

THE RESURRECTED LIFE

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
—Colossians 3:1

On Easter Sunday, we not only celebrate the resurrection of Christ but also our own. Because Jesus lives, we live. Because he has conquered death, we have conquered death. Because he has been raised, we will be raised. The resurrection of the dead is before our eyes in the sanctuary's artwork, as we await the day of our Lord's reappearing, when he will raise our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body. Easter gives us reason to rejoice in the midst of death and sadness, knowing that our loved ones rest in peace and soon will wake up and rise from their graves restored and renewed in body and soul.

But not only is Easter a celebration of a physical resurrection but also a spiritual one. In fact, one cannot be raised to new life in the body if one has not also be raised to new life by faith. And this spiritual resurrection isn't something we must wait for, but rather, one in which we partake of every day. Luther teaches this so well in the Small Catechism:

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Having been baptized into Christ, you have been raised with him—raised to live a new life, a life that fights against sin and doesn't live in it. To live in one's sin is to give into your passions and desires without any remorse or regret, making you dead yet again, a dead man walking. But to live to God is to crucify your flesh with its passions and desires and to walk in love. The Old Adam inside of you wants you to die. The New Man inside of you keeps emerging to keep you alive.

"So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11). You are the baptized. You're alive—alive in Christ, who lives in you. This is the case not only on the Last Day but also today. You are resurrected—resurrected from sin to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Will you always live a righteous and pure life? No. The flesh remains. You are still weak, and the good work begun in you has yet been brought to completion. You're still a work in progress. Nevertheless, you must consider yourself righteous and pure, even as God considers you as such. He declares you righteous, despite the fact that you're not righteous. He sees you as his child, even though you don't always act like it.

You're identity isn't based on your actions, but your identity is determined by God's grace, by the death and resurrection of Christ, which you receive by faith through Word and Sacrament. And from that identity given to you from above, as a baptized child of God, you will act like it. By the power of God's Word, the Old Adam will be drowned and the New Man raised, that you may walk by the Spirit and not according to the flesh, that you may fight the good fight and not give in but continue to walk in newness of life—in the resurrected life.

In Christ,
Pastor Haller

WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Why is everything so dark before Easter?

The season of Lent comes to its culmination at Holy Week. Our forty-day journey of fasting, praying, and almsgiving finds the answer we've been longing for—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of the prophets, from Adam in the Garden to John the Baptist at the Jordan, have pointed ahead to this week when God would save us through the sacrifice of His Son.

On the Fifth Sunday in Lent, we make the transition from Lent to Holy Week. That Sunday begins what is called Passiontide. It's time for us to set our eyes on Jesus Christ and him crucified, to meditate closely upon his suffering and death, which leads us to the joy of the resurrection.

And just as we removed the Gloria in Excelsis and Alleluia during Lent, so also certain other things are lost during Passiontide, such as the Gloria Patri (“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...”) and also the sacred images adorning our sanctuary, including all of the crosses. Such things aren't completely taken from us, for we know all of it will return on Easter. The images are simply covered with black veils and not completely removed. We can see that they're still there, that behind those curtains are the images of our Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who dwell within us. We know that the cross can never be taken away.

And yet, it's always sort of jarring when we lose any part of the liturgy or of our sanctuary, and that's exactly the point. The reason we drop certain things from the liturgy and cover the images is to remind ourselves that we don't deserve them. We don't deserve to sing the song of the angels in the Gloria in Excelsis or the Alleluia (meaning “praise the Lord”). We don't deserve to see the images of the saints or of God or even of the cross. We don't deserve our Lord's mercy given during Holy Week. Passiontide teaches us that we are unworthy. All that we have in our lives and in the church is given to us from God.

And so when these gifts return to us on Easter, we are all the more appreciative of them, for absence makes the heart grow fonder. We thank God that we can sing with the angels and praise him, and we love to see our Lord hanging on his cross again, knowing that he is now alive. Because of Christ's death on that cross, our sins are forgiven and we are made worthy to sing his praise and see his image. But more importantly, we've been made worthy to one day sing before him face-to-face for all eternity, when the final veil is removed from our eyes.





Holy Week is indeed holy, that is, it's different from every other week of the year. It's been set apart for us Christians to observe our Lord's passion, his death and resurrection. From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, we join the Son of God, who is rejected and despised, crucified and buried. His week becomes our week. I can't encourage you enough to take advantage of each day during Holy Week to be in the Lord's house. Don't allow this to be just another normal week in your life, but keep it holy. Here's what you can expect:

PALM SUNDAY: We begin in the fellowship hall to hear the Evangelist John's account of our Lord's procession into Jerusalem. The children lead us into the sanctuary with palm branches, as we sing "All Glory, Laud and Honor." The service shifts then to focus on our Lord's passion, as we will hear it from Matthew's Gospel.

HOLY MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY: Each of these services begin at 6 pm and are spoken only, with the exception of one hymn. On Monday, our Lord tells us "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). We see such glory in his saving death on a cross, as we hear of it on Tuesday in the Passion from St. Mark and on Wednesday in the Passion from St. Luke.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: This day begins the Triduum (meaning "three days"), a single service that starts on Thursday at 7 pm, continues through Friday, and ends on Saturday night. Maundy comes from a Latin word in which we get the English word "mandate." This is the night our Lord celebrates the Passover and institutes the Holy Communion. In the Gospel of John, he has a major discourse with his disciples that night in the upper room, covering five whole chapters. We hear only a snippet of it, in which he gives the disciples and us a new mandate: "Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34). At the conclusion of the service, the altar is stripped as the congregation and choir sing from Psalm 22, just as Jesus prayed this psalm from the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY: This is a good day, the day of all days, the best day in the history of the world. This is the day we are saved from our sins. At 1 o'clock, we gather for the Chief Service when we will hear again of our Lord's passion, this time from John's Gospel. The choir leads us in our plea for God's mercy. The wooden cross is carried in and placed at the foot of the altar. As it's been handed out every day this week, we receive the body given and the blood shed from the cross. At 7 o'clock, we get an additional service called Tenebrae (meaning "darkness"). We follow the Stations of the Cross on the south wall of the sanctuary, taking us from our Lord's trial to his burial. Every candle is extinguished until the church is in utter darkness with only the single Christ candle left to shine.

HOLY SATURDAY: This is the end of the Triduum and the beginning of Easter. We start in darkness, just as we left on Good Friday. A new fire is lit that leads us into the sanctuary. We hear of the Old Testament accounts which Christ fulfilled. We are reminded of our Baptism and pray the Litany before the lights are turned on and our celebration of the resurrection begins. All of the veils and coverings are removed and the color gold adorns our altar. Many area congregations are invited to join us for this night, as their pastors participate in the service.

EASTER SUNDAY: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Breakfast at 8 am. The Divine Service at 9:15 am.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

17 Larry Spencer
24 Amelia Reinbold
25 Laura Starkey
Alberta Reinbold

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

16 Wayne & Lynn Dinsmore
21 Aaron & Heather Reinbold
22 Ed & Lil McAlpine
26 Earl & Bev Voss



Like us on Facebook



Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:

www.gracefairgrove.org



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

Don Carpenter

Tuscola County Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro MI 48723

John & Ruth Ann Kajjala

6004 Gilford Rd.
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery

New Hope Bay
668 N Pine Road
Bay City, MI 48708

Pat Starkey

Heritage Hill
1430 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723

NEXT VOTERS MEETING:

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 @ 11 AM

April Divine Services

(services with Holy Communion)

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

The Wednesday of Laetare
John 9:1-38

Sunday, April 6, 2025

The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Judica)
John 8:42-59

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

The Wednesday of Judica
John 10:22-38

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday
John 12:12-29; Matthew 26:1-27:66

Monday, April 14, 2025

Holy Monday
John 12:1-36

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Holy Tuesday
Mark 14:1-15:47

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Holy Wednesday
Luke 22:1-23:56

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday
John 13:1-15, 34-35

Friday, April 18, 2025

Good Friday
John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 19, 2025

Easter Vigil
Matthew 27:57-66

Sunday, April 20, 2025

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Mark 16:1-20

Sunday, April 27, 2025

The First Sunday after Easter
John 20:19-31

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available every
Saturday throughout the season of Lent from 9 to
10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.

—STEWARDSHIP—

April Coffee Money
Seminary Student

Maundy Thursday
Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center

Good Friday
Lutheran World Relief

Easter Vigil
Wellspring Lutheran Services

Easter Sunday
Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The Stewardship Board's Special Mission from now until the end of June will be to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, an organization that translates, publishes, distributes and introduces books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven. In more than 90 countries and 145 languages, thousands of people have come to faith in Christ because they've been able to read books like *The Good News About Jesus* or *Luther's Small Catechism* in their own languages. Lutheran Heritage Foundation has published the catechism in more than 110 languages with dozens more requested. In the past decade, LHF has published and distributed over 1,300 titles and 3 million Lutheran books to pastors, seminary students, missionaries and churches – all at no cost to them.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.



Martin Luther on Singing

“Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth” (Psalm 96:1). God has cheered our hearts and minds through his dear Son, whom he gave for us to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. He who believes this earnestly cannot keep quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing and speak about it so that others also may come and hear it. And whoever does not want to sing and speak of it shows that he does not believe and that he does not belong under the new and joyful testament, but under the old, lazy, and tedious testament.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

Lesson (preschool—4th grade)

Music (preschool—8th grade)

Adult Bible Study

Revelation (also 5th—8th grade)

Large Catechism

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE
SINGING FOR PALM SUNDAY (April 13th)**

THE MEN'S STUDY

Saturday, April 12th, 7:30 to 9 am
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



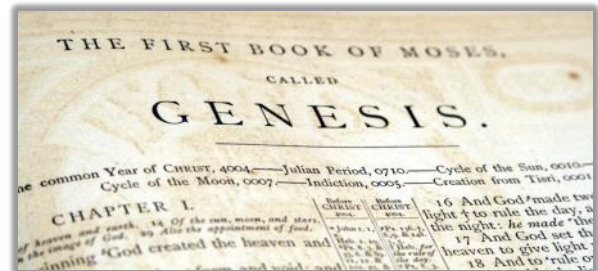
WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am

Matins

10 am

Bible Study



JUNIOR HIGH CATECHESIS

Wednesdays, April 23rd, April 30th, May 7th at 7 pm
Baptism and Confession & Absolution

HIGH SCHOOL CATECHESIS

Sunday, April 13th, 6 to 8 pm
at Pastor Haller's house

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

During the season of Lent, as we fast from worldly pleasures, we also devote ourselves even more to the heavenly treasures. Such an opportunity is given every Wednesday as we hear and receive God's gifts.

April 2nd, 9th

Dinner at 6 pm

Divine Service at 7 pm

THE DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH

“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.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

April 1st	Psalm 37:16-20	Gen. 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
April 2nd	Psalm 26:1-7	Gen. 44:1-18	Mark 12:28-44
April 3rd	Psalm 82	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
April 4th	Psalm 77:11-15	Gen. 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37
April 5th	Psalm 44:1-4	Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11
April 6th	Psalm 129	Exodus 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
April 7th	Psalm 31:9-14	Exodus 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
April 8th	Psalm 39:1-7	Exodus 2:23-3:22	Mark 14:53-72
April 9th	Psalm 18:6-7, 16-20	Exodus 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
April 10th	Psalm 69:33-36	Exodus 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
April 11th	Psalm 22:1-5	Exodus 5:1-6:1	Mark 15:33-47
April 12th	Psalm 78:52-55	Exodus 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20
April 13th	Psalm 71:19-24	Exodus 8:1-32	Hebrews 1:1-14
April 14th	Psalm 35:1-6, 9-10	Exodus 9:1-28	Hebrews 2:1-18
April 15th	Psalm 88:3-9	Exodus 9:29-10:20	Hebrews 3:1-19
April 16th	Psalm 89:20-27	Exodus 10:21-11:10	Hebrews 4:1-16
April 17th	Psalm 37:1-7	Exodus 12:1-28	Hebrews 5:1-14
April 18th	Psalm 135:1-4, 8-9	Exodus 12:29-32, 13:1-16	Hebrews 6:1-20
April 19th	Psalm 76	Exodus 13:17-14:9	Hebrews 7:1-22
April 20th	Psalm 96:1-3, 6, 11-13	Exodus 14:10-31	Hebrews 7:23-8:13
April 21st	Psalm 13	Exodus 15:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-28
April 22nd	Psalm 81:1-7	Exodus 15:19-16:12	Hebrews 10:1-18
April 23rd	Psalm 134	Exodus 16:13-35	Hebrews 10:19-39
April 24th	Psalm 114	Exodus 17:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-29
April 25th	Psalm 145:1-9	Exodus 18:5-27	Hebrews 12:1-24
April 26th	Psalm 30:3-12	Exodus 19:1-25	Hebrews 13:1-21
April 27th	Psalm 119:9-16	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
April 28th	Psalm 146	Exodus 22:20-23:13	Luke 4:16-30
April 29th	Psalm 26:1-3, 8-12	Exodus 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
April 30th	Psalm 99:1-5	Exodus 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Parish Planning Meeting March 18, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Haller, Aaron Reinbold, Steve Reinbold, Holly Winter, Joanne Hills, Diane Spencer, Laura Starkey, Joe Bublitz and Mary Masker.

Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Pastor Haller opened with a reading and devotion from Genesis 32 and closed the devotion with prayer.

Review of the December Parish Planning meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Diane Spencer and 2nd by Joanne Hills. Motion carried and approved.

Treasurer's Report ~ Mary Masker

- Checking account balance as of February 28th at \$23,846 and Designated funds at \$683.
- Sent email to State of Michigan EGLE to clarify that our account number and address has been corrected.

Church Properties ~ Steve Reinbold

- At January meeting, reviewed responsibilities and duties of board.
- Reviewed snow removal process / replaced some lights in Sanctuary / replaced vent fan in men's bathroom / replaced carpet transition piece between Narthex and Fellowship hall.
- Brandon Worden, Tom Reid and Steve Reinbold working to collect quotes for front sign replacement.
- Discussed projects to work on: trim trees and clean up around parking lot / replace outside faucet / power wash church siding.
- Next meeting to be held April 7th at 7:30pm.

Elders ~ Joe Bublitz

- Assigned families to each elder. Plan to make contact several times per year to help keep open communication with all members.
- Put out survey prior to Lent season for mid-week service times. Decided to keep 7pm services on Wednesdays.
- Reviewed nominations and overtures for District convention.
- Exploring any needs and additional security for church.

Evangelism and Mercy ~ Holly Winter

- Family Game Night went well in January. Had lots of fun and lots of food.
- Baked potato bar served for Lenten dinner last week.
- Holly reaching out to directory companies. The company that took over LifeTouch is running thing much the same way. Meeting with them on April 7th and scheduled picture dates for June 17th and 18th.
- Need to decide on a date for this year's clothing drive, most likely in July. Also want to reach out to local schools to see what the highest demands for school supplies are.

Ladies Aid ~ Diane Spencer

- Served the Winkle luncheon on March 11th and serving the Lenten dinner for March 19th.
- Sending Easter cards to our shut-ins and a gift of money for Leslie Reinbold. Ann Emery also made an inspirational quilt for anyone who wants to sign and will be giving this to Leslie as well.
- Orders for Easter flowers due by March 30th.
- No meeting in April. Next meeting will be May 1st.

Stewardship ~ Joanne Hills

- Joanne Hills is staying on as interim stewardship board director.
- April coffee money will go to Seminary Student / May coffee designated for Youth / June coffee will go to Positive Alternatives.
- Special Envelopes: Maundy Thursday – Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center / Good Friday – Lutheran World Relief / Easter Vigil – Wellspring Lutheran Services / Easter Sunday – Lutheran Heritage Foundation / Mother's Day – Lutherans for Life / Ascension – Armed Forces Ministry / May-June Baby Bottle Boomerang – Positive Alternatives.
- Stewardship's Special Quarterly Missions: 2nd Quarter, April – June is Lutheran Heritage Foundation / 3rd Quarter, July – September is Lutherans in Africa / 4th Quarter, October – December is Family Promise of Tuscola County and Thrift Shop.

Fellowship ~ (Tracey Reinbold)

- List of items needed for Easter Breakfast will be posted to sign-up.

Young People's Work ~ Laura Starkey

- Laura voiced concern for time to spend as director. Asking for help from other board members and guidance. Pastor Haller will get copy of church constitution for Laura and board to review.
- Higher Things 2025 registration opened November 1st with a conference at Cornerstone in Grand Rapids. No one has signed up or shown interest in going this year.

Pastor's Report

- Jr. High Catechesis, with six students finished study of Baptism and Confession and will reconvene after Easter. High School Catechesis, with six students finished study of the Lord's Prayer and meet once a month.
- Wednesday Bible Class is currently studying Genesis 16 and Sunday Bible Class is in Revelation 5 and Large Catechism when time permits.
- Next Men's Saturday morning bible class will be held April 12th.
- Holy Week services, Monday through Wednesday will be short Divine Service at 6pm. Maundy Thursday service at 7pm, Good Friday services at 1pm and 7pm, Easter Vigil service Saturday 7pm and Easter Sunday service at 9:15am.
- Saturday, April 5th at Regional meeting, will pick two nominees to go to convention in June. MI District Convention, June 22nd-24th at Concordia in Ann Arbor

Old Business

- Kitchen Remodel: Committee will gather again next week to review.
- Front Sign: Brandon Worden working on gathering information. Quotes approximately \$3500 for something comparable to existing sign with backlighting. Stone sign closer to \$10K price range. We could do our own tear out and find local mason to lower cost. Looking at brick and cement with acrylic lettering. Higher Image sent sample picture image of sign and waiting on more quotes.
- Carillon: No fix for music, would have to be complete replacement of music system. Bells still work. Not a priority project.

Next Voter's meeting will be on Sunday, April 13th at 11AM.

Next Parish Planning meeting will be on Tuesday, June 26th at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Bublitz and 2nd by Joanne Hills.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Mary Masker,

Secretary/Treasurer

APRIL 2025

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703
 Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105
 Elders of the Month: Daniel Reinbold (989) 670-9048 & Stephen Bender (989) 430-9910

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm Elders	2 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Divine Service adult choir	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 9 to 10 am Private Confession
6 <i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	7 7:30 pm Properties	8	9 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Divine Service adult choir	10	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Voters Meeting 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	14 <i>Holy Monday</i> 6 pm Divine Service	15 <i>Holy Tuesday</i> 6 pm Divine Service	16 <i>Holy Wednesday</i> 9:30 am Matins 6 pm Divine Service	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7 pm Divine Service	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 1 pm Chief Service 7 pm Tenebrae Service	19 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 7 pm Easter Vigil
20 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 8 am Breakfast 9:15 am Divine Service	21	22 9:30 am Matins	23 7 pm Catechesis	24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
27 <i>The First Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	28	29 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	30 7 pm Catechesis			

Serving Our Lord in the Month of April

Elders for April

Daniel Reinbold & Stephen Bender

Ladies Aid for April

Jean Trisch & Diane Spencer

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Refreshments: Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht, Joanne Hills

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Laura Starkey

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Refreshments: Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill, Susan Pfund

Propers Choir: Sunday School Choir

Acolyte: Erwin Reinbold

Voters Meeting Babysitter: Pamela Ill

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 7 pm

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

Friday, April 18, 2025, 1 pm

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Friday, April 18, 2025, 7 pm

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 7 pm

Acolytes: Brandt LaPouttre, Hunter Reid, Winston Reinbold, Erwin Reinbold

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Propers Choir: Adult Choir

Acolytes: Brandt LaPouttre, Erwin Reinbold, Noah Reinbold

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Refreshments: Sarah Reid, Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

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.