649)
Operating Expense	\$91,055	\$105,974	\$14,919
Net Income (Deficit)	\$24,882	\$18,612	\$6,270

March looks good! We are catching up on our year to date income, and our operating expenses continue to be below budget, resulting in our net income being above what was projected in our budget! Thanks to all helping us with the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church!

## **FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT SOTG . . .**

The congregation has been participating in the “Back Pack” project for the children of Grace Place again this year. On Sunday, April 13th, immediately following our worship service, we will be filling these packs and getting them ready to be delivered.

A new project this year is filling our “Blessing Bags”. Members of our congregation have been collecting personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, snacks, water, juice boxes, socks, etc. On Sunday, April 13th, immediately following our worship service, we will fill this blessing bags and begin the process of distributing them to the homeless in our area.

Please plan to stay for fellowship and help serve those in need. Remember, “Many hands make for light work”.

A Resurrection Egg Hunt will be held in the courtyard on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Candy donations for this event would be appreciated and may be left in the marked basket in the narthex. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please see/contact Lori Bernabei. Please call the church office for Lori’s contact information.

## **WE GET LETTERS . . .**

Dear Pastor Jeff and friends at Shepherd of the Glades,

Vern and I so enjoy Sunday morning worship service with you on the computer. With love and spirlt we join with you singing and praying with grateful hearts.

Thank you for praying and for your love and concern. We are missing Florida but happy in our home in River Falls, WI with friends and family.

Vern & Helen Rasmussen

## **LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE . . .**

A man visited his doctor, and the doctor checked him over before commenting, “You look like you get a fair amount of exercise”.

The man replied “Oh yeah. In fact, just the other day, I walked five miles over rugged terrain. Then I waded along the edge of a lake, pushing my way through thistles and sliding down sandy slopes”.

The doctor was impressed. “Well, you are certainly a dedicated outdoor enthusiast”.

The man replied, “Not really, doctor. I’m just a really bad golfer”.



## FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP. . .

Hello SOTG! It's so hard to believe we are already one month into this year's Lenten season! Our Wednesday night services using Holden Evening Prayer have gone great, and I have had such a lovely time singing during service and participating in the soup supper fellowship afterward. I have also loved seeing how receptive and generous the congregation has been so far with the donations for the Blessing Bags that will be used to extend a helping hand to the homeless/housing-insecure in our area. We already have so many donations, and I can't wait to put together these bags alongside the backpacks for Grace Place with you all on Palm Sunday. If you would still like to bring in donations to the church, that would be much appreciated! We'll be able to take them until Wednesday, the 9th of April! A list of supplies needed to make the bags can be found below:



- Bar soap
- Granola bars
- Floss
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Chapstick
- Sunscreen
- Band-aids
- Bottled water
- Travel lotion
- Peanut butter/cheese crackers
- Non-perishable snacks
- Socks
- Ibuprofen
- Feminine hygiene products
- Travel shampoo + conditioner

On Tuesday the 18th, I had the pleasure of going with about a dozen congregation members on a Habitat for Humanity Tour. Staff from Habitat arrived at the church and brought us around the Naples area on a bus to various communities that they have built, explaining how their program works to help deserving yet underprivileged members of our community afford to buy their own house. They also showed us some of the types of living situations families move from into a Habitat house, showing the great need for safe and affordable housing in our area. Many people had lots of questions, and our tour guides had a wealth of information to give us, helping us to better understand the work they do in our community. We even got to visit a Habitat house that had just been finished, getting to walk through and appreciate the space and future it would provide for a family in need. We also had the privilege of meeting a Habitat recipient: a mother of two who would soon be moving into a Habitat house of her own. To the right, you can find a photo of the group in front of the house.

Peace and blessings to you,

Mary Winsor



**Happy Spring Everyone!**  
**Market Concerns? Retirement Worries?**  
**Check out these April 2025 Thrivent Online Events**

**APRIL 15, 2025 - 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ET AND ON DEMAND FOLLOWING THE EVENT**

### **Thrivent Market & Economic Update**

Are the current markets making you wonder how to best navigate your financial strategy? Join us for a livestream of Thrivent’s Market and Economic Update, presented by Thrivent leaders. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear Thrivent’s perspective and what the latest trends may mean for you.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/MarketUpdateApril2025>

**ON DEMAND EVENT – WATCH ANYTIME**

### **What's Your Retirement Style? with Dr. Wade Pfau**

Climbing a mountain takes different skills than getting back down. It’s the same with retirement. After decades of saving, you may realize that you need a solid strategy to make your money last through the years ahead. Join us for “What’s Your Retirement Style”, an exclusive conversation with Dr. Wade Pfau, to learn how crafting the right plan today can help ensure you’re ready for the journey. Think about whether you prefer retirement income that depends on market growth, or that is guaranteed no matter how long you live. Discover how much flexibility or security you want in your retirement income strategy. Identify your own income style based on your unique preferences. Don’t just plan for retirement—prepare to live it with confidence.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/RetirementStyle>

*No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://thrivent.com/social).*

We help Christians find financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. All are welcome to attend our free virtual events. Feel free to share these events with your friends and family.

Want to know more about Thrivent? Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

## SCAM ALERT . . .

Please be alert!!! Neither the church staff nor Pastor will ever send out a request, text, or email asking for gift cards or money. Such requests are scams looking to take advantage. If ever in doubt, call the church office.

# APRIL, 2025



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>2</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:30 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE	<b>3</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	<b>4</b> 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>5</b> 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
<b>6</b> FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT SEW-SEW'S QUILT SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>7</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>8</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS 6:00 P.M. CHURCH COUNCIL MGT.	<b>9</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE	<b>10</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
<b>13</b> PALM SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP FILLING BLESSING BAGS & BACK PACKS	<b>14</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>15</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>16</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT	<b>17</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS 5:30 P.M. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	<b>18</b> 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP 7:00 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	<b>19</b> 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
<b>20</b> EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 A.M. SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 A.M. EASER EGG HUNT 10:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>22</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	<b>23</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>24</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	<b>25</b> 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>26</b> 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
<b>27</b> SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>28</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>29</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>30</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY			

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**This Parish Paper is from:  
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church  
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara Blvd.)  
Naples, FL 34113  
(239) 775.0696      FAX: (239) 793.2465  
Web Page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>  
Email: [sotg6020@gmail.com](mailto:sotg6020@gmail.com)**

**Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Pastor Jeff Unga, Pastor [cell phone: 641-529-2479]  
Mary Winsor, Director of Discipleship  
Megan Cianflone, Director of Music  
Penny Morcken, Council President  
Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor  
Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus**