

OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

—Ephesians 2:19-21

On November 8, 1949, the name "Grace" was chosen for the body of believers that had been gathering together around God's Word and Sacraments in Fairgrove for the last few years. The naming of the congregation was the official founding of the congregation.

Since then, God's people have continued to gather, albeit in a few different buildings and with many different pastors. Countless children have been baptized and catechized. Several men and women have been joined together in the mystery of Holy Marriage. Many saints have been buried in the earth with the certain hope of the resurrection. God's people have been served by God, as he continues to forgive them of their sins through the same means he's been using since the time of the apostles: the preaching of his Holy Word, the cleansing waters of Holy Baptism, the comfort of Holy Absolution, and the satisfying food from heaven in the Holy Supper.

On November 8, 2024, we will celebrating seventy-five years of God's grace toward us sinners in this congregation. As we look forward to that day, each board of the Parish Planning committee has been tasked to come up with a way in which their group can help the congregation celebrate. On top of that, the Board of Elders has asked some of the previous pastors to return and preach for us: Rev. Scott Johnson on April 21st, Rev. Leonard Astrowski on May 26th, Rev. Paul Bickel in July, and Rev. David Petersen on October 20th. On top of that, we have invited Rev. William Weedon to speak at our Holy Conversation that year, as well as preach for our special Anniversary Service on Sunday, November 10th. He is the speaker for the online podcast "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," as well as the author of the devotional booklets we've used in the past for both Advent and Lent.

So, mark your calendars!

In the meantime, you can begin to celebrate this anniversary by giving thanks to God for your church. We must not take this place and these people for granted. The church is a gift from heaven and not an invention of man. It was built by Christ, who is our cornerstone. He continues to call us each by name into his Father's house that we might sit at his feet and listen to his teaching and be invited to kneel before his altar as he feeds us from his nailscarred hands. He is our Good Shepherd, and our congregation is joined to his universal flock of the past, present, and future, in Fairgrove and around the world.

Pray and give thanks to God for the great mercy he continues to pour out on us here at Grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller



In anticipation of our congregation's 75th anniversary in November 2024, we will have a hymn chosen for each month which will be used during the Divine Service. The hymns of the church give God's people the words to sing his praises and to confess what he has done for them in the saving death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

The Clouds of Judament Gather LSB 513

This "End Times" hymn is based off of parts from a 2,996-line poem written by Bernard of Clunv in the 12th century entitled *De* contemptu mundi ("On contempt for the world").

Stanza 1 is a call for us Christians to be watchful as "the time is growing late" and soon our judge will come in mercy and might "to put an end to evil and diadem the right." We look forward to and are unafraid of such judgment.

Stanzas 2, 3, and 4 all picture heaven with apocalyptic images. In the second stanza, the shadows and darkness of this world will be eclipsed by the heavenly light of Christ. Stanzas 3 and 4 describe what awaits us in glory in our "home of fadeless splendor" where we will "dwell as children who here as exiles mourn." This new heaven and new earth will be a "relief for all distressed" and "refreshment for the blest." Therefore, we are encouraged not to grow complacent while here on earth, but we must "strive now to win that glory, toil now to gain that light; Send hope ahead to grasp it till hope be lost in sight."

The words of this hymn open our eyes to see this world for what it truly is and to look ahead instead to the world to come. These words call us to repentance that we might be prepared for Judgment Day with hope and faith in the God of mercies.

This hymn is especially appropriate to sing during the month of November, as we celebrate All Saints' Day on November 1st and as the Church Year comes to a close with its theme focused on the end of the world and the Advent of our King.

- 1 The clouds of judgment gather, The time is growing late: Be sober and be watchful, Our judge is at the gate:
- The judge who comes in mercy, The judge who comes in might
- To put an end to evil And diadem the right.
- 2 Arise, O true disciples; Let wrong give way to right, And penitential shadow To Jesus' blessèd light: The light that has no evening, That knows no moon or sun, The light so new and golden, The light that is but one. 3 The home of fadeless splendor, Of blooms that bear no thorn, Where they shall dwell as children
- Who here as exiles mourn: The peace of all the faithful,
- The calm of all the blest. Inviolate, unfading, Divinest, sweetest, best.
- 4 Oh, happy, holy portion, Relief for all distressed, True vision of true beauty, **Refreshment for the blest!** Strive now to win that glory, Toil now to gain that light: Send hope ahead to grasp it Till hope be lost in sight.



SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

> Jean Adams 8678 W. Deckerville Rd. Reese, MI 48757

John & Ruth Ann Kaijala 6004 Gilford Rd. Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery 8039 Massoll St. Reese, MI 48757

Lorna Bills Brookdale Bay City 734 North Pine Rd. Bay City, MI 48708

NEXT VOTERS MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 @ 11 AM

PRIVATE CONFESSION

Private Confession and Absolution is available by appointment. You can call Pastor Haller at the church office or on his cell phone: (248) 794-3703.





Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website: www.gracefairgrove.org



November Divine Services (services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, November 5, 2023 The Feast of All Saints (observed) Matthew 6:1-12

Sunday, November 12, 2023 The Third to Last Sunday of the Church Year Matthew 24:15-28

Sunday, November 19, 2023 The Third to Last Sunday of the Church Year Matthew 25:31-46

> Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Thanksgiving Eve Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, November 26, 2023 The Last Sunday of the Church Year Matthew 25:1-13

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 23 James LaPouttre
- 8 Lorna Bills
- 16 Brandt LaPouttre
- 20 Chelsea Worden
- 21 Ashley Bublitz David Weber
- 27 Thomas Reid
- 28 Lillian McAlpine
- 29 Jean Adams
 - Mary Masker
- 30 Joanne Hills

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Helene Weber 6

STEWARDSHIP

November Coffee Money Seminary Student

Thanksgiving Eve **Building Fund**

The Stewardship Board's guarterly mission for November through December will be to Special Friends Camp. This is a camp for adults living with cognitive/intellectual disabilities. The adult campers live with disabilities such as Down's syndrome, autism, and others. The camp will be celebrating 30 years of serving.

Special Friends Camp was started and continues to serve with three major goals in mind:

- 1. Above all else, the camp strives to share the love of Jesus. Statistics says that 80% of these families are unchurch and don't know Jesus.
- 2. We want our campers to experience a "vacation" from their day-to-day routine, to be outdoors with activities on the lake, around the campfire, in the woods, etc.
- 3. We know that often this is the only respite the caregivers and family members get-knowing their loved one is in a safe place.

Please help us support this great cause that will help so many to get to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as provide fellowship with other campers. Specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex beginning in



The Quilting Bee will be auctioning off their many quilts from November 7-21. Please consider supporting this group that makes guilts for people around the world.

ORGAN RECITAL

Our very own organist, Chelsea Worden, will be performing at an organ recitals in November. We are so very blessed to have such an accomplished musician help us sing unto the Lord a new song. If you are able, please consider joining her.

> November 12th at 4 pm Memorial Presbyterian Church 1310 Ashman Street Midland, MI 48640





Ladíes Aíd News

- A Holiday Bake Sale is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd.
- Plans are being made to serve the midweek Advent supper on December 6th.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING

SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

11 am to 11:40 am 11:40 am to 12 pm Lesson (preschool—4th grade)

Music (preschool—8th grade)

Adult Bible Study

Acts (also 5th—8th grade) Explanation of the Common Service

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24th)

THE MEN'S STUDY

November 18th, 7:30 to 9 am every 3rd Saturday of the month prayer + breakfast + the Lutheran Confessions



WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." —-Romans 1:16-17

A HOLY CONVERSATION SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Saturday, November 11th

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9:30 am	Matins
10:15 am	Session 1
11:30 am	Lunch
1 2:30 am	Session 2

Sunday, November 12th

9:15 am	Divine Service
	Pr. Bennett preaching
11 am	Session 3

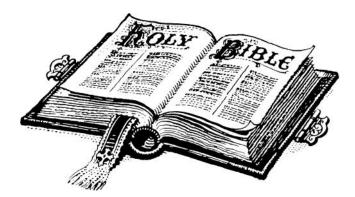
Have you noticed that during the last two decades there has been a resurgence of interest and fascination in supernatural phenomena, featuring everything from movies, books, and TV shows about ghosts, demonic possession, paranormal, exorcisms, occult, and satanic worship? With all that has been written and produced it can be difficult to ascertain fact from fiction. Are these things real? Do we have documented evidence of such things? Do they affect our daily lives? What do we do about these things? You've got real questions and Dr. Robert Bennett has real answers.

THE DAILY READINGS

"God's Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints."

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Wednesday, November 1st	Psalm 150	Deut. 34:1-12	Matt. 21:1-22
Thursday, November 2nd	Psalm 118:22-24	Jeremiah 1:1-19	Matt. 21:23-46
Friday, November 3rd	Psalm 15	Jeremiah 3:6-4:2	Matt. 22:1-22
Saturday, November 4th	Psalm 110	Jeremiah 5:1-19	Matt. 22:23-46
Sunday, November 5th	Psalm 38:9-22	Jeremiah 7:1-29	Matt. 23:1-12
Monday, November 6th	Psalm 118:25-29	Jeremiah 8:18-9:12	Matt. 23:13-39
Tuesday, November 7th	Psalm 121	Jeremiah 11:1-23	Matt. 24:1-28
Wednesday, November 8th	Psalm 143	Jeremiah 20:1-18	Matt. 24:29-51
Thursday, November 9th	Psalm 147:1-11	Jeremiah 22:1-23	Matt. 25:1-13
Friday, November 10th	Psalm 24	Jeremiah 23:1-20	Matt. 25:14-30
Saturday, November 11th	Psalm 143:1-10	Jeremiah 23:21-40	Matt. 25:31-46
Sunday, November 12th	Psalm 137	Jeremiah 25:1-18	Matt. 26:1-19
Monday, November 13th	Psalm 116:12-19	Jeremiah 26:1-19	Matt. 26:20-35
Tuesday, November 14th	Psalm 53	Jeremiah 29:1-19	Matt. 26:36-56
Wednesday, November 15th	Psalm 51:10-19	Jeremiah 30:1-24	Matt. 26:57-75
Thursday, November 16th	Psalm 54	Jeremiah 31:1-17	Matt. 27:1-10
Friday, November 17th	Psalm 148:1-6	Jeremiah 33:1-22	Matt. 27:11-32
Saturday, November 18th	Psalm 22:1-5	Jeremiah 37:1-21	Matt. 27:33-56
Sunday, November 19th	Psalm 20	Jeremiah 38:1-28	Matt. 27:57-66
Monday, November 20th	Psalm 118:19-29	Daniel 1:1-21	Matt. 28:1-20
Tuesday, November 21st	Psalm 114	Daniel 2:1-23	Rev. 18:1-24
Wednesday, November 22nd	Psalm 111	Daniel 2:24-49	Rev. 19:1-21
Thursday, November 23rd	Psalm 39:4-12	Daniel 3:1-30	Rev. 20:1-15
Friday, November 24th	Psalm 41:7-12	Daniel 4:1-37	Rev. 21:1-8
Saturday, November 25th	Psalm 48:9-14	Daniel 5:1-30	Rev. 21:9-27
Sunday, November 26th	Psalm 75	Daniel 6:1-28	Rev. 22:1-21
Monday, November 27th	Psalm 66:16-19	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
Tuesday, November 28th	Psalm 102:13-17	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25
Wednesday, November 29th	Psalm 118:19-24	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
Thursday, November 30th	Psalm 123	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Voter's Meeting October 08, 2023

Executive Director, Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Aaron opened with a reading and devotion from Luke 13:4-5 and closed the devotion with prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Roll call was taken with 19 members present and 8 excused. Stephen and Jennifer Bender signed the constitution and were added as new voting members.
- Minutes reviewed from July 2023 Voter's meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Diane Spencer and 2nd by Joanne Hills. Motion carried and approved to accept the meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Handout showing checking account balance as of September 30, 2023 at \$14,339.93 and current balances of Designated Funds and Church Extension accounts.
- All except two special missions have been paid out. Still collecting Education and Mission Sunday envelopes for Luther Classical College. The 2nd quarter special missions collection designated for Bethesda is being held as we also have the Thanksgiving collection going to Bethesda. We are also waiting on determination of ownership of these group homes as St. Lorenz Church in Frankenmuth is working with Wellspring to determine if ownership can be purchased from AbleLight.

CHURCH PROPERTIES ~ via Tom Reid

- The properties board is keeping the same budget for 2024 as they had for 2023.
- The parsonage has been rented to Mike and Laura Starkey and a formal contract has been written up and they will take possession in November.

ELDERS ~ via Steve Reinbold

- Christi Diener was confirmed on July 30, 2023 as a new member. The Bender family, Stephen and Jennifer with their children, Charlie, Henry, Amelia and Fred were received as new members on September 24, 2023. The board has also approved the transfer request of the Pierce family, Sarah, Tristan and Allison to Trinity Lutheran in Reese.
- The elders continue attempts to contact delinquent members and encourage them to attend the Divine Service.
- The Bean Festival Parade float was a success with many members attending to walk or ride on a simple wagon with banners and a cross.
- Lutheran School Tuition Assistance was approved for 7 students for the 2023-2024 school year, all attending Trinity Lutheran School in Reese. Total cost was \$15,397 and paid in September.
- A Holy Conversation will be held on Saturday, November 11th with Pastor Bennett being the speaker and also preaching on Sunday, November 12th and another class during Bible class. Details for lunch to be determined.
- We have scheduled four of Grace's former pastors to preach during our anniversary year in 2024: Rev. Scott Johnson April 21, 2024, Rev. Leonard Astrowski May 26, 2024, Rev. Paul Bickel July 2024 date to be determined, and Rev. David Petersen October 20, 2024.
- The Elders board will be providing altar flowers on October 22, 2023.
- October elders are Aaron Reinbold as primary and Steven Reinbold as secondary. November elders are Joe Bublitz as primary and Daniel Reinbold as secondary.
- Next Elders meeting will be on November 7, 2023 at 7pm.

EVANGELISM AND MERCY ~ Leslie Reinbold

- Continuing the food donation box with these donations taken downtown Fairgrove.
- Board wants to wait until after November 2024 for a new church directory to include pictures from the anniversary year.
- Planning a Family Game Night for January 26, 2024 (back-up date of Feb 2, 2024) Will take free will offering and have popcorn and a hot chocolate bar. Also thinking of selling dry soup mixes.
- Taking clothing and school supply donations throughout the year.

LADIES AID ~ Diane Spencer

- Serving the first Advent dinner and planning a bake sale for December 3, 2023.
- Welcome to Christi Diener and also sending Thanksgiving cards to our shut-ins.

STEWARDSHIP ~ Joanne Hills

- Coffee money for October and December go to Good Samaritan Fund and November goes to our seminary student.
- October Mission envelope goes to Luther Classical College. Church Anniversary envelope in November goes in our building fund. Thanksgiving Eve collection goes to Bethesda Home in Frankenmuth. Christmas Eve choir service goes to Wellspring Lutheran Child & Family Services. Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Christmas morning service collections go into Grace's general fund and New Year's Eve is designated to POBLO.
- Stewardship's quarterly mission collection for October through December will go to Special Friends Camp. An information article was in the October newsletter.
- Stewardship added a budget item for this next year to purchase commemorative favors for the church anniversary.
- Support has discontinued for the Wind River Mission but please keep them in our prayers.

FELLOWSHIP ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Served 'Sundaes on a Sunday' in September. Also had about 60 people attend the Chicken BBQ. Thank you to Dan and Aaron Reinbold for grilling the chicken and the others that made dishes to pass. Next year's BBQ may be in August to have more time between the BBQ and the Harvest Dinner with the location to be determined.
- Harvest Dinner will be the last Sunday in October at 5:30pm, serving a more traditional turkey dinner. All are welcome.
- See Ann Emery if interested in serving one of the Advent dinners.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Youth had a great time in July, going to the Ark before attending Higher Things 2023. Open registration for Higher Things 2024 starts November 1st. We would like to be registered by December 1st with possible 11 going this year. The July gathering is in Montana, which is quite a distance, so will probably attend the gathering in Wisconsin end of June 2024.
- May have a caramel popcorn fund raiser and the youth will be serving lunch for the Holy Conversation on November 11th. They will also be serving one of the Advent dinners.
- Still trying to plan a fun activity for all our younger youth as the last activity was cancelled.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- We completed our first section of Jr High Catechesis this past month on the 10 Commandments.
- The first High School Catechesis was held on September 17th with the next meeting planned for October 15th.
- Bible studies are going well on both Wednesdays (Romans) and Sundays (Acts) with a good number of people attending.
- Our first Men's Study was a great success, having eight men and expecting more the next time on October 21st. All men of the congregation are welcome to join us as we study our Lutheran Confessions.
- Sunday School is going well with two classrooms. Thank you to those volunteers who are helping teach the youngers' class, as well as Dan and Tracey Reinbold who continue to teach the older children.
- The children's choir will be singing for our Reformation service on October 29th. They will soon be making preparations for Christmas Eve's Lessons and Carols service.
- Hannah and Pastor Haller are on vacation from October 5th through the 9th, enjoying the fall colors with Pastor's grandmother and other family members.
- The Hallers are almost completely moved out of the parsonage and plan on cleaning once done.

OLD BUSINESS

- 75th Anniversary: Each board is working on ways they can contribute to the planning. Service will be Nov. 10, 2024.
- Carillon repairs: Aaron Reinbold still trying to meet with Greg Carnes about repairs and disposal of old organ.
- Front sign: Sign replacement has been tabled at this time due to costs.
- Kitchen remodel update: Tracey Reinbold would like to meet with the contractor that did the Good Shepherd remodel and do a walk-thru to get further suggestions of what will work for our kitchen.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joanne Hills presented Stewardship board's Coffee Money and Special Missions designations for 2024. The only change was
 for Epiphany that will go to Orphan Grain Train. Joe Bublitz motioned to accept the coffee and missions as presented and
 Diane Spencer 2nd the motion. Motion carried and approved.
- 2024 Budget: Dan Reinbold motioned and Joanne Hills 2nd the motion to accept the 2024 Proposed Budget.
 - <u>Elders:</u> Insurance decreased with the change to Blue Cross / Home Equity discontinued as of July with Pastor's move / Increase to Pulpit Assistance / Organist raised to increase Chelsea Worden's pay to \$80 per service and substitute organists pay to \$65, with choir remaining at \$35.
 - * Evangelism and Mercy: Increased overall budget to plan more community work and covering costs of activities.
 - * Young People's Work: Increased to help with cost for Higher Things. (2023 was decreased due to 2022 refund)
 - * <u>Stewardship</u>: Added line item for Church Anniversary gifts.
 - * Church Properties: No budget changes.
 - * <u>Fellowship</u>: Increased budget to help with costs for the Church Anniversary dinner.
- Joe Bublitz motioned to increase Pastor Haller's salary approximately 3.5% to \$65,400 for 2024. Brandon Worden 2nd the motion. Motion carried and approved.

Next Parish Planning Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20th at 5pm. Next Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

Motion to adjourn made by Aaron Reinbold and 2nd by Dan Reinbold. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Mary Masker Secretary/Treasurer **NOVEMBER 2023**

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703 Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Joseph Bublitz (989) 528-9120 & Daniel Reinbold (989) 670-9048

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			All Saints' Day	10 am Ladies Aid	Pastor's Day Off	
			9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study			
			7 pm Catechesis			
5	9	7	ø	6	10	11
The Feast of All Saints 9:15 am Divine Service		9 am Quilting Bee	9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study		Pastor's Day Off	<u>A Holy</u> Conversation
& Bible Study		7 pm Elders	7 pm Catechesis			9:30 am Matins 10:15 am Session 1 11:30 am Lunch 17:30 pm Session 2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
The Third to Last Sunday of the Church Year			9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study		Pastor's Day Off	7:30 am Men's Study
9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Session 3		7 pm Properties	7 pm Catechesis			
	20	21	22	23	24	25
The Second to Last Sunday of the Church Year		9 am Quilting Bee	9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	Day of Thanksgiving	Pastor's Day Off	
9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study			7 pm Divine Service			
26	27	28	29	30		
The Last Sunday of the Church Year			9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	St. Andrew, Apostle		
9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study						

Serving Our Lord in the Month of November

Elders for November Joseph Bublitz & Daniel Reinbold

Ladies Aid for November

Joanne Bigham & Joanne Hills

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Refreshments: Susan Pfund, Sarah Reid, Joanne Reinbold Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund Acolyte: Winston Reinbold Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Hannah Haller

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Refreshments: Leslie Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Laura Starkey

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Refreshments: Laura Starkey, Bev Voss, Cindy Voss Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold Acolyte: Noah Reinbold Bible Study Babysitter: Susan Pfund Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Pamela Ill & Alberta Reinbold

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Refreshments: Helene Weber, Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender Propers Choir: Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold Acolyte: Wayne Seeley Bible Study Babysitter: Alberta Reinbold Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Steven Reinbold

**If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office. **If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.