



# Grace Lutheran Church

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

*"His Light on the Lakeshore"*

## November / December 2022 Congregational Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran, Manitowoc –

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We welcome all of you to our November / December newsletter. Hopefully, this newsletter and the articles it contains will bring you up-to-date and keep you informed with all things Grace Lutheran. Please read on carefully!

In our **Pastoral Call** news, Pastor Bill Monday of St. Peter's Lutheran in Appleton currently holds the Call to be our next Shepherd here at Grace. Pastor Monday is forty-five years old. He is a married man blessed with four children – ages nineteen, seventeen, fifteen and twelve. Along with serving as the Youth and Family Minister at St. Peter's, Pastor Monday also serves at The Core in Appleton. Please keep Pastor Monday and his family in your prayers as he considers where best to use his gifts as a servant of our Lord Jesus. May HIS Will be done!

As our **vacancy** here at Grace Lutheran continues, our leaders and Grace staff continue to work at sharing the Gospel and overseeing ministry so that 100% of our programs remain constant. Worship services, Bible classes, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, shut-in visitations, member visits and so much more continue because God is blessing the efforts of Vacancy Pastor Laabs, Staff Minister Fink, our office staff and our Coordinating Council. May our loving Lord continue to lead us through our vacancy, and may He give us a new Shepherd in His time!

Our **Coordinating Council** would like to share a little newsletter information. First, we will have an opening on the Council for a finance elder – replacing outgoing elder Michael Bubolz. If you are interested in this position or would like more information, please contact our Council Chairman, Steve Janke. Our Council would also invite you to attend a **December Open Forum meeting either on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> or Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Our **December Voter's meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us!

November and December will feature a number of **special worship services**. A list of those services follows:

**Christian Life Resources Weekend** – Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

*These services will feature Pastor Jeff Samelson from Christian Life Resources as our guest Pastor. Pastor Samelson will also lead a special Bible Class between services on Sunday.*



**Thanksgiving Eve Worship** –

Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

**Thanksgiving Day Worship** – Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 P.M.

**Advent Worship** – Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

**Advent Worship** – Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

**Advent Worship** – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

*We would love to offer Advent suppers between our three services once again this year. To do so, we need member help. If you can offer such help in any way – food dishes, set-up, clean-up or in some other way, please contact our meal coordinator Ruth Hahnke at 920-323-4265.*

**Jesus' Lambs of Grace Christmas Service** – Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M.

**Grace Lutheran Children's Service** – Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10:45 A.M. service.

**Manitowoc Lutheran High School Christmas Concert** – Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Capital Civic Center in downtown Manitowoc. 4:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.

**Grace Christmas Eve Service** – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 5:30 P.M.

**Grace Christmas Day Service** – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.

*No Monday evening worship on December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

**Grace New Year's Eve Service** – Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 P.M. (Communion)

**Grace New Year's Day Service** – Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 A.M. (Communion)

*No Monday evening worship on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.*





It is a blessing to serve our Lord at Grace Lutheran, and what follows is the schedule for **vacuuming cleaners**. Please look for the ushering schedules for November and December elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would like to be included in vacuuming, ushering or in other areas that need volunteers, please contact the church office for more information. We would love to have you participate in service here at Grace Lutheran!

### **VACUUMING**

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Tod Hauf  
November 25<sup>th</sup> – Shawn Smith  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bruce and Lorna Matthias  
December 10<sup>th</sup> – Tom and Debbie Meineke  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – Denise Haese  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Chuck Bast  
December 31<sup>st</sup> – Egerer Family  
January 7<sup>th</sup> – Mike Remiker



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**A GRIEF SHARE “SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS” WORKSHOP will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. at Immanuel Lutheran Church.**

This GriefShare “Surviving the Holidays” workshop is a one-time, two-hour event for people who have lost a loved one and would like some help in navigating the holidays. During our time together we will learn how to deal with our emotions, discuss tips for surviving social events, talk about what to do with holiday traditions and learn how to find hope for the future. We’ll watch and discuss a video hosted by counselors and mental health experts. The video features interviews with individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Each attendee will have the opportunity to purchase (\$5.00) a guidebook to take home and implement. Pre-registration for this event is required so that books might be ordered on time. Please register by Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



***To register or to receive more information, please email Larry Verlinden at [verlinden@comcast.net](mailto:verlinden@comcast.net) or by calling him at 920-323-2297.***

It's been some time since **membership information** and changes has been publicly shared here at Grace Lutheran. What follows is information from the last six months:

**New Members:**

Adult Confirmation: Todd & Patty Levendusky

Transferred to Grace: Russell & Peggy Rezba from St. John's, Gibson

**Transferred Out of Grace:**

Chad & Jenny Scheinoha and children Gracee & Kate to St. John's, Two Rivers

Lyndon & Ann Pearson to St. John's Newtonburg

Philip Hoff to Peace Lutheran, Sun Prairie

Dan & Andrea Habermann Family to St. John's Newtonburg

Jamie & Matt Potthast Family to Bethany, Manitowoc

Tyler & Danyelle Schmidt Family to Bethany, Manitowoc

**Members that have gone to Heaven:**

Don Zimmermann

Lois Bergquist

Ray Lippert

Joy Krueger



**Released from Membership:**

Michelle Evans

Lisa Courchaine

Brittany DeGrand

Kelly El Yaagoubi

Michael Haese

Gloria Krueger

Dan Schultz

Garette Dissmore

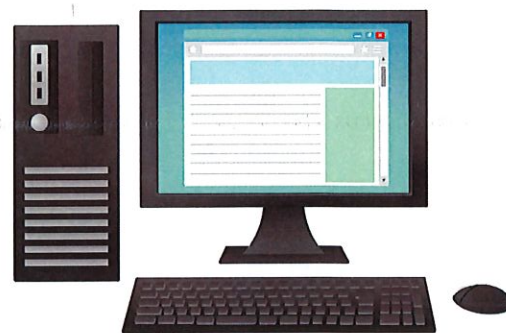


With the Christmas season fast approaching, it's time to think about **Poinsettia Donations** to help beautify our church. The cost to donate a poinsettia is \$6.00 per plant. To donate, please sign up on the sheets on the red display table in the fellowship hall. If the plant is in memory of a loved one, please include that information on the sign-up sheet so it can be listed in our Christmas bulletin. Your donation payment of cash or check - payable to "*Grace Circle*" - should go into one of the envelopes provided.

Please place your name on the envelope and place the envelope into the labeled container. The last day to donate a poinsettia plant is December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you very much!



Have you visited our **Grace Lutheran Church Website** lately? You can find this helpful information tool by going to [www.gracelutheran-church.com](http://www.gracelutheran-church.com). Did you know that you can go to our website and view our Grace Lutheran Newsletters, Calendars and Usher Schedules just by clicking on the links for each of these at the top of our home page? There is also a section for Worship Services with links to view recorded services, service bulletins and weekly announcements. Check out our website for timely information regarding special worship schedules, Bible Class topics, current events and other activities at Grace Lutheran published on our page. We also have a Grace Lutheran Church Manitowoc **Facebook** page. Search for us on Facebook, go to our page and “LIKE” us so you can stay in touch with us. Any suggestions or ideas regarding our use of social media are welcome! We’d love to hear from you!



Our Preschool Program – **Jesus’ Lambs of Grace** – opened their doors in early September with an enrollment of thirty-eight students. Our 2.5K program has five children, our 3K program has seventeen, and our 4K program has fourteen students enrolled. Two children attend aftercare only. Our staff includes Director and 2.5K and 3K teacher Peggy Janke, 4K teachers Sarah Kupsky and Andra Revak and staff members Misty Barthel, Lizzy Kolar, Mary Menges, and Elyria Lauren. What a blessing to know that these children hear of the Love of Jesus each and every day! May God bless these little ones as they learn and grow – and may he bless all involved with our Jesus’ Lambs of Grace program!



**Jesus’ Lambs of Grace Preschool**  
**Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

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*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.*

**Romans 1:16**

*1.1. Six*



## ***“Thanksgiving”* – A Message from Pastor Laabs**

Late October and November are times when the “old farmer” part of me comes out just a little bit. As the green of summer gives way to the golden browns of fall, I am reminded why farmers put in all their work from March through September. It’s harvest time! First the corn in the silo, then the beans are harvested and finally the ripe corn. Then I remember the race to get the plowing done before Thanksgiving which usually coincided with the ground freezing. While not everyone plows anymore, every farmer is thankful for a good harvest and if the prices stay reasonable, we’ll all have a lot for which to be thankful.

The roots of celebrating a National Day of Thanksgiving go back to a time when much of our national economy was based in agriculture. The timing of the celebration was set to match the harvest time. “Harvest home festivals” were combined with Thanksgiving Day to create the type of Thanksgiving Day we celebrate today.

Two things strike me at Thanksgiving. The first is that, as Christians, we should be very thankful to live in a land that still marks a National Day of Thanksgiving. While it is a national holiday, it is a most appropriate day for Christians to gather to thank God for all his blessings, both spiritual and physical. The second thing that strikes me is how inadequate our giving of thanks really is when we restrict it to one day of the year. God’s blessings are “new every morning.” We have much for which to be thankful every day!

An unknown hymn writer penned a verse of one of our familiar Thanksgiving hymns that, perhaps, expresses our daily need for giving thanks the best. He wrote:

*But best of all your blessings,  
The rainbow of your love,  
Are all the many mercies  
Your Word brings from above.  
Our life now has full meaning –  
Christ Jesus is our God!  
Thanksgiving shall be living  
The way the Savior trod.*

People over the years have combined the sentiment of the final lines into the word **“Thanksgiving.”** It’s a wonderful word to describe how we can show our thankfulness to “the Giver of every good and perfect gift” each day of our lives.

Please plan to join your fellow Christians at Grace as we celebrate our National Day of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 23, at 6:30 p.m. and again on Thursday, November 24, at 9:00 a.m. It is a good day to invite friends and relatives with whom you may be spending the day. But, above all, it is a good day to thank God and initiate the **Thanksgiving** that will follow for the next 364 days.



# Member Ministry Corner



## Am I Personally Called by God?

One of the Biblical Foundations on which Personal Member Ministry is based says that all Christians are priests and have a ministry or calling. What?? ALL Christians are priests? That's right, all of us! In fact, the apostle Peter says in 1 Peter 2:9, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."*

We often connect the word "priesthood" to a **professional** ministry rather than an **individual** ministry. We generally think of the pastors as being the ones declaring God's praises, but in fact, God has given this responsibility to all of us. Martin Luther once said, "I would very much like to have this word 'priests' as commonly applied to us as it is customary to call us Christians; for it is all one and the same thing: priests, baptized, Christian."

As priests, Christians have a ministry, a life of Christian service, to perform. Personal ministry is living out, in Christ, the special role God has **prepared for me** and **prepared me for**. And certainly, God would not expect us to do things for which he has not fully equipped us to do. Just as God has given us certain gifts and talents, he will also equip us to use those gifts, and will lead us to those places where he wants us to use them in ways that others will see our faith, in order to help them glorify God as well.

The idea that we are called by God, as priests, should change our perception of our roles in our church and in the community. And although our spiritual gifts differ from one person to the next, man, oh man, should we all consider it such a privilege and blessing to be personally called by our gracious Lord, to serve him, and share his Kingdom with others! Will you answer YOUR call?

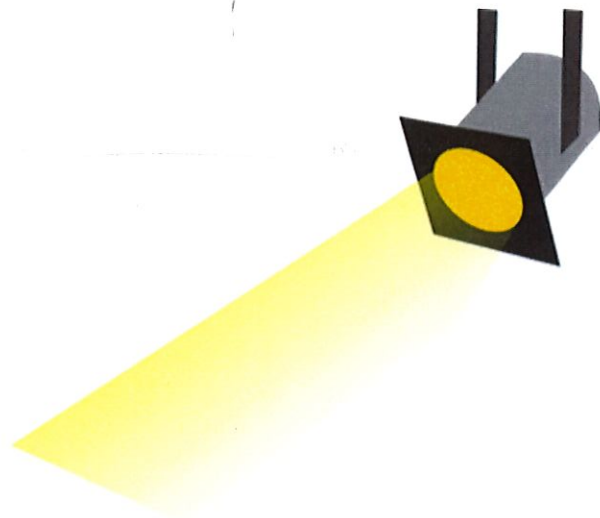


## Hospitality Team

Do you enjoy making your guests feel welcomed? Are you craving more fellowship with your church family? We are looking to start building a **Hospitality Team at Grace**. We would like to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in our fellowship hall to both our members and our visitors. The goal would be to grow this team to other hospitality ideas as well - talking with visitors, preparing snacks and coffee for Bible Class and the like. Whether you are interested in just one of these areas, or all of them, we'd like you to be a part of our team. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table, or for more information you can call Lorna Matthias at 920-901-8777 or Heidi Malley at 920-682-7377 / 920-973-1988.

# Member Spotlight

In each newsletter, we will introduce you to one or two of our member families or individuals. We will randomly pick a name or family and ask them a few questions about themselves to help you get to know them a little better. *So be ready! You may be our next family or individual!*



Would you be interested in doing these interviews with our members? Families will be randomly selected, and you would simply call them and ask them a few pre-written questions, put it all together in a short paragraph or two and submit it to our editor for the next issue. What a great way to get to know your church family! If interested, please contact Heidi Malley at 920-682-7377.

## This month's Spotlight:

### Tom and Debbie Meineke

Tom and Debbie have been members at Grace for seven years. While Debbie is originally from Manitowoc, Tom grew up in Mishicot. They've been married for forty-two years and have two daughters. Their daughter Stephanie is married to Aaron. Together Stephanie and Aaron have two children and live in Green Bay. Their other daughter, Jennifer, is married to Jordan. Jordan and Jennifer have one child and live in Auburn, Washington.



Tom and Debbie are both retired. Tom is a navy veteran and served with the Seabees for four years. Thank you for your service, Tom! Tom and Debbie's interests include fishing, golfing, visiting their grandkids, and reading. We are very thankful for their service at Grace which includes ushering, greeting, live streaming, Coordinating Council and vacuuming. Together, Tom and Debbie make up one of our counting teams, and when they are available they help with Christmas setup and takedown along with Spring and Fall cleanup.

Thank you for your service at Grace! It's been great getting to know you a little better  
Tom and Debbie!

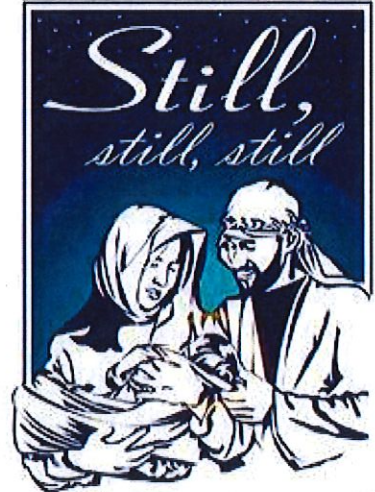


# Christmas Services

## Jesus' Lambs of Grace Children's Service

*"Still, Still, Still"*

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 A.M.



Be still, and know that I am *God*  
Psalms 46:10

## Grace Lutheran Children's Service

*"The Signs of Christmas"*

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:45 A.M. Worship



## Manitowoc Lutheran High School Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 and 7:30 P.M.

Capital Civic Center, Manitowoc





## Christmas Giving!

*Christmas is for giving and showing that we care,  
For honoring the Christ Child with loving gifts we share.  
Whether it be large or small, each gift will share in part.  
The message of true Christmas joy, when given from the heart!*

Make your Christmas shopping easy & convenient!

- Shop at the MLHS SCRIp office
- Online: [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)
- Phone app:  **RaiseRight**  
by ShopWithScrip

Choose from the many gift cards & certificates available for all your Christmas gifts.

Order deadline to receive by Christmas  
**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - 9:00AM**

[scrip@mlhslancers.org](mailto:scrip@mlhslancers.org) or 920-686-6711



*Have you started your Christmas Shopping?*

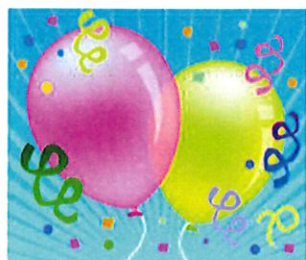
*Do you shop online at AMAZON?*

***If so, did you know that you can sign up for “AmazonSmile” and choose Grace as your charity and we will receive 0.5% on all eligible purchases?***

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Grace every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at [smile.Amazon.com](http://smile.Amazon.com) online and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app. When you shop using AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Grace. You just need to choose Grace Church Manitowoc from the list of charities when you set it up.

*If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at 920-682-7377.*





# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



NAME	BD	NAME	BD
Mandy Raasch	11/1	Kendal Peitersen	11/19
Louise Stuebs	11/2	Mike Remiker	11/19
Terry Johnson	11/3	Henry-Joseph Sasse	11/19
Kathy Graupner	11/4	Glenn Haese	11/20
Joseph Schultz	11/4	Ryder Hultgren	11/20
Theresa Jacobs	11/5	Joanne Pritzl	11/20
Mike Haese	11/6	Jodie Rezba	11/20
Kathleen Haupt	11/7	Krystal Gossen	11/25
William Schleis	11/7	Jennifer Kieselhorst	11/25
Bob Denk	11/12	Janelle Zimmermann	11/25
David Hammel	11/13	Kaden Peitersen	11/26
Ron Likas	11/13	Steven Riske	11/26
David Zipperer	11/13	Roger Smith	11/26
Hailey Hebert	11/15	Kevin Krueger	11/27
Peg Janke	11/15	Vivian Meerdink	11/28
Allen Leist	11/15	Kevin Hartlaub	11/29
Jerry Krueger	11/16	Teresa Egerer	11/30
Bria Berry	11/18	Dave Kappelman	11/30
Robin Walters	11/18		

**We wish all of you a very Happy Birthday!**

If we inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know and we will be happy to add it to our list!!





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



NAME	BD	NAME	BD
Patty Kappelman	12/1	Colleen Denk	12/16
Cynthia Schneider	12/1	Benjamin Fagan	12/16
Shannon Peitersen	12/3	Beverly Peroutka	12/16
Neil Conradt	12/6	Richard Radzinski	12/16
Colin Schultz	12/7	Malia Bush	12/18
Jim Brick	12/8	Malachi Eurich	12/18
Jacob Stubbe	12/8	Jim Wilka	12/20
Blake Prado	12/9	Brooklyn Hebert	12/21
Brooke Claxton	12/10	Emma Miller	12/21
Denise Haese	12/10	David Bergquist	12/26
Ava Claxton	12/11	Lucas Hammel	12/26
Maureen Kloida	12/12	Lydia Hammel	12/26
Dorothy Sickinger	12/13	Brynn Remiker	12/28
Dianne Knier	12/13	Alex Stubbe	12/28
Leila Nicklaus	12/13	Maleah Sickinger	12/29
Ryan Revak	12/13	Regina Melso	12/30
Travis Rodewald	12/13	David Soukup	12/30
Melissa Schamburek	12/13	Ralph Knier	12/31
Tyler Rodewald	12/14	Warren Knutson	12/31
Kaylee Denk	12/15	Connor Wigand	12/31
Brian Gardner	12/15		

**We wish all of you a very Happy Birthday!**

If we inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know and we will be happy to add it to our list!!



# GRACE USHER/GREETER SCHEDULE – November 2022

**\*\* = Help with communion distribution**

DATE	HEAD USHER	USHERS	GREETERS
Nov. 6 – Early	**Bruce Wigand (323-3703)	Neil Conratt	Heidi M./Tammy B.
Nov. 6 – Late	** Tod Hauf (860-2221)	Bruce Bitter	Laverne Mattes
Nov. 7 – Mon	**Dave Kappelman (370-3759)		
Nov. 13 – Early	Irv Seiler (682-4726)		
Nov. 13 – Late	Aaron Mueller (242-6286)		Kim Mueller
Nov. 14 – Mon	Steve Malley (973-1987)		
Nov. 20 – Early	**Jack Meisner (323-7779)	Wayne Pearson	Shannon Peitersen
Nov. 20 – Late	**Troy Stubbe (362-8008)	Bob Schild	Stacy Stubbe
Nov. 21 – Mon	Derrick Gossen (619-1750)		
Nov. 23 – Wed 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve	Dave Bergquist (905-4945)		
Nov. 23 – Thu 9:30 Thanksgiving Day	Greg Kolar (860-4121)	Sam Kolar	Erin Kolar
Nov. 27 – Early	Jerry Krueger (901-1291)		Wendy Krueger
Nov. 27 – Late	Scott Stubbe (323-8915)		Carol Stubbe
Nov. 28 – Mon	Kent Langman (242-3042)		Donna Langman
Nov. 30 – Wed 4:15	Jack Meisner (323-7779)		Heidi Malley
Nov. 30 – Wed 6:30	Troy Stubbe (362-8008)		Stacy Stubbe

Please make every effort to be at the service you are listed for above. See side box for instructions if you are not able to serve when scheduled as well as other miscellaneous information.

Thank you, The Committee

Thank you again for your willingness to be of service to the Lord here at Grace.

If you are unable to usher when you are scheduled, please try to find a replacement so all positions are filled.

**Please do this as soon as possible so that those present on Sunday morning and Monday evening do not have to look for you or need to “recruit” someone else at the last minute.**

*If you are not able to find a replacement, please call the Head Usher and let them know – their phone numbers are on the chart.*

Please try to be at church at least 15 minutes prior to the start of that service. Head ushers should try to be at least 25 minutes early.

**HEAD USHER’S NOTE:** If it is a communion service, please be ready to assist the Pastor with the distribution or find someone else who is comfortable doing that.

**EXTRA NOTE FOR THE USHERS:**  
Watch for visitors who come in through the office/school entrance and may not be seen by the greeters. Please make every effort to personally welcome them and if applicable, show them where the Guest Register is located.  
**We want to make sure we are welcoming all people entering God’s House!**



# USHER & GREETER SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2022

**\*\* = Help with communion distribution**

DATE	HEAD USHER	USHERS	GREETERS
12/4 - Early	**Bruce Wigand (323-3703)	Jim Pearson	Heidi / Tammy
12/4 - Late	**Tod Hauf (860-2221)	Ken Peroutka	Laverne Mattes
12/5 - Mon	**Dave Kappelman (370-3759)		
12/7 - Wed 4:15	Jack Meisner (323-7779)		
12/7 - Wed 6:30	Dave Bergquist (905-4945)		
12/11 - Early	Michael Bubolz (905-2226)		Abbey & Henry Bubolz
12/11 - Late	Aaron Mueller (242-6286)		Kim Mueller
12/12 - Mon	Dennis Egerer (946-3209)	Shawn Egerer	Teresa/Isaac Egerer
12/14 - Wed 4:15	Mike Remiker		
12/14 - Wed 6:30	Kent Langman (242-3042)		Donna Langman
12/18 - Early	**Steve Janke (262-352-8742)	Dick Pritzl	Joanne Pritzl
12/18 - Late - Children's Service	Troy Stubbe (860-2731)	Bob Schild	Stacy Stubbe
12/19 - Mon	Scott Stubbe (323-8915)		Carol Stubbe
12/24 Xmas Eve 1:30	Irv Seiler (683-5463)	Jake Kocourek	
12/24 Xmas Eve 5:00	Dave Bergquist (905-4945)		
12/25 Xmas Day 9:00	Bruce Matthias (901-4312)	Jack Meisner	Lorna Matthias
12/31 NY Eve 5:00 w/communion	**Dave Kappelman (370-3759)	Neil Conradt	Laverne Mattes

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**EXTRA NOTE FOR THE USHERS:**  
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