

Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 2, 2025

WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger
located on the second floor in the education wing. First door on the right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing devices for today's worship are available,
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST **March 2 – March 9**

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	3:00 p.m.	Susquehanna University Choir Concert at St. John's Sanctuary
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	NTT
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study in the Parlor
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00 p.m.	Worship with Communion
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Council Leadership Circle
	6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three verses. The first system covers the first two lines of the first verse. The second system covers the second two lines of the first verse and the first two lines of the second verse. The third system covers the second two lines of the second verse and the first two lines of the third verse. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

This Little Light of Mine



SECOND READING:

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness,¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-43a

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It ends with a double bar line. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including
the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org
or by scanning this QR code*



ANTHEM

Anthem for Transfiguration by Paul W. Hofreiter

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

DIALOG

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

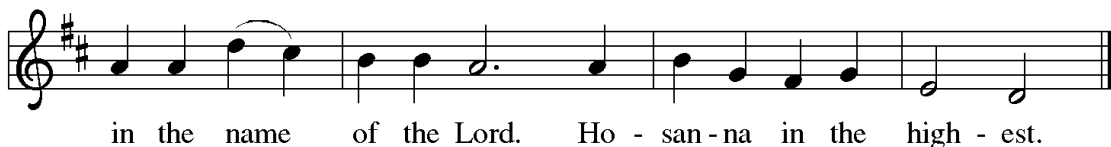
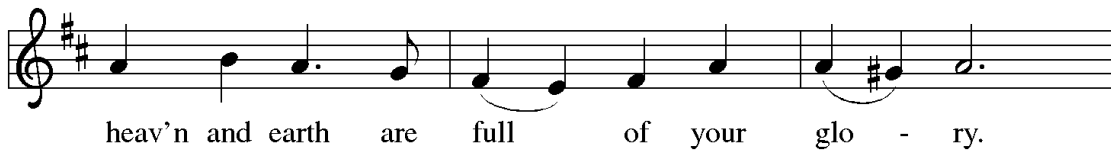
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

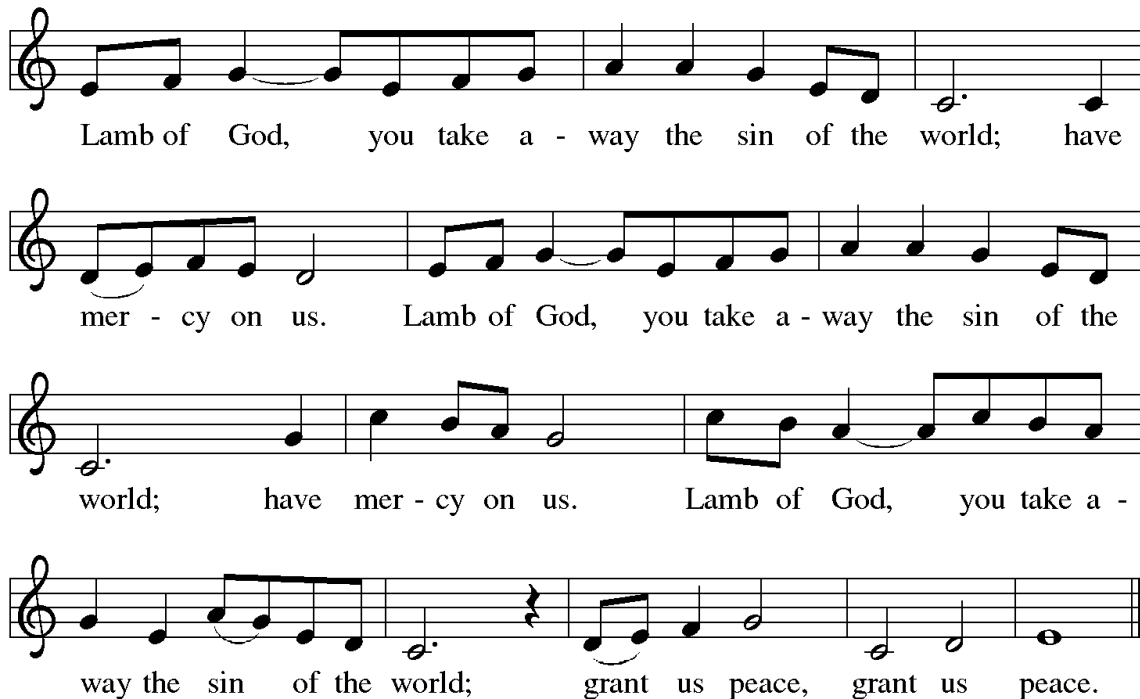
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Communion: All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. Non-communicating children and adults may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, in this season of Epiphany, as we see your light revealed to us in new and insightful ways, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BURIAL OF THE ALLELUIA

Today we bring to a close the season of joy and light - the season of Epiphany.

**We began this season celebrating with the Magi
as they worshipped the infant King.**

We recall the Spirit of God, who was shining on Jesus at his Baptism.

**And, finally today, we remembered the brilliant love of the Father
at the Lord's Transfiguration.**

During this week, we begin the season of preparation, the season of Lent.

Before Lent, we bury a friend. The "Alleluia" with which we sing and shout our praise during the joyous times is put away for this solemn season. It will not be gone forever. It will be brought forth again in joy when we celebrate the triumphant Feast of Easter. "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

But for now, we bury our friend.

Men: We bury it sorrowfully as we bury any friend.

Women: We bury it expectantly as we look for its return.

All : And we will shout "Alleluia!" as we celebrate the resurrection.

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #33504. Hymns reprinted by permission under One License #A-727079 and CCLI #11318988*

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Don Hershey (3/9), Jane and Paul Stockhousen (3/9), Linus Christman (3/12), Jerry (3/12)

Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, Julie Diehl, June Diehl, Tudy Gates, Charles Kampmeyer, Garry Shatzer, and Joe Pine**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Parker Brown.



ATTENDANCE February 23 64 in person 9 online

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Ash Wednesday is March 5. This year we will be having a 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. service with scripture, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. These services will last no longer than 10-15 minutes. The evening service will be our traditional service including music, imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. You are welcome to invite friends and neighbors to worship on this day.

9:30am	Imposition of Ashes (Chapel)
5:30pm	Imposition of Ashes (Chapel)
7:00pm	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)



LENTEN OFFERING Our Lenten offering will be donated to **Wheels for Women**, a local non-profit that supports women facing abuse, medical issues, substance recovery, family tragedies and abandonment by providing them with access to reliable used cars. Our donation will help reach their 2025 goal to deliver 24 vehicles to struggling women, thus enabling them to regain their independence and navigate the road to a better future. This offering may be placed in the Lenten offering envelope or identified on your check as “Wheels for Women.”

BUZZ JONES SEXTET Join us on Sunday, March 23 at 10:45 a.m. for a unique Lenten Jazz Worship Service premiering Black Americans and their contributions to the arts through jazz and hymnody. Music will include Blues March by Benny Golson; Precious Lord, Take My Hand; Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land ; Come Sunday from Duke Ellington's (1943) Black, Brown & Beige Suite; The Preacher by Horace Silver; I Want Jesus to Walk With Me; Lord, Make Me More Holy; I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart by Duke Ellington. We are excited about this groups 3rd visit. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR Today! March 2 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Sanctuary. Mark your calendar! Located at 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg.

BIRTHDAY BAGS Everyone likes to have their birthday celebrated, but when family funds are limited, it does not always happen. Little Daisy's Closet hands out birthday bags to people so their families can have a memorable celebration. We are collecting cake mixes, packaged icing, birthday napkins, balloons, and a disposable baking pan for each bag. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the container outside the main office door. Questions? Contact Joyce Ray.

KNOCK ON WOOD MARIMBA BAND First Evangelical Lutheran Church Corner of High and Bedford Streets, Carlisle. Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. Free Admission.

Downsizing? The Lutheran Churches work together to collect furniture and give it to families in need. If you have any furniture, they would like to have the opportunity to come and look at it to see if it can be used. There is a storage unit for the items until needed. In December and January 4 refugee families from Syria needed much of what was available. If you have furniture to contribute, please contact Shelly Davies at St. Luke Lutheran Church 717-261-1213 or Don Greer at Trinity Lutheran Church 717-263-8156.

ST. SERAPHIM soup kitchen offers meals to those in need on Saturdays when the Salvation Army does not provide meals. First Lutheran has joined with St Luke Lutheran to help provide servers for this ministry. St Seraphin is located near the Salvation Army. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are Saturday March 8 and Saturday April 19. Contact Mary Gotwald to help 717-264-4759.

LAUNDRY DAYS continue at Spot Laundry beginning this year on Saturday, March 15, 2025. It is a two hour commitment beginning at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcomed to come, greet our neighbors and pay their laundry expenses for that day with a laundry card. We also offer religious materials, water bottles, children's books and Meals on Wheels left overs. NTT has also started a children's library there. We provide used books with a note to take a book or two home. Please contact Joyce Ray at 717-658-6077 if you are interested in helping!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 5</u>	<u>March 9</u>
Lector:	Sally Herritt	Becky Hoover	Gary Fleegal
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh
Communion	Deb Fleegal	Deb Fleegal	
Assistants:	Becky Hoover Tom Kriner		
Greeters:	Bob Hammer Scott Hammer	Bob Hammer Scott Hammer	Bob Hammer Scott Hammer
Closer	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Denny Love Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Denny Love Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Denny Love Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson