

Sharon Lutheran Church

is a community that strives to be:

Faith –filled

Rooted in God's Word

Loving

Connected to the community and world

Adaptive

September 2015

Join us on September 6 at 9:00a.m. for One Worship Only followed by the "First Sunday of the Month, Holy Grounds" Hosted by Sharon's Council Members

God's work.
Our hands.

September 13

During the 9am hour you can participate by putting together a personal care kit with the Social Ministry team and then experience a "Walk for Water" simulation with the youth. These activities are for all ages!

During 10:30am worship the youth who attended the Youth Gathering in Detroit will continue their story of their trip to Detroit, Michigan. The group is planning a presentation for worship.

September 20
4pm in the worship space, Join us for an Organ Recital by Tom Dressler.

While at the Gathering in Detroit, the speaker from the ELCA National Church for world hunger, spoke passionately on this subject and her words "hunger is not about scarcity but inequality" reminds us that we can help those across the globe and in our own backyards. The ELCA is hoping to receive half a million dollars in donations, which will be matched by a fellow Lutheran, the CEO of the Marriott Hotels. Since the Gathering they have received over \$400,000. According to the ELCA website www.elca.org "Through these gifts, local communities will be equipped to provide water for drinking and growing crops, sanitation and hygiene, as well as ongoing health education, training and maintenance." Donations will be accepted on September 13 and go towards the Walk for Water campaign.

Worship returns to 8:00am and 10:30am on September 13

Pastor's Thoughts

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Welcome to September, everyone! For many of us, this means new school schedules, new rehearsals and practices, and several new routines. Even if you do not have kids in school, you will notice that the roads are more filled with traffic and that SU's campus is busy again. There will be Friday night football games that will light up the sky here in town and in many towns across our region. There will be youth and children occupying many fields at all times of the day and week. There will be community events that will gather us on the streets together or entertain us. Yes, September is here!

In our ministries at Sharon, there are also new routines. There are start-up events; there are new schedules; and new things happening. There will be times when we are meant to gather together; times when we will stand with our neighbors; and times when we will be scattered across the community helping with or attending many and various events on fields and tracks and in stadiums and auditoriums.

Not only that, but there are some of you who are retiring or thinking about retiring, there are young parents expecting new babies, there are college students settling in for the very first time and many more transitions of all kinds. There are some of you who are in need of care and others who are providing care for family or friends.

No matter what the season. No matter what the busyness. No matter how well you are or are not adjusting to new things; new ideas; or new schedules; one constant remains—God is in the midst of all of it. God is at work, is present, is faithful. I want to remind you that we live and move in this incredible grace of God no matter what and no matter where we are. (I remind myself that this grace also surrounds me, too.) I am looking forward to all that this new season will bring and to encouraging and empowering you all to connect your life of faith to your daily life and routine. Blessings as we enter this month together.

Peace,

Pastor Doll

TO EVERYTHING
THERE IS A SEASON
AND
A TIME TO EVERY
PURPOSE
UNDER HEAVEN.
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Discipleship and Learning.

Sunday School K-6th grade.



The Lord is my Shepherd...we know what comes next, right? We are excited to invite our Sunday School students into the beauty and depth of Psalm 23 this fall. We will begin on **Sunday, September 20th at 9 am upstairs** in our classroom areas as we experience this psalm over the course of 8 weeks through art, creative drama, cooking, science, Bible games, video, music, and technology. We are blessed to have several teachers and helpers who will guide our young students in the way of faith and discipleship.

Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities

Stephen Ministry Q & A (September 20)

Join Don Housley and Laura Augst for some reflections on Stephen Ministry on Sunday, September 20 following each gathering at 9 am and 11:30 am.

Identity Theft—what you need to know (October 18)

On Sunday, October 18th, John Eberle will facilitate a discussion on identity theft to deepen your understanding and awareness and to offer concrete steps if it happens to you.

Holy Grounds with Bishop Driesen (November 1)

The Sunday school and older youth will host this coffee hour for the congregation and will have some questions to discuss with Bishop Driesen.

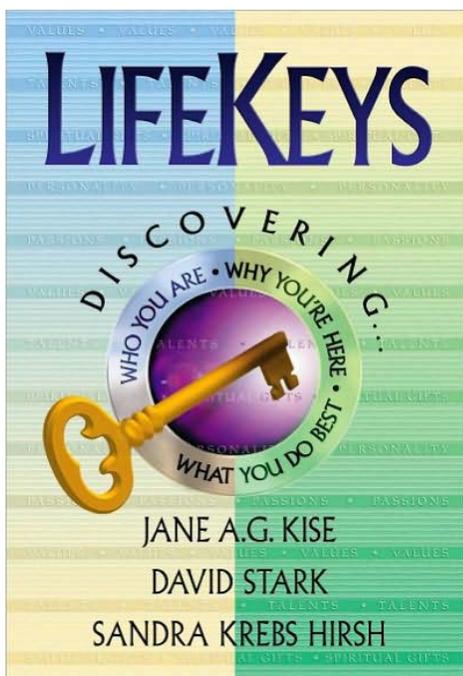
LifeKeys—Discovering who you are, why you're here, and what you do best. (November 1-22)

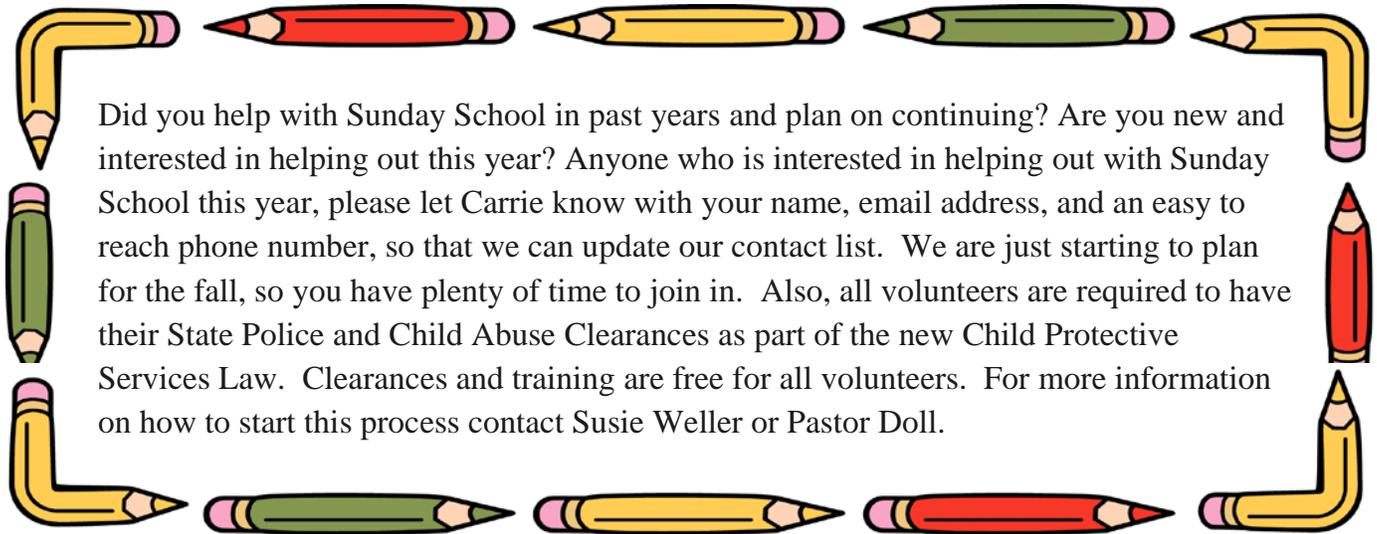
Each of us, individually, is good at particular things. There are activities that energize us or interactions with people that inspire us. We each have our own unique personalities, passion for living and making a difference, core values, and spiritual gifts. All of these pieces, LifeKeys, fits together to make a whole.

We invite you to explore and discover your LifeKeys. During the sessions, find your niche, develop new friendships, and discover the ways God has gifted you. Come, have fun learning more about yourself, learning more about others, deepening relationships with others, and seeing the imprint of God's hand on your life.

There are four afternoon sessions beginning with lunch that will include conversations, discussions, inventories, and input from family and friends. The four sessions encompass information from 8 lessons and run for 2.5 hours each. Noon- 2:30 Sundays, November 1-22.

Pastor Doll will facilitate these sessions. Workbooks and a textbook will be provided.





Did you help with Sunday School in past years and plan on continuing? Are you new and interested in helping out this year? Anyone who is interested in helping out with Sunday School this year, please let Carrie know with your name, email address, and an easy to reach phone number, so that we can update our contact list. We are just starting to plan for the fall, so you have plenty of time to join in. Also, all volunteers are required to have their State Police and Child Abuse Clearances as part of the new Child Protective Services Law. Clearances and training are free for all volunteers. For more information on how to start this process contact Susie Weller or Pastor Doll.

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation youth and their families kicked off a Confirmation Family Picnic on August 30 at the Kunkel's. The youth will participate in the "God's Work. Our Hands." service day at Sharon on September 13 and classes will begin on September 20. Pastor Doll and Robin Kunkel will rotate class teaching responsibilities and welcome other parents or Sharon members to assist during class activities and events. We look forward to beginning another year of deepening our faith journey together!

SENIOR HIGH – SUNDAY MORNINGS

Youth in 9th-12th grades and beyond are welcome again to meet in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings at 9am. 'Story' is the theme this year. It is a continuation of the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. We will explore questions, such as, "Who are you in the story?" and "How to listen to another person's story" and "How do you tell your story?" Once we explore these questions, we'll delve into the justice piece which is "God's story and your story." Join us and we guarantee you'll have a meaningful experience! Friends are always welcome!

COMING IN OCTOBER!

COOKIES FOR COLLEGE KIDS

October 4 @ 9am

The Cookies for College Kids project will partner with the Sunday school confirmation and Senior High classes to package goodies and snacks for our Sharon members who are away attending college, trade school or in the military. We are in need of adult helpers, postage donations and cookies or goodies.

Please contact Robin Kunkel or Carrie Dunn with updates on addresses for our college/military bound.

HAUNTED HOUSE FUNDRAISER

October 31

It was a success last year, and the enthusiasm is still contagious. We'll keep you posted on more details as they develop. We are seeking volunteers to donate and set up props, be tour guides and scare monsters as well as help in the non-scary snack and craft room. Contact Robin Kunkel to offer your skills.



Fall Update

Wee Worship is excited to start another year with our youngest church members! There have been many changes over the summer to help our children ages 1-5 learn and grow. One of the things we are focusing on this year is parent/child learning, because parents are a child's first teacher. Even if there is not a leader available, there will be plenty of activities parents and children can do together each week. Check the bulletin board in the nursery for newsletters, activity ideas, games, music and more.

If you have family members visiting, please encourage them to bring their children to Wee Worship. We welcome new faces and hope they enjoy visiting us.

We are currently looking for leaders to help each week. There will be a sign-up sheet on the door of the nursery. If you are interested in helping, please let Susie Weller or Pastor Doll know before signing up, so we can give you some background and show you around. Helpers of all ages are welcome!

Worship Serving Coordinator

Would you like to be a person who can encourage other people; one who can empower people of all ages to serve in ways that lift up our hearts together in worship? Each Sunday morning, some have found a place to lead and to share the word of God with us as we worship together. Our gatherings for worship are not only meant to be a moment when we are individually connected with God's presence and living word, but also a community moment when we, together, lift up our praise and song and hear the life-giving word of God.

We are looking for someone who would like to find a meaningful way to use organizational skills and communication skills to deepen the involvement of our members, long time and new, in our Sunday morning worship gatherings and special celebrations and events. The coordination of our worship servers can be a share responsibility.

"serving in a church has nothing to do with 'volunteering your time if you're free.' Serving is a strategy to become the person God envisions for us. Serving is the road to that desired future, not an option if you would like to 'help.'" (Thomas Bandy)

Our serving schedule is prepared a month ahead and is published in the monthly newsletter, on our website, and weekly in "Connections." If you are drawn to serve as the coordinator or have questions about this ministry, please contact Lowell Leitzel, chair of the Worship and Music Team at 570-374-1382 or at frenchprof.sghs@gmail.com.



stephen
MINISTRY

**Stephen's Ministry
is.....Coming!**

On Sunday August 16 Pastor Doll, Laura Aungst and Don Housley travelled to beautiful, smokeless Pittsburgh. The Pirates were in town, setting their sights on the World Series champs, the San Francisco Giants; the Steelers were getting ready for their preseason game against the Packers; lovers strolled the grounds of the iconic Fountain at the Point.

However, we were not in town for recreation but for training as Stephen Leader at a week-long conference. We were joined by over 420 like-minded folks from many Christian denominations around the country, learning how to establish and help to prosper this lay-to-lay ministry.

The Stephen Ministry, headquartered in St. Louis, is over 40 year old. It is a part of the local ministry of over 12,000 congregations around the world. At least 60,000 individuals had preceded us in attending Stephen Leadership Conferences and had, subsequently, prepared over half a million Stephen Ministers. It is a "tried and true" lay ministry which, by the testimony of many whom we met, is life-changing both for the care-giver and care-receiver.

The aim of Stephen Ministry is to be sure that no one suffers alone! It is directed to have "God's people help God's people in need of help." Who might the latter be? Individuals suffering from the death of a loved-one, going through the trauma of losing a job or getting a divorce; or who are subject to chronic ailments and even the prospect of death—the "heavy-duty" matters of life. Stephen Ministers do not just tend to these individuals who are suffering as "wide-eyed and bushy-tailed" volunteers. They receive over 50 hours of training and are supervised bi-weekly once they have been assigned a care-receiver. At Sharon, Pastor Doll, Laura and Don will coordinate this training and supervision.

This is a new ministry for Sharon. It is an expression of the Church's aim to connect faith to daily life and helps fulfill our Core Values of "Loving" and "Adaptability." At the September 20 Sunday Service, Pastor Doll, Laura and I will be commissioned as Stephen Leaders. After services on the 20th and the 27th, at both 9:00 and 11:30, Laura and Don will be in the "What's Brewin' Room to give you more information about this ministry. Mark it on your calendar; plan to attend.

Our 225th Year Anniversary Celebration Continues...

Organist Tom Dressler will perform at Sharon on Sunday, September 20 at 4pm. The Hospitality Team plans to host a reception following the recital. This event is free and open to the public.

Joining us for worship on October 4, Jimmy Swartz

The Rev. Jimmie Schwartz and his wife Meredith are 1976 graduates of Susquehanna University. Jimmie is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He grew up in Schuylkill County, but while he was a student at SU he transferred his church membership to Sharon and became an active member of the congregation. He has served several Lutheran parishes in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and he is currently serving as the Chaplain at Carroll Lutheran Village, a retirement and nursing facility in Westminster, MD. He and his wife reside in Ellicott City, MD.

Camp Mount Luther's Fall Women's Retreat.

All local women are invited to be participants. The retreat will feature a presentation led by Ruth Zeiders and Melanie Taormina, Certified Spiritual Directors. The theme is "Meeting God in Daily Life: Practice, Prayer, and Spiritual Direction." The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, September 12, 2015. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The day will begin with refreshments and end with singing and prayer. The cost of \$20.00 per person includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch, and the program. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Registration deadline is September 4. To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587

Congregation Council

President—Jeff Whitman; Vice President—Eric Rowe; Secretary—Carolyn Sands; Treasurer—Buzz Savidge; Susie Weller; Janet Bilger, Karen Bowen; Carol Harrison; Teresa Berger; Lowell Leitzel

Action Item:

Recommendation from Personnel Team and seconded by Lowell Leitzel to offer a Letter of Intent for the position of Organist of Sharon Lutheran Church to Jeffrey Smith. All voted in favor, motion approved.

Blanket Sunday October 4

This is an Upper Susquehanna annual event. Women's groups at churches throughout the synod have been preparing for this since last October. The Stitchers here at Sharon are no exception. You will be able to see their amazing efforts on October 4.

Even if you are not making quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), you can help by making a donation. Any money collected will go toward purchasing cotton and wool blankets or assisting in the cost of shipping the quilts and blankets to those in need. For \$7.00 the synod can purchase a sturdy wool blanket; for \$2.25 LWR can ship the blanket to a destination where it is most needed. Look for the special Love Offering envelope marked for Blanket Sunday in your offering envelope packet.

There is, indeed, a transforming moment when a Quilt passes from our hands into another's, and they embrace it. – Kirk Betts, Former Chairman of the LWR Board of Directors, upon distributing LWR Quilts in Niger



Thomas, Marian	9/1
Kerstetter, Nelson	9/3
Kerstetter, Sue	9/3
Richmond, Cindy	9/3
Pennay, R. Alex	9/5
Stetler, Robert	9/6
Aucker, Sara	9/7
Loudenberg, Jack	9/7
Starr, Sue	9/7
Pendley, John	9/8
Pennay, Sue	9/8
Schroeder, Evelyn	9/8
Weller, Audrey	9/8
Kunkel, Isaac	9/11
Shoemaker, Zoey	9/11
Gilson, Robert	9/13
Winger, Beth	9/13
Piermattei, Nancy	9/14
Winger, Laura	9/14
Piermattei, Hayley	9/15
Doll, Victoria	9/16
Kunkel, Jeffrey	9/16
Mangels, Shari	9/17
Aungst, Todd	9/18
Aungst, Gregory	9/20
Bohm, Neil	9/20
Winey, Kyle	9/20
Dillman, David	9/24
Miller, Aspen	9/24
Fladmark, Irene	9/26
Stetler, Rose Ann	9/26
Barben, Edward	9/28
Beaver, Tyler	9/28
Fedder, Robin	9/28
Bohm, Linda	9/29
Fedder, Sarah	9/30

Thanks!

Special Thanks to all those who provided our special music during the summer, and to Maureen Ries for organizing.

Reminder to all that choir rehearsals begin September 9 at 7:30. Contact Sherry Barben for questions:
sbarben@centurylink.net

Thank you to everyone who helped with Grace Cote's funeral luncheon! You are all appreciated very much!
Nancy Martin

Dear People of Sharon,
 Thank you for the lovely reception on August 2; your many cards and well wishes for this, my second retirement; the gift cards; and the wonderful support you have given me as your organist. I have really enjoyed these past 5 1/2 years.

God's Blessing on All of You,
Susan Hegberg

Thank you for having us on Sunday, Aug. 23rd as part of your 225th Celebration. We feel honored. Please accept this gift to add to your celebration to be used for any project you are planning as part of this celebration year. Thank you again for allowing us to be part of this day and time in the life of the church.

Congratulations, and may God bless the ministries of the church.
 Fondly,
Pastor Bill and Maggie Henderson

Prayer
 ♥ *Changes things*
Let us pray for you with Faith
Believing
 HE WILL LIFT YOU UP

Rose Aucker, Betty Aungst, Dr. Nelson Bailey, Tom Beachell, Bill Breon, Julie Breon, Amy Bush, Rick Bushman, Prendyn Clinger, Jim and Dawn Diemer, Eleanor Dinius, Charles Engelbrecht, Betty Ettinger, Avery Fegley, Irene Fladmark, Jim Gautsch Jr., Linda Gautsch, Ilene Gilson, David Holmes, Jr., Valerie Holmes, Pat Hower, Martha Hummel, Mary Hummel, Mary Johnson, Betty Kerstetter, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Keith Landis, Ron Laniewski, Lowell Leitzel, Jack Lewis, Lorrie Littlefield, Miriam Logan, Marci MacIntyre, Mary Maneval, Roger Marks, Shirley Mayo, Susan Mull, Phillip Murphy, Kay Musser, Mark Nolder, Doris Pence, Ryan Riethmiller, Chime Rouse, Miles Schrader, Guy Shreck Jr., Bill Starr, June Stetler, Robert Stetler, Paul and Emily Twitchell family, Bob Walter, David Weimer, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Jeremy Wolfe, Gary Wydell

Deployed in Military Service:
 Billy Bohm, Josh George, Kimber Kreamer, Ryan Kuster, David Spurling, Jake Tomko

Property Team Looking for Assistance

Due to the retirement of Paul Grimes from the Property Team, a major concern has arisen regarding the property of Sharon Lutheran Church. The issue deals with individuals dealing with problems as they arise and overall asset management. Over the past years, Sharon Lutheran Church has been continually blessed with members who have been and continue to step-up and give a large portion of their time, expertise, and resources to ensure our property stays in safe and efficient operating condition. The most recent of these has been Paul Grimes whose is to be commended for his diligence and commitment to our facility. But as in life, time moves on and Paul has decided it is time to step away from his lead duties and pass the baton to another generation of skilled congregants. Paul has been very forthcoming offering advice and knowledge regarding regular and preventative maintenance components of Sharon to the group, but jobs and family commitments as well as a lack of skills do not allow Jacob Koch or Eric Rowe the ability to complete all the necessary tasks. With this being said, we are looking to build a team of individuals to assist us with the maintenance and management of the church property:

Access & Alarm Response Coordinator - Someone to oversee a team of volunteers, who can help respond to after hour alarms including fire and smoke if something were to happen. Also, a team of volunteers who can help open & close the church when the Sexton is on vacation.

Asset Management Coordinator - Someone to inspect & inventory physical items, along with shopping for materials and/or supplies for the church.

Church Safety Coordinator – Someone who has safety training that can help us ensure smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are kept in working order and first aid and AED training is continually updated.

Custodial Liaison – Someone who understands cleaning standards and can work with the custodian and community service workers to ensure the church is clean & orderly.

Property Team Financial Liaison - Someone who can help with the billing, receipts, monthly tracking against the church budget. This person also reports to the property & finance committees on a monthly basis.

Property Team Administrative Coordinator - Someone who can help with monthly agendas, communication material, organizer who can help with workdays. Estimates and Contracts would fall here.

Sharon Fix It Response Coordinator – Someone who can oversee a group of volunteers who can ensure fix it items are handled in a timely manner and major problems are reported back to the property committee.

Sharon Preventative Maintenance Coordinator – Someone who can ensure electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and structural needs are updated appropriately during the year, and recommend to the property committee major repairs needed.

We are looking for anyone that is interested in contributing in any capacity they feel can benefit the continued smooth operation of our facility. Please make Carrie, Jacob, Eric, Pastor Doll, or Paul aware of your interest in assisting us with our needs. Please take the time to consider the gifts and skills you have to offer and reach out to our team to help all of us maintain Sharon Lutheran Church in the manner we have been accustomed to for the past 225 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

The Property Team

September Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
Sept 6	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
	Matt and April Metzger	Wyatt Metzger	Carol Harrison	Tim and Teresa Berger	Dawn Doll Doug Hassinger Dave Deckard	Alma Pauling (B)
Sept 13	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	John and Mary Pendley	Courtney Kemberling	Chris Lupolt	Paul Culbertson Terry Kissinger	Theresa Kuster	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Reuben and Kim Councill	Jessica Beaver	Art Bowen	Don and Grace Housley	Detroit Youth	Shirley Walter Jenny Ruth Partica
Sept 20	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Rich and Carolyn Sands	Sarah Pennay	Diane Pauling	Brian Puling Jack Spigelmyer	Sue Pennay	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Doug and Tammy Hassinger	Sean Dagle Madison Snyder	Carol Bradford	Jacob and Stacy Koch	Jeff Whitman Maureen Ries Philip Riggs	Vi Soper Shirley Rowe
Sept 27	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Bill and Barb Remaley	Vance Metzger	April Metzger	Brian Pauling	Teresa Berger	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Nelson and Sue Kerstetter	Sarah Pennay	Dawn Doll	Michael and Janet Bilger	Alex Pennay Curtis Pennay	Karen Bowen Grace Housley

A special Thank you to Philip Riggs who has been organizing this schedule for the past several years. Are you being called? Please read the article "Worship Serving Coordinator" in this newsletter.