

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FEBRUARY 2023



## *Pastor Mike's Mash*

This is a slightly revised version of my annual report to the congregation included in this year's annual report. (Hardcopies of the full report have been in the Narthex for pick-up, as well as a digital version that was distributed to our email list.) **Please prayerfully consider the contents of this article and most especially, how you might be able to respond through your participation and generosity. Whatever the causes and reasons for our downturns, your response is the antidote.** Grace and peace in Jesus—mep.

Exactly one year ago, my personal life and our shared life together was about to be turned upside down. I sat in our January 30 Annual Meeting last year knowing that I was likely about to receive a non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma diagnosis. Sure enough, by February 9, I had that diagnosis in hand and was admitted via the emergency room to the St. Cloud Hospital for the first of what would be 10 chemotherapy treatments.

Since that time, many of the trajectories in place after the 2020 lockdowns became that much more accentuated in my absence between February and the end of August this year.

Worship attendance plummeted, and along with it, our financial stewardship. We lost our youth ministry director over the summer.

Our willing volunteer core has continued to shrink, and we buried a number of extremely active servants, worshipers, and contributors.

We have been engaged in a conversation about whether we can even keep Trinity Crossing. In many ways, it has been a pretty bleak year.

But the cross of Christ always invites the eyes of faith to see beyond the death.

So there have also been many blessings we should not overlook nor forget to count.

Our worship attendance and stewardship has begun to trend upward over the last quarter of 2022.

We've had more of our 9th grade confirmands transition into our Living IT high school youth ministry than we've ever had since I've been here and had more middle school youth attended the synod's first in-person youth gathering since before the pandemic began.

Most of our newest members who have joined our congregation over the last 2 - 10 years are actively engaged in Bible study, worship, service, and giving.

All of this leads me to believe that the ship has been righted with my return, and we are pointed toward a better 2023. (At the very least, I am anticipating a cancer-free 2023, and every single day, I give thanks to God for that!)

But I can't gauge your response to our invitations to be a part of what's going on through worship, giving, study, serving, and outreach to our community. Even if with some positive trends this last quarter of 2022, unless a critical mass of our congregation adjusts their individual response to being a part of this congregation regardless of what our final resolution with Trinity Crossing is—we will be facing another bleak year. There simply is nothing left to cut. I simply don't know what your response can or will be.

What I do know is that, since my return and going forward, what I can affect in the life of our congregation, I will continue to put my shoulder into those things—preaching; teaching; being involved in the lives of our youth; visiting our homebound, elderly, and hospitalized, the primary places where I can bring to bear the promises of Christ, despite the bleakness that our world may deal us.

Thank you for your partnership as we seek to be the people God has created us to be, molded and shaped into a congregation of Christ's disciples.

In the name of that same Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Mike

**WE WAIT IN  
HOPE FOR THE  
LORD; HE IS OUR  
HELP AND OUR  
SHIELD. IN HIM  
OUR HEARTS  
REJOICE, FOR  
WE TRUST IN  
HIS HOLY NAME.**

Psalm 33:20-21

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## WEEKLY REOCCURRING SCHEDULES

### Mondays

8am WWW \*

### Tuesdays

10am Bible Study

### Wednesdays

9am TOPS

### Thursdays

7pm AA

### Saturday

8am Men's Breakfast

Last Saturday of the month only

### Sunday

9am Worship Service

10am Coffee Hour

10:30am Sunday School all ages

## Christian Sympathies

Our deepest Christian sympathies to the family & friends of Margaret Thiel who passed away on January 5th, 2023. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.



with deepest  
sympathy

# Lent Begins with

**ASH**  
wednesday

*For you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.  
Genesis 3:19*



## February 22 @ 7pm

Palm or Passion Sunday—The start of Holy week begins today. Grab a palm on your way in ! Watch for more info to come on, "A Walk Through Holy Week" children's event!!

For Lent this season, we will be doing Holden Evening Prayer. Have you ever wondered how those folks get to lead that worship service? Check out the Sign Up genius link below or signup on the hard copy in the narthex. <https://bit.ly/3jB38p5>

"Maundy" comes from the Latin word Mandatum, as in the words "mandatory" and "command." We hear the words that Jesus commands at his last supper with his disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me." We will be celebrating and blessing the First Communion of a number of our young people as they join us at the Table in obedience to our Lord's command.

\*\*\*1st Communion Instruction Recognition of Completion.

It seems odd to call this day "good," for it is nothing but violence, abuse, humiliation, and injustice for Jesus. And yet, it is even with all this horror in view that we bear witness with John's Gospel, "Jesus Christ is the Light of the Word, the Light NO darkness can overcome." This night's service will be a powerful service of creeping darkness and candle light called a "Tenebrae Service" or a "Service of Shadows."

*Palm Sunday*  
April 2, 2023

Join us for  
**Holden Evening Prayer**

MARTY HAUGEN

Maundy  
*Thursday*  
"Do this in Memory of Me"  
April 6, 2023  
7pm

**Good**  
7 APRIL  
2023 **Friday**



**LENTEN  
SOUP  
SUPPER**

## DELICIOUS FOOD MENU



SOUP



SOUP



SOUP

Lent just wouldn't be the same without our Lenten Soup Suppers. Share your favorite soup, break bread and please pass the milk!! The sign up genius is out. Please see the link below or use the boards in the Narthex today!!

<https://bit.ly/3YerWC3>



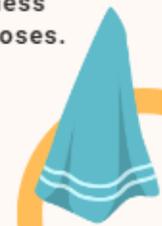
## 2023 Lenten LWR Season of Hope Personal Care Kit Project



- 1** Bath towels - medium weight is important so they can be air dried. Size - maximum 52" x 27"
- 2** Nail clippers - either large or small, nail file optional
- 3** Hand soap bars - 4-5 oz if possible. Many stores are selling only 3 oz. bars. They are fine, we just include 2 bars for 1.
- 4** Sturdy comb. Handle with sturdy teeth are preferred, but a large sturdy comb is fine. Please no large packets of various sizes please.
- 5** Individually wrapped toothbrushes. No multiple packs unless each toothbrush is individually wrapped for sanitary purposes. No toothpaste.



Monetary donations should be addressed to Trinity WWW (Women Witnessing to the World) via check to WWW, or envelop with cash labeled WWW Lenten Project.



## 1st Bible during Lent

Please get these dates on your calendars:

**Sun., Feb. 26**—Gifting the 1st Bibles: During our 9am service

**1st Bibles Session 1**—Wed., March 1 OR Sun., March 5, whichever fits your schedule best.

**1st Bibles Session 2**—Wed., March 8 OR Sun., March 12

Please plan on attending BOTH Sessions 1 & 2.

1st Bibles & Instruction is offered to all youth (and their families) K-3rd grade who have not yet received either the Spark! Picture Bible or instruction—some have received Bibles but not instruction—and 5th grade and older who have not yet received their Spark! Study Bible or instruction.

1st Communion Instruction Recognition of Completion: Maundy Thursday Service, April 7, 7pm

**1st Communion Instruction Session 1**—Sun., March 19 OR Wed., March 22, whichever fits your schedule best.

**1st Communion Instruction Session 2**—Sun., March 26 OR Wed., March 29

**1st Communion Instruction Session 3**—Sun., April 2, PALM SUNDAY

**Please plan on attending ALL 3 SESSIONS.**

1st Communion Instruction is offered to ALL YOUTH (and their families) who have not yet received 1st communion instruction.

Please speak with Pastor Mike to help decide whether or not your child is ready.



Each year, per our promises made at Baptism—by parents, baptismal sponsors, and us as a congregation—we offer both the opportunity to receive first Bibles and to learn how to use them. We do this through a fun, 2-session learning opportunity for **BOTH** kids and parents.

As with Sunday School, 1st Bibles, confirmation, and—well, really, anything and everything we might offer to and through our families—1st Communion Instruction is one of the ways we seek to follow through with the promises we made at Holy Baptism.

- Parents promised to provide for instruction in the Christian faith, to bring their children to worship and the Lord's Supper, and more.
  - Baptismal Sponsors promised to support these parents.
  - Our congregation promised to invite, equip, support, and encourage our families.
- Our next offering for 1st Communion Instruction will begin this LENT. (Ash Wednesday, February 26 marks the beginning of Lent.) See below for the full schedule.

## 1st Communion Instruction

There are 3 sessions that are a part of the whole for 1st Communion instruction. Those 3 sessions dive into...

- (a) the Old Testament stories that are a part of the Passover celebration that Jesus and his disciples were observing on the night of his Last Supper;
- (b) the New Testament stories that are a part of our observations and celebration of Holy Communion; and
- (c) bread baking and practicing receiving Holy Communion.

Each of our 3 sessions include reading those stories from their Bibles and fun activities that help reinforce those stories.

Additionally, families are encouraged to interact with each week's take-home resources to continue normalizing the bridge between church and home.

**SCHEDULE**—This year's schedule for 1st Communion Instruction is as follows:

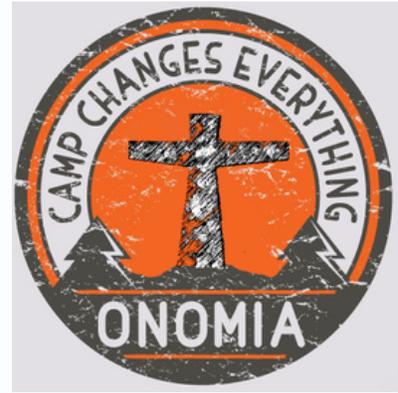
- **1st Communion Instruction Session 1**—EITHER **Sun., March 19** (10:30am during our Sunday School time) OR **Wed., March 22** (5:15pm, during our Lenten Soup Suppers), whichever fits your schedule best.
- **1st Communion Instruction Session 2**—EITHER **Sun., March 26** (10:30am) OR **Wed., March 29** (5:15pm) again, whichever fits your schedule best.

**YOU CAN MIX AND MATCH THE SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SESSIONS TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REGULAR SCHEDULE.**

- **1st Communion Instruction Session 3**—ONLY **Sun., April 2, PALM SUNDAY** (10:30am). We'll be baking communion bread and rehearsing for the official First Communion Service to be held on Maundy Thursday.
- 1st Communion Instruction Recognition of Completion: **Maundy Thursday Service, April 7, 7pm.**
- Please plan on attending **ALL 3 SESSIONS.**
- Please plan on attending worship on the instruction days. Holy Communion is set within the context of our worship services. It kind of defeats the purpose of instruction to come only for that but not worship.

**TO GET REGISTERED**—Please follow this link to our SignUp Genius: <https://tinyurl.com/ycknb5n4>

**MENTORS & PREPARING FOR LENT**—Living IT Youth: if you are still in need of a mentor, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET THAT COMPLETED. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22 with our Ash Wednesday service. You will need to have your mentor in place from that Wednesday on. Mentor Training & Orientation is NEXT WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall here at Trinity.



**Bible Camp**—The early bird deadline for getting registered for Bible camp at Onomia is Wednesday, March 15. (Fees go up \$100 after March 15.) Registration materials will be going home with your youth TONIGHT. Stay tuned for other important registration information—camperships available, etc. etc. This year's confirmation camp session, renamed **"i BELONG"** (Sun., June 25—Fri., June 30) will have a slightly different format that looks to be **REALLY EXCITING**. In addition to the usual fun outdoor opportunities that Camp Onomia offers, this year will also feature nightly concerts (called "SPLASH") with guest musicians and performance artists!



If the "i BELONG" week doesn't work, there are a number of other opportunities throughout the summer that would qualify for our Bible camp experience for confirmation.

**PLEASE NOTE:** while there are LOTS of other great camps throughout greater MN and WI, our Bible camp requirement can only be met through one of our ELCA bible camps (Onomia, preferably, but there are others, as well. Those other camps have a different approach to faith and Scripture, which doesn't make them "wrong" per se—but they don't necessarily reinforce "being a follower of Jesus in the Lutheran way" that we seek to pass on to our youth.

**SUMMER TRIP MINISTRY**—Please note the announcements in this bulletin for the Boundary Waters canoe trip through Wilderness Canoe Base, open to all 8th grade and older. If you are interested in finding out more (or more importantly, planning on going), please sign-up on the clip board in the Narthex here, or at Immanuel.

## Start thinking about your baskets today!

Put together an Easter Basket for the Youth Fundraiser! Starting February 22, baskets can be any theme or size you'd like! Drop your complete baskets off to the office by March 12th and they will go for LIVE bidding March 19, 2023. Auction will run through April 2nd. With your baskets, please include a list of items in your basket along with an estimated value so we can plan accordingly. All proceeds will go to benefit our Living IT youth missions.



# ADVENTURE IS WAITING

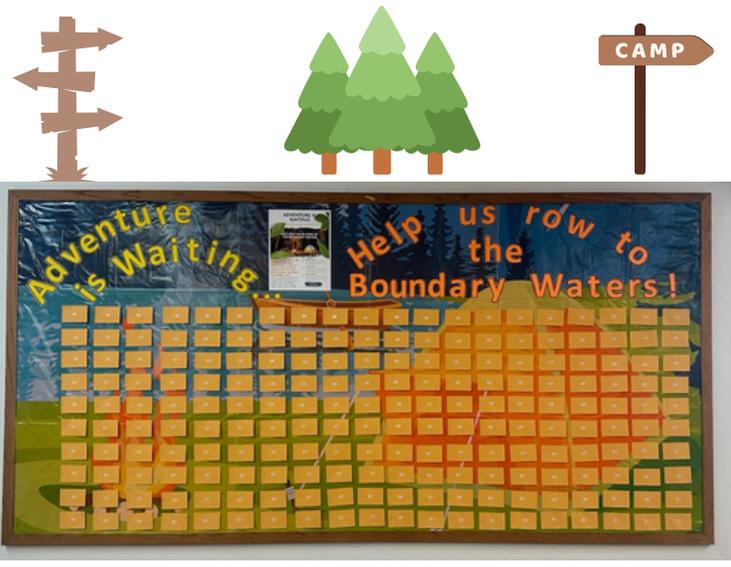
*The Wilderness is Calling!*

HELP OUR YOUTH ROW TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS

**OUR YOUTH WILL BE SPENDING TIME ENJOYING GOD'S CREATION IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS SUMMER 2023!**

Support our youth by participating in the Envelope Fundraiser. Take an envelope, fill with the dollar amount listed on the front/associated number/sticker. Return to office. Help us reach our goal of \$4,000

-  **FUNDRAISER**  
Choose an envelope of desired gift. Return envelope gift to church office. This is a Living IT fundraiser, to support our youth ministry.
  -  **GIVING BACK**  
We care about our community. We give 10% back to the youth in our community. Our contribution goes toward needs such as Student Youth Services- Pantry.
  -  **YOUTH BENEFIT**  
Living IT youth benefit from a Christ centered adventure trip to the Boundary Waters. They spend time learning and growing together in God's beautiful creation!
- LIVING IT**  
Immanuel and Trinity Youth Ministry  
livingitdirector@gmail.com



Numbered envelopes should coincide with the donation dollar amount. Checks can be made payable to Living IT Youth.



LIVING IT INVITES YOU TO JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR A

# WILDERNESS TRIP IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS

FUNDRAISING IN PLACE TO COVER A PORTION OF YOUR TRIP COST

QUESTIONS...CONTACT:  
LIVINGITDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM  
OR  
JACOB CALVERT, TRIP LEAD  
CALVERTJC53@GMAIL.COM

APPROX COST BEFORE FUNDRAISING:  
**\$660**

**6 NIGHTS: 7 DAYS**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 15TH-FRIDAY, JULY 21ST, 2023**

**ALL INCLUSIVE TRIP: WILDERNESS CANOE BASE**  
WILL NEED MONEY FOR FOOD ON THE WAY UP AND WAY HOME

**WHO CAN GO? COMPLETED 8TH-12TH GRADERS**  
CANOE | CAMP | ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

INDICATE INTEREST ON SIGN UP HERE: INTEREST MEETING COMING SOON



## Trinity Closet Clothing Exchange

- ☺ Bring to Trinity your used shirts, slacks, dresses, sweaters, shoes, scarves, socks, jewelry, and coats.
- ☺ Men's, women's, children, and infant clean clothing are welcome.
- ☺ Bring items to church office or back of the fellowship hall anytime until March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ☺ Be sure to shop March 19-26<sup>th</sup> for any clothing you or your family could use. Any one is welcome to shop.
- ☺ Any remaining clothing goes to Twice New Clothing.



Upcoming clothing exchange dates:

Collect clothing Now - March 18  
**Exchange March 19<sup>th</sup> - March 26<sup>th</sup>**

### Military or College Outreach

We are looking to update our contact list for sending out Military and College correspondents. If you have or know of someone that we would need information for please contact the office via phone 763-389-2671 or email –office-trinity –princeton.org





## **SMALL GROUP STUDIES**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast are the LAST Saturday of the month, 8am at the Church. We will take a break through the holidays and resume January 28th,

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Meets Tuesday mornings at 10am in fellowship hall .

### **Women's Bible Study**

We Meet the 3rd Thursday of the month. We will gather in the fellowship hall next on **Thursday February 16, at 9:30am.**

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Our group knits Prayer Shawls to be given to those who need God's arms wrapped around them in the time of need. Baby shawls are given to children who are baptized, and caps/scarves are given to support the Twin Ports Seafarers Ministry. All shawls, caps and scarves are blessed before they are given away. Please join us in the choir room during coffee hour.

### **W.W.W. Quilters Group**

Women witnessing to the World. A quilting group that gathers at Trinity Crossings, meets Mondays from 8am-12pm. Come one come all.

## **AA Meetings, Open & Welcome to All - Thursdays, 7pm here at TLC**

If you think you have a problem with alcohol-please attend. If you're interested in attending an AA meeting but this time doesn't work for you other meetings can be found by searching online using "AA Meeting Locator".

### ***UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE:***

#### ***OFFICE HOURS***

***MONDAYS & TUESDAYS: 8AM-2PM***

***WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAY: 8AM-11AM***

***FRIDAYS CLOSED***

***PLEASE NOTE THE DAYS HAVE CHANGED***

# LIVING IT YOUTH DIRECTOR



WE ARE LOOKING TO HIRE IN COLLABORATION WITH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN A JOINT YOUTH DIRECTOR. THIS IS A FULL TIME POSITION WITH BENEFITS. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU MAY KNOW WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SUBMIT A COVER LETTER AND RESUME TO THE OFFICE AT [OFFICE@IMMANUELPRINCETON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@IMMANUELPRINCETON.ORG)

## OFFERING COUNTERS

We are in need of “recharging” our list of people willing and able to help with counting our Sunday offerings. It’s not a huge job, but oh SO necessary. Our counters are simply assigned Sundays on a rotating basis, and if that’s a Sunday that doesn’t work for you, you are simply asked to be in contact with one of the other counters to trade that Sunday. Please contact Liz in the office (763-389-2671 or [office@trinity-princeton.org](mailto:office@trinity-princeton.org)) to let her know that you’re available. She’ll assign you with a seasoned offering counter so that you are able to learn the ropes. THANKS!



TRINITY AND IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

### BIBLE & BREW



EVERYONE WELCOME

JOIN US AT SUNKEN SHIP  
BREWING COMPANY ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023  
AT 6:30 PM

32273 124TH STREET, PRINCETON MN

**WHEN**  
Friday March 24, 6pm  
Thru Saturday 2 pm  
Brewschool option: Fri @1pm  
Learn from experienced home brewers!

**WHERE**  
Camp Onomia  
14202 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia, MN 56359  
Please bring your own bedding and toiletries.  
Double occupancy in our comfy Retreat Center!

FEATURING • 3 meals • 1 night Retreat Center lodging •  
Centered Bible conversations • Craft Brew tastings •  
Devotions • laughter • Relaxed fun • Song

[WWW.CAMPONOMIA.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPONOMIA.ORG)



#### ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

\$94 per person  
Bring your own brew or a craft beer to share. Non-alcoholic option provided

#### BREW SCHOOL

\$10-20 supplies cost  
Optional: learn about brewing you own! Come early for the hands-on school!

#### GUEST SPEAKER

We are excited to have Bishop Amy from the NEMN Synod with us to lead our Bible study times.

#### REGISTER

Online registration required no later than March 15th. Questions? Email: [onomiaexec@gmail.com](mailto:onomiaexec@gmail.com) Call: 320-532-3767



**FREE  
COMMUNITY  
MEAL**

# All are Welcome Princeton Community Table

**A free meal from 4:30 –6:30 pm**

***Join Us 4:30-6:30pm 2023***

**NO January Meal**

**NO February Meal**

**March 23rd**

**April 27th**

**May 25th**

**June 22nd**

**July 27th**

**August 24th**

**September 28th**

**October 26th**

**NO NOVEMBER MEAL**

**December 7th**

**Trinity Crossing**

**111 6th Ave N, Princeton**

**Good Eats with Great Folks!**



**This is a partnership event of Trinity Lutheran Church and  
Christ Our Light Catholic Church—for more information contact:**

**The church offices**

Thank you for supporting Trinity in 2023 and sharing your time and talents! If you have any questions please email the office or our bookkeeper Scott Hendrickson at [swh008@msn.com](mailto:swh008@msn.com)

### **There are multiple ways for you to give:**

**By Mail**—we have a reliable process for making sure that all offerings are out of the building every single day and deposited right way. It is safe, even with our mostly shuttered building.

**On-line**—You can [CLICK HERE](#) to give **RIGHT NOW**, if you want, and that gift can also be set-up to come in a recurring way or a one time donation. (This is the link you would follow from our website by clicking on the offering plate image there.) This is **THE** most efficient way of signing up for Simply Giving, which is administered by Vanco, one of the most secure e-commerce companies in the industry.

**Automatic Withdrawal**—Contact your bank.

**By App**—Both the Apple and Google Play app stores have a free app called “GivePlus.” Once downloaded to your device, simply search for “Trinity Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN”; follow the directions for registering; and set-up your giving in whatever way works for your faithful generosity, one time, recurring, or whatever.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**



## Members

### Prayer List

Tony Alferness  
Margaret Braun  
Jeri Ann Bredemus  
Jan Dery  
Jim Dery  
Susan Deyle  
Katey Donais  
Lainey Druar  
Bob Duncan  
Marlys Hanson  
Bruce Lacher  
Del Liestman  
Donna Liestman  
Eric Lukkari  
Helen Lundgren  
Chellis Matz  
Jean Miller  
Pastor Mike Pancoast  
Ed Peterson  
Bev Reed  
Warren Reed  
Dina Scandinato  
Arlan Schroeder  
Carol Skare  
Brenda Smith  
Anne Stevenson  
Curtis Strombeck  
Joyce Tessmer  
Ardy Tourville  
Barb Wicktor  
Russ Wicktor  
Dean Winslow  
Ginny Winslow

# Prayer List

## Family Members & Friends

Peter Berry (Mary Berry's son)  
Diane Boser (Friend of Dan & Jean Anderson)  
Gene Brown (Pastor Mike's uncle)  
David Doerfler (Pastor Mike's uncle)  
Jan Gale's daughter Jamie  
Joan Gessar (Courtney Hoppe's mother in-law)  
Johnathan Gillette (Friend of Liz Christensen)  
Hazel (Jan Wittnebel's granddaughter)  
Lylias Hodgson (Renee Lueck's mother)  
Pastor Karl Jacobson (friend of the Pancoast family)  
Evelyn Kingma (June Kunkel's sister in-law)  
Randall Lundgren (Debi's Pederson's nephew)  
Dale McLaen (Darcee Larsen/Laurel McKenney's brother in-law)  
Esther Neussendorfer (Danette Scephurek's grandmother)  
Janice Omtvedt (Ingrid Bavier's mother)  
Elliott Pancoast (Pastor Mike's dad)  
Tracy Pidde (Princeton 3rd grade teacher)  
John Rova (Chuck & Carol Warner's brother inlaw)  
Rob Savage (Friend of the Keller family)  
John Schmid (family of Mike & Linda Baumann)  
Andy Struthers (Maria Barlage's brother)  
Mauricio Trujillo (friend of the Patnode and Miller families)  
Patty Thul's Sister Sheri  
Scott Wallin (Char Kramersmeier's son)  
Ronda Wetzel (daughter of Andrea & Ron Sandusky)

## Serving in the Military

Andrew Anderson  
Jacob Benver  
Eden Betzler  
Lacee Broding  
Riley Broding  
Ronald Duresky  
Riley Forland  
Derek Hanson  
Hunter Lestrud  
Kenzi Lytle  
Anthony Mandt  
David McCarney  
John McCarney  
Zachary Morisset  
Ben Noard  
Parker Pedersen  
Benjamin Roth  
Mario Scandinato  
Jaden Thimmesch

