

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 2023

Pastor Mike's Mash



"A Posture of Grace"

27 All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

28 When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. –

Psalm 104:27-28

It has been an incredible summer and fall for us, Trinity.

A little more than a year ago, my first Sunday back from medical leave was the second of what would be three open-forum conversations among our congregation about what to do about Trinity Crossing. The messaging from our Finance Committee was clear: we must get this solved. And the anxiety and emotion at those forums was palpable, culminating with our congregational meeting (September 18) granting our council the authority to seek a sale.

In my letter to the congregation this past September announcing that the council had signed a purchase agreement with Bright Child LLC (with a day to spare), I reviewed some of the events from last fall going forward, so I won't use any words for that now. But what I do want to spend LOTS of words on is in expressing gratitude for the army of volunteers and servants who have guided the transition out this sale. (Closing is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, by the way.) Listing folks by name always carries with it a bit of anxiety for me for fear of overlooking someone's efforts and gifts or forgetting their contributions. **Please know: if we have left your name off this list, it is merely because of the sheer VOLUME of response—which is a GREAT “problem” to have—and not out of a lack of appreciation or gratitude for your particular gift. And I will be exceedingly glad to ask for your forgiveness and add your name and say “Thank You” even after the fact of our oversight and forgetfulness.**

First of all, there are a handful of people whose efforts and offerings of time were above and beyond: **Eldon Johnson** and **Connie Hamann** have been our real estate agents from RE/MAX Reliance here in Princeton. Their expertise and instruction have been absolutely WONDERFUL. Thank you, Eldon and Connie!

Jan Wittnebel is the Vice President of the council and has served as our Transition Project Manager. There were very, very few days between signing the purchase agreement and the final day of moving our retained property from Trinity Crossing when she wasn't here coming up with a timeline; overseeing the efforts; evaluating our storage space and reassigning current use of rooms and space; and more! I simply can not imagine how better this whole process could have gone. She was absolutely indispensable! Thank you, Jan!

Char Kramersmeier is our council's President, and as such, it often feel to her to provide a signature on this paperwork or to locate that document, much, much more than if it were simply a "normal" (whatever that word even means anymore!) council year. Her and Jan's commitment to communicating clearly and frequently with the congregation has been noticeable! Thank you, Char!

Gene Reiersen is our council's Building/Maintenance liaison, and like Jan, there were very few days when Gene wasn't around. Gene procured our storage bin outside the kitchen and was often working with a crew (listed below) moving furniture and other equipment into storage or getting the Mission Room ready for WWW to move into. Thank you, Gene!

Liz Christensen, of course, is our awesome office administrator, and over the course of our transition, there were so many items that Liz also had to help coordinate, communicate, or direct questions and concerns in the proper direction, above and beyond and in addition to her regular tasks and duties. Thank you, Liz!

In addition to these key leaders, there was often a crew here moving dishes and reorganizing the kitchen; moving furniture; painting the Mission Room; moving shelving and cabinets; and much, much, MUCH MORE:

Linda Baumann	Barb Egbert	Mike Mandt	Fred Street
Mary Berry	Mitch Elness	Sharon Matz	Ceona Voss
Jean Bowen	Tiffany Elness	Jay Mickelson	Carol Warner
John Bowen	Ken Hennen	Jeri Reiersen	Chuck Zarns
Patty Jo Budeau	Lennea Heymer	Joey Schmitz	Linda Zarns
Barb Dierks	Barb Larsen	Loren Schroeder	Joan Zeug
	Ruth Nelson		Steve Zeug

We simply could not have accomplished what has been accomplished without any of you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

So what now?

Well since we simply still cannot talk numbers until closing on the deal has happened, let me just say that your council has already begun to do some short, medium, and long-term planning in anticipation of Budget Year 2024. That planning is based on...

(a) the freeing up of financial responsibilities (mortgage, utilities, and maintenance/upkeep) previously committed to Trinity Crossing; and

(b) an anticipation of current giving levels from you that will remain unchanged through budget year 2023.

Additionally, the planning, to this point, has focused on (but is not limited to) these particular areas:

- **Figuring out additional ways for our congregation to be generous and connected through our mission to our community and world.**
- **Identifying and charting a course toward how our present building will serve our mission/ministry needs and our community. (I.e., Are there ways that we could still host Community Table? Can our building still serve as a host sight for Red Cross Blood Drives? What other updates need to happen? Etc.)**
- **Finishing our technology upgrades.**
- **Taking care of our present staff and anticipating the possibility of additional staff, especially when it comes to regular cleaning and janitorial needs; music & worship; pre-school & elementary aged youth and families; and making sure we are budgeted correctly for our still-sought-after middle- and high-school youth director.**

But here's the deal: I stated above that council's planning around the financial responsibilities no longer directed toward Trinity Crossing that we are also anticipating *"current giving levels from you that will remain unchanged through budget year 2023."* That is true.

But what is also true is that for the first time since before the pandemic, our council, coordinated by Stewardship liaison Ralph Egbert, is planning for an intentional emphasis on our congregation's financial stewardship beginning SUNDAY, November 12 and concluding SUNDAY, December 3. Which is to say, we ARE anticipating that our giving patterns for our congregation's mission and ministry WILL CHANGE, and it is our prayer that they change through GROWTH. At the very least, it is hoped that our focus on Stewardship this year—during the month of November, a month in which we are invited to intentionally give thanks to God for our daily bread and concluding on the first Sunday of Advent, a season of gift giving—will, at the very least, ask each of us to examine our giving and to be more intentional about that giving.

More details about this year's Stewardship Emphasis—"A Posture of Grace"—will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, I want to invite you to consider this picture. This is a bowl of sorts; or maybe a tray, carved, obviously, into the figure of a hand. But whose hand is it?

- **Is it God's? And if it is, what kinds of things in your daily life would you see in this hand of God?**

When we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "*Give us this day our daily bread*," Martin Luther helps us in the Small Catechism to name with particularity what exactly we mean by "*daily bread*": "Everything required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, house, and home, fields and flocks, money and property..."



How might this open hand of God inspire and invite a posture of grace and gratitude in your own life in giving thanks and praise to God—not just to “be appreciative” of God, but to actively give thanks and praise to God?

- **Perhaps in this sense, this hand is OURS? And if it is, notice how its posture of openness and reception is utterly reliant on being filled from beyond!**

Again, the Small Catechism is instructive. We confess our faith saying, "*I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth*," and among what Luther helps us clarify and expand in this statement of faith are these: "...God provides me daily and abundantly [present tense!] all the necessities of life... ..All this God does out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy. ...For all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey God. This is most certainly true."

How might this open hand of yours inspire and invite a posture of grace and gratitude in your own life? In realizing and believing that ALL I HAVE comes from God? In noticing the open hands of others and their needs provided by God?

- **Perhaps if this is our hand—especially if we were to place something in that palm, signifying what we have received from God: bread... money... a watch or calendar, signifying how we use our time—how might this hand's openness encourage us in particular ways?**

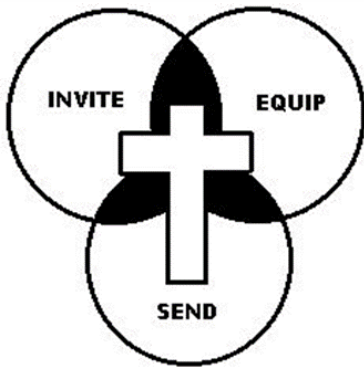
Each year, we conclude our summer and begin to kick-off our congregation's fall missions and ministry with a particular Sunday of activity, a Sunday we have come to call "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. **But all of this meditation invites us to consider our roles and places among God's people, not just on a particular Sunday, but in all aspects of our lives!**

How might our hands, mimicking God's posture of grace, also be so formed in responsive, gracious, and generous ways?

By the way, I don't think there's a "right" answer to that question, "Whose hand is it?", especially when we consider that principle of faith and practice, of "God's Work, Our Hands." Our hands become the presence of God's hands— "You are the body of Christ," Paul writes to the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 12:27)—when, by faith and intention and grace and generosity, we respond with our own hands open in a posture of grace.
Thank you for all your generosity.

See you in worship—Pastor Mike

Our Mission/Vision Statements:



Our Mission: *INVITE * EQUIP * SEND*

Our Vision (the ways we seek to make our Mission visible)

Invite: Trinity is a bright, shining light that provides a warm, welcoming environment to all.

Equip: Trinity seeks to provide the tools and resources to strengthen its participants' faith and faith response by offering invitation, instruction, examples, coaching, modeling, and assistance.

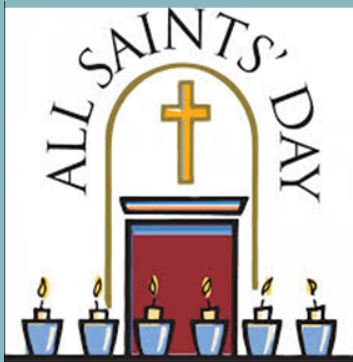
Send: Trinity looks to impact our community, world, and whole creation with the love of Christ by sending from this place every day followers of Jesus equipped through their faith and faith response to reflect the Light of Christ to anyone they encounter in their every day lives.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NEXT SUNDAY. NOVEMBER 5: REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On this day, we remember those from our congregation who have died over the past year (since our last All Saints' Sunday remembrance, Nov. 6, 2022); those to whom our congregation has ministered in their time of mourning and grief; and those in our own lives, whether they've died this past year or been long gone, who have been important to our own faith and practice. We commend these remembered saints to the promises of God in Christ Jesus, that for them and for us, death is not the final word.

Those who will be remembering by name this year are: **Dorothy Bergstrom; Sandy Boe; Diane Hamann; Jerry Murphy*; Helen Siewert; and Daniel Stevenson*.** [* designates those who were not members of Trinity, but those to whose families we ministered in their time grief and remembrance.]

Our candle crosses will be placed for your own remembrances and prayers—or, if you would like to bring a special candle in remembrance of your beloved ones, those too can be placed around our altar area.



Congratulation recyclers of Trinity!!! **WE DID IT!!!**
We have reached our goal of 500 pounds for the **SECOND** time!!! If you look out on the patio—you we see our newest NexTrex bench!! Thank you Chuck & Linda Zarns for assembling these!
Please continue your efforts as we will strive to hit this goal a **THIRD** time !! This bench will be given to Camp Onomia.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP— WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7pm at Christ Our Light

This year's Community Thanksgiving Eve Service & Fellowship is being hosted by Christ Our Light, and Pastor Paul Brown from Immanuel will be the preacher. **ALL OUR WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED** to attend to offer thanks and praise to God for all our daily blessings, what Luther teaches to call our "daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer.

Other ways to participate and support:

- Cookies and Bars—each congregation is asked to support the fellowship afterwards by providing 4 dozen cookies or bars. If you are willing to help us out in this way, please let Liz know in the office.

Join in Singing or Ringing



for our

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 22

7:00pm

Christ Our Light Parish

Only Two Rehearsals!

#1 Tuesday November 14 6:45pm – 8:00 Choir and Bell Rehearsal!

(Christ Our Light Sanctuary)

#2 Wednesday November 22 6:00pm Choir and Bell Rehearsal

Ringers: All should have 1 year of handbell ringing experience.

Singers: We accept all "skill sets" from Grade 10 - beyond
ALL COLLEGE CHOIR STUDENTS or recent GRADS
are invited to join us for the #2 Rehearsal PLEASE!!

Repertoire:

"For the Beauty of the Earth" –John Rutter (Choir), **"Come Ye Thankful People"**
(Assembly, Choir and Bells) **"A Grateful Heart"**–Randall Sensmeier,(Choir and Assembly)
Psalm 65–Hal Hopson (Assembly, Solos, Choir and Bells) **"Gratitude"** –Brandon Lake
(Assembly, Solo, Choir) **"Now Thank We All are God"** (Assembly, Choir and Bells)

Copies of Music will be provided by Christ Our Light. If you have any questions, please call Maureen Putnam (Director of Music and Liturgy) 320-339-0651



Hanging of the Greens

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Join us in getting the church ready with hanging of the greens! Followed by a meal provided by the Hospitality Committee !



Could you spare some change?

**2 loads per individual
4 loads per family**

Are you in need & have to use the laundry mat?
Come on out the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month for Laundry Love at The Washboard Laundromat!

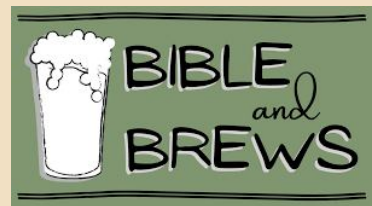


laundry love

Contact Molly for more info: 763-389-2115

SMALL GROUP STUDIES—TRY ONE OF THESE FOR GROWTH & LEARNING?

- **Men's Breakfast**—The LAST SATURDAY of each month: Saturday, November 25th, 8am here at the church.
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**— This group meets Tuesday mornings at 10am to study and discuss the up-coming Sunday texts.
- **Bible & Brews Study—BIBLE & BREWS RESUMES IN OCTOBER!!**
WHERE At the Finish Line **WHEN-** Tuesday, Nov. 14 and Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30pm. Our theme for **November**, and **December** (perhaps beyond?) will be "Everything You've Ever Wanted to Ask About God, Jesus, or the Bible"! BUT—that means **WE NEED YOUR QUESTIONS...**especially for our October gathering. (See the announcement above for those details.) You can submit those by email or in writing, either to Pastor Mike (pastormike@trinity-princeton.org) or to Pastor Paul (pastor@immanuelprinceton.org). There will be on-going opportunity to ask more questions throughout this quarter of study and conversation—sometimes 1 question leads to another. Each month, at the end of our session, we'll have a fun way of selecting the next month's question for discussion. ALL are welcome for this vibrant and engaging forum for learning and fellowship!
- **Wednesday Evening Women's Study**—This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be November 8th at 5:30pm. We will start a new book. "The Well-Watered woman" by Gretchen Saffles. It can be found on Amazon If you have any questions please contact Jeanette Priess at jeanette.priess@yahoo.com
- **Thursday Morning Women's Study**—We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month—our next gathering will be Thursday, November 16th, 9:30am. We use the Gather Magazine resource published by Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- **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".



Fall Hotdish Feast Update

Thank You

- TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS
- EVERYONE FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT
- WELCA APPRECIATES THE NUMBER OF DISHES AND BAKED GOODS THAT WERE BROUGHT IN!

THEY RAISED OVER \$1000.00
THAT WILL GO TO SUPPORT BIBLE CAMP,
CAMPERSHIPS, THE DISTRICT SCHOOL
PANTRY, PRINCETON PANTRY AND MORE!

THANK YOU!



The Trinity WWW (Women Witnessing to the World) group thanks everyone who helped us move into the new Trinity Mission Room. We are thoroughly enjoying it, especially having windows for the first time, hall hooks for coats, and access to the Fellowship Hall for breaks!

Come work with us on Mondays from 8:00 am to noon. We make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, dog beds for Ruff Start Rescue, quilts for Camp Onomia and ELCA fundraising. We also do the school kit project in the fall and the personal hygiene kits in the spring. All are welcome men, women, teens and families to participate in any of our projects.



Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2023



Gretchen Beltran, T.J. Fridgen, Madalyn Finstrom, Savanna Gram, Cohen Hoppe, and Alix Roth.



Joy Hensel



Immanuel Lutheran

FAITH IN LIFE

JOY HENSEL, is our synod's Minister for Mental Health and Wellness, and she will be speaking to our youth, their small groups, and their families about mental health in general, as well as specific ways that we ALL might benefit from cultivating particular coping skills and techniques.

Our schedule for the evening of November 1st is:
· 5:30 pm Dinner · 6:30 pm Worship · 7:15 pm "Faith in Life"

ALL are welcomed, and families are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attend with their Living IT youth.

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated!!



2023 November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	Oct 31	1	2	3	4
All Saints Day 9:00 AM Worship Service - Catechet Baptism 9:30 AM Sunday School After Kids Time 10:00 AM Coffee Hour	6 Pastor Mike's day off 8:00 AM WWW 9:00 AM Sunday School After Kids Time 10:00 AM Coffee Hour	7 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30 AM Elmhurst Catechet House Lutheran Worship & Communion 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	8 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM TOPS 5:30 PM Luther IT Dinner 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship on Wednesday @ Immanuel 7:15 PM Luther IT High School Group	9 7:00 PM AA 11:30 AM Princeton Area Ministerial Association 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Troop 96	10 1:00 PM Sterling Point Communion	11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School After Kids Time 10:00 AM Coffee Hour	Pastor Mike's day off 8:00 AM WWW 1:30 PM WISH Meeting 5:00 PM Laundry Love 6:00 PM Finance Meeting 6:00 PM Worship & Music Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting	8:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible & Brews @ the Finish Line	Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM TOPS 5:30 PM Luther IT Dinner 6:30 PM Worship on Wednesday @ Immanuel 7:15 PM Luther IT High School Group	Trinity Day 9:30 AM Heartland Conference Pastors' Gathering 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA	NEAN Synod LYO All Youth Gathering	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
NEAN Synod LYO All Youth Gathering 8:00 AM WWW 6:00 PM District 5 AA 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School After Kids Time 10:00 AM Coffee Hour	Pastor Mike's day off 8:00 AM WWW 6:00 PM District 5 AA	8:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Luther IT Board	Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM TOPS 5:30 PM NO Luther IT Dinner 6:30 PM NO Worship on Wednesday @ Immanuel 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service & Fellowship @ COL 7:15 PM NO Luther IT High School	Thanksgiving Day 7:00 PM AA		8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Wife Edv Shower
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
Handout of the Catechet 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour	Pastor Mike's day off 8:00 AM WWW 5:00 PM Laundry Love	8:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study 12:30 PM Princeton Area ELCA Ministerial Gathering	Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM TOPS 5:30 PM Luther IT Dinner 6:30 PM Worship on Wednesday @ Immanuel 7:15 PM Luther IT High School Group	Trinity is mailed. 7:00 PM AA		
3	4	Notes				



BIBLE & BREWS— “EVERYTHING YOU’VE EVER WANTED TO ASK ABOUT GOD, JESUS, OR THE BIBLE”

****We meet Tuesday, November 14, 6:30pm ****

Our theme for **November**, and **December** (perhaps beyond?) will be “Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to Ask About God, Jesus, or the Bible”! BUT—that means WE NEED YOUR QUESTIONS...especially for our October gathering. (See the announcement above for those details.) You can submit those by email or in writing, either to Pastor Mike (pastormike@trinity-princeton.org) or to Pastor Paul (pastor@immanuelprinceton.org). There will be on-going opportunity to ask more questions throughout this quarter of study and conversation—sometimes 1 question leads to another.

CAMP ONOMIA
14202 SHAKOPEE LAKE ROAD
ONAMIA, MN 56969

WOMEN'S REFRESH RETREAT

November 3rd-5th
Theme: Forgiveness and Reconciliation
How are we called to be "ambassadors of reconciliation" in a world of strife and peril?

Women of all ages are welcome to join us as Pastor Kathryn Tiede guides us through a truly holy way of looking at the world: through the eyes of a forgiving and reconciling God.

Join us starting with dinner at 6pm on Friday the 3rd, and end with breakfast and worship on Sunday the 5th. Join us for the whole weekend or just a day, just let us know! Lodging will be in our year-round retreat center at double occupancy with private restrooms. Please bring your own bedding and toiletries.

Cost: Nov. 3rd-4th(1 night,3 meals): \$94
Nov. 3rd-5th (2 nights, 5 meals): \$136

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.CAMPONOMIA.ORG
OR GIVE US A CALL:
320-532-3767

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

There are multiple ways for you to give:

- **By Mail**
- **On-line**— 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!!



Council Members 2023



Linda Baumann

Council Member

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Jacob Calvert

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Ralph Egbert

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Council Member

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Jan Wittnebel

Council VP/Music & Worship

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Prayer List

Arlis Bastys
Margaret Braun
Jeri Ann Bredemus
Jeanne Bromberg
Jan Dery
Jim Dery
Katey Donais
Bob Duncan
Marlys Hanson
Bill Hilliard
Eldon Johnson
Bruce Lacher
Del Liestman
Donna Liestman
Eric Lukkari
Helen Lundgren
Chellis Matz
Jean Miller
Curt Moe
Mary Newton
LaDonna Olson
Ed Peterson
Bev Reed
Warren Reed
Todd Reineccius
Dina Scandinato
Arlan Schroeder
Carol Skare
Brenda Smith
Anne Stevenson
Curtis Strombeck
Joyce Tessmer
Marie Torgerson
Ardy Tourville
Barb Wicktor
Russ Wicktor
Dean Winslow
Ginny Winslow

Prayer List

Family Members & Friends

Peter Berry (Mary Berry's son)
David Doerfler (Pastor Mike's uncle)
Jan Gale's daughter Jamie
Jan Gerth's daughter
Joan Gessar (Courtney Hoppe's mother in-law)
Johnathan Gillette (Friend of Liz Christensen)
Debbie Hanna (Bev Reed's grand daughter-in-law)
Pastor Karl Jacobson (friend of the Pancoast family)
Evelyn Kingma (June Kunkel's sister in-law)
Esther Neussendorfer (Danette Scephurek's grandmother)
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)
Roy Schmidt (Jan Gerth's son in-law)
Mauricio Trujillo (friend of the Patnode and Miller families)
Scott Wallin (Char Kramersmeier's son)
Ronda Wetzel
(daughter of Andrea
& Ron Sandusky)

Serving in the Military

Andrew Anderson
Eden Betzler
Lacee Broding
Riley Broding
Ronald Duresky
Riley Forland
Derek Hanson
Hunter Lestrud
Anthony Mandt
David McCarney
John McCarney
Zachary Morisset
Ben Noard
Mike Tolerico
Benjamin Roth
Jaden Thimmesch

