# SAVED By Grace, CALLED To Serve.

P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

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VBS Starts June 1! Happy Father's Day!

Hog Roast June 29!

Rev. Christa Forsythe, Pastor christaforsythe@gmail.com Cell: 320.535.0641

Janelle Eisenbacher Office Administrator

Melissa Rossell Office Administrator

**Church Contact Information** 

Phone: 320.974.8695 Fax: 320.974.8687

email: imman@frontiernet.net

Website: www.immanuelatwater.com

### What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain, The majesty of a tree, The warmth of a summer sun, The calm of a quiet sea, The generous soul of nature, The comforting arm of night, The wisdom of the ages, The power of the eagle's flight, The joy of a morning in spring, The faith of a mustard seed, The patience of eternity, The depth of a family need, Then God combined these qualities, When there was nothing more to add, He knew His masterpiece was complete, And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN

Yolume XXXIV - Number VI - June 2014

# Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m
June 5
7:45 p.m
June 8 - Day of Pentecost
9:00 a.m
2ND GRADERS RECEIVE PENTECOST DOVES 10:00 a.m
June 15 - The Holy Trinity
9:00 a.m
Scholarships Awarded
GOITGEARSI III S TWARDED
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m
June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m

# COMMUNITY WORSHIP

June 22

There will be a community worship service Sunday, June 22, at 9:00 a.m. at the Centennial Park shelter in Atwater. Please bring your lawn chairs.

# VBS WEEK & PROGRAM

VBS begins June I! Our theme this year is "Live it Up!" and our theme verse for the week is John 10:10 - "I have come so that you may have life, and have it abundantly!"

The VBS kids will be sharing a musical program at Immanuel Thursday, June 5, at 7:45 p.m. Everyone welcome! Refreshments served following the program.

NOTE: VBS kids will also be singing during 9 a.m. worship Sunday, June 8!





# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### **OPPORTUNITY TIME!**

We are in the season of and after Pentecost. This is the season of when we celebrate that the spread of the Gospel and the ministry of the mission of God was dependent on the people of God as ministers to and with each other. The early Christian church simply lived out their Christian faith as a life-changing aspect of who they were — and it meant that the good news of the Living God spread throughout the world. The people of God were the ministers of Christ's church. In reality that still is the heart of what it means to be "church." The apostle Paul writes that we are the body of Christ — all with different functions and gifts, yet ALL are vital to the body.

So what type of ministry season are we in right here and now at Immanuel Lutheran Church? For some of us, the end of the school year means a shift in schedules and activities. For some families activities pick up as summer rec is into full swing, shuttling to swimming lessons, baseball/softball games, etc. For some families this is the season of reconnecting with one another, as camping or going to the lake are your tradition. For others this is a busy time outdoors as gardening is a life-giving passion. For farming families it is busy, as always, and prayer is mixed, waiting for the right balance of weather. What does this summer look like for you?

It would be tempting to think that we are in a season of downtime as a congregation. After all, many expect that worship numbers and financial giving will be down over the next few months

with no Sunday school, confirmation, etc. However, this is not downtime.

The month of June alone is filled to overflowing here at Immanuel. June 1st-5th Vacation Bible School is in full swing with the theme "Live it Up!" Dozens of leaders and volunteers help make this week possible. Then — we celebrate VBS during worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Bible campers start heading to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries' various sites June 15th and Atwater Festival Days are just around the corner. Our youth will host Taco in a Bag the Friday night of Festival Days just before heading off on a week long mission trip to Chicago June 22nd-28th. As you can see, the pace and events may be different — but this is not a season of downtime here at Immanuel.

In fact, this summer is **opportunity time**! In fact, Christian writer and speaker Marilyn Sharpe says, "In the entirety of the Bible, I've never read anything about God's retirement plan for us. It simply isn't there. But there is tons about God's re-FIRE-ment plan." Some congregations make the mistake of thinking they are dependent on their pastors or hired staff and ministers for the ministry of God. That is simply UNTRUE! From my standpoint that is a GREAT thing! It means that the ministry of God will not be slowed, detained, or postponed in any way – because YOU – each and every one of us ---- are ministers of the Gospel.

Truly – each and every one of us is called by God to serve him in an active and life-changing

Pastor - to page 10

# July Outreach Deadline

July Outreach articles are due in the church office on Sunday, June 15.

We will be **folding** the July Outreach Wednesday, **June 25**, at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

# WELCA News

HOG ROAST is in the reality state. June 29th...mark your calendars. All the serving groups will be called, and you will be asked to work 10:30 a.m. to Noon and/or Noon to cleanup. You also have the choice to make a pan of bars or donate \$10.00 to supplement the food costs. Answer with a glad heart, because we are IMMANUEL.

I am also looking for Co-Chairs to help organize the event. Any men willing to help are very welcome. The roasters and such get to be a bit heavy.

Group 3 is still on for kitchen cleaning this month. Are the dust bunnies still lurking?

Thank you to the people that have supported the Quilt Auction this year, along with the great women that have shared their talents in Sewing, or tieing, or cutting. This is one of the ways we are able to help support the Bible Campers and the Youth Mission Trips.

WELCA will meet June 8 during coffee hour to make sure the Hog Roast dinner is being planned accordingly.

Sisters in Christ, Linda Burns WELCA President



# Quilt Auction

Immanuel's annual silent quilt auction has been extended and ends Sunday, June 1. Quilters have been working all year on many projects. Quilts and bidding sheets will be displayed in the narthex. Quilts make great graduation or wedding gifts! Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit Immanuel's youth. Get your bids in soon!

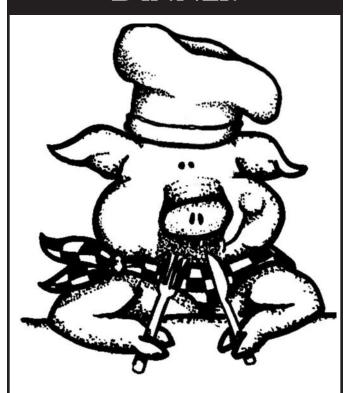




# Women's Morning Bible Study

The Women's Morning Bible Study meets at Peaceful Thymes at 9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings.

# Hog Roast Dinner



PLEASE COME! Immanuel Lutheran Church's Annual Hog Roast

> When: Sunday June 29, 2014 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Atwater Community Center

Tickets available at the door.

Adults: \$8.00 - Children: \$4.00 (age 6-12) Children 5 & Under: Free

Sponsored by WELCA.
All contributions will be given to Immanuel's Christian Education Program.

### Menu:

Barbecued Pork Roast With Sauce Scalloped Potatoes - Fruit Salad & Pickles Buns, Assorted Bars Lemonade & Coffee

# Block Nurse News

The LAHBNP will be at Festival Days on June 21 in downtown Atwater.

At 9:00 a.m., stop at the booth near the Turtle Races for a cinnamon roll.

From I-4 p.m. stop at the shelter in the Railroad Park for a grilled brat and a root beer float. Brats will be donated and grilled by Paul White of Thrivent Financial with all proceeds going to the LAHBNP. Free will donations accepted.

Support the local Living At Home Block Nurse Program and enjoy the day of festivities.

# FESTIVAL DAYS

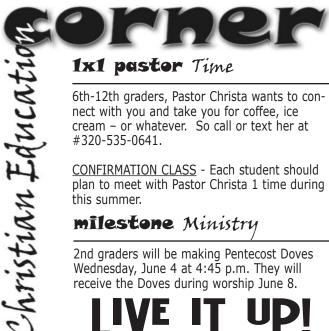
Immanuel is planning to participate in several Festival Days activities in June. We are looking for volunteers to help with:

- -7th-12th graders serving Taco-in-a-Bag Friday evening, 6/20: fundraiser for Mission Trip
- -Decorating a Parade Float
- -Walking in the Parade June 21, handing out candy, flyers, other small giveaways, etc.
- -Driving the Float in the parade

If you would be willing to help with any of these events, please contact the church office so that we can work on coordinating all our volunteers.

Last year, we had two adults and six kids that participated. We would like to see several more adults and kids be a part of this activity this summer. This is a great way for Immanuel to participate in the life of our community!

Contact the office ASAP if you can be in the parade and help with the float...we don't have any volunteers yet!



### 1x1 pastor Time

6th-12th graders, Pastor Christa wants to connect with you and take you for coffee, ice cream - or whatever. So call or text her at #320-535-0641.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Each student should plan to meet with Pastor Christa 1 time during this summer.

### milestone Ministry

2nd graders will be making Pentecost Doves Wednesday, June 4 at 4:45 p.m. They will receive the Doves during worship June 8.

### vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is June 1-5 at Immanuel.

Our theme this year is "Live it Up!" and our theme for the week is John 10:10 - "I have come so that you may have life, and have it abundantly!"

Remembering that many of us are blessed with an abundance of food, our VBS offering this summer will be designated for the Project HOPE food backpacks program.

We will have a program Thursday, June 5. VBS kids will be singing during worship Sunday, June 8.

### confirmation Notes/Classes

Confirmation students: remember your yearly requirement of sermon notes (20), service hours (25), & activity points (4). You can keep working on this requirement all summer long!

Confirmation Parent/Student Conferences - Contact Pastor Christa for a date/time to check in for a conference.

### Christian Education Ministry Team Members

Harold Eisenbacher (council rep) ◆ Jaylen Rossell (council rep) Barb Everson ◆ Janelle Eisenbacher ◆ Nick Rossell ◆ Shane Hagstrom

### NEEDED: Kids/parents/families/all ages to ride or walk in Festival Days Parade 6/21. Call the church office ASAP to sign-up!

### bible Camp

Campers, as soon as your camp week is done, please submit a few sentences telling us about your camp experience, as well as a picture or two, if you have some. This is a great way to encourage new campers to explore Bible Camp opportunities.

Please pray for a safe, fun camp experience for all of these 2014 Bible Campers!

Green Lake Bible Camp: Erica Borchert, Gabriel Eisenbacher, Emily Naber, Jaylen Rossell, Mia Eisenbacher Shores of St. Andrew: Kincade Eisenbacher, Grace Kaehler, Marcus Forsythe

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU to Immanuel and WELCA for supporting our campers with scholarship money. Also thanks to everyone who supported the camper fundraisers!

### bible camp Fundraisers

The "Book Sale" Bible Camp Fundraiser continues. Anyone who has gently used books that you are finished with (including children's books) is encouraged to donate books for our sale. **Cost: \$1/hardcover, \$.50/softcover.** Thanks for supporting our campers, and thanks to all those who have donated and purchased books. We plan to continue this fundraiser as long as we have books to sell, so please check out the selection of books regularly!

### mission Trip

The Mission Trip for 2014 is scheduled for June 22-28. We will be traveling to Chicago, IL, to participate in a Youth Works organized week of service and fellowship. We have a great group of students ready for a life-changing week!

Mission Trip kids will be serving Taco-in-a-Bag Friday, June 20, during Festival Days. Stop by and help support our Immanuel Mission Trip Team!

There will be a **REQUIRED** Parent/Student Mission Trip meeting Wednesday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. If you are absolutely unable to attend at this time, please meet with Pastor Christa Sunday, June 8.

## christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
June 1-5 .	5:20-8 p.m./Immanuel	
	4:45 p.m./Immanuel	
June 5	7:45 p.m./Immanuel	
June 8	9 a.m./ImmanuelVBS Kids Sir	ng / 2nd Graders Receive Pentecost Doves
June 8		ting (if you are unable to attend on 6/11)
June 11 .		IRED Parent/Student Mission Trip Meeting
June 21 .		
June 21 .	3 p.m./Atwater Festival Days Parade (Need	people to ride, walk, and hand out items)
June 22-28	B	





Bible Camper Blessing





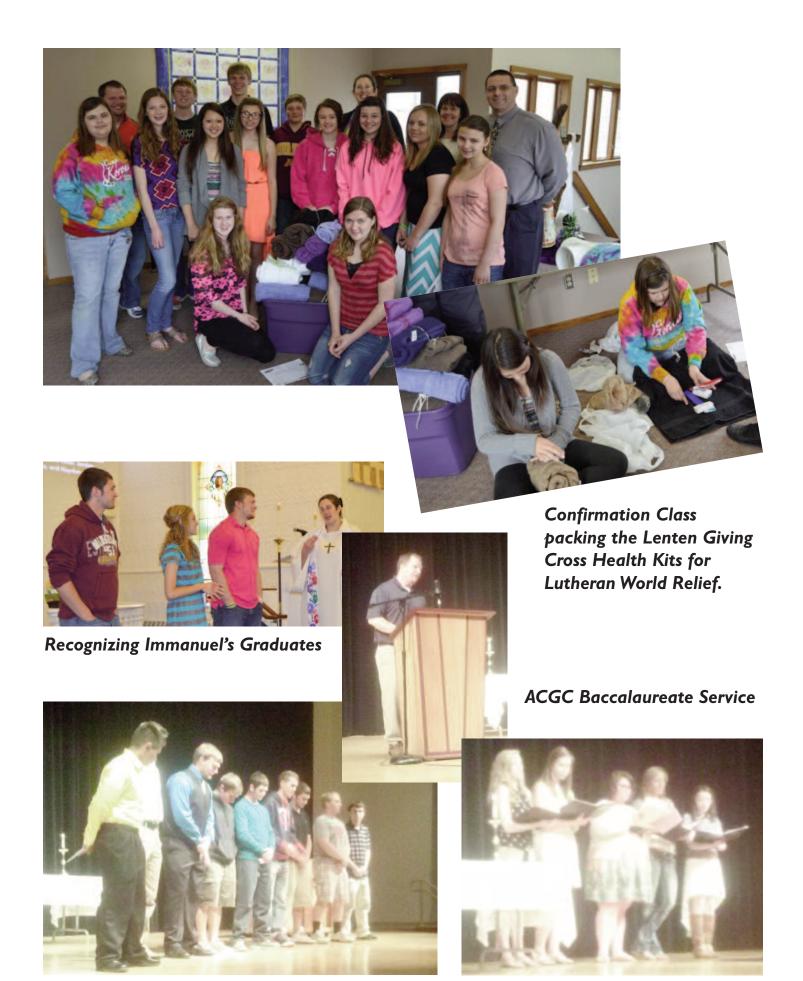
Sunday School Kids Sing



Kindergarteners Receive Bibles



Recognizing Immanuel's Education Staff



# April Offering

Ge	ne	rai	FU	na

Total\$12,111.00
Fourth Sunday
Third Sunday
Second Sunday
First Sunday\$4538.00

### **Building Fund**

First Sunday\$100.00
Second Sunday
Third Sunday
Fourth Sunday
Total\$200.00

### **Organ Replacement Project**

Total\$330.00
Fourth Sunday
Third Sunday
Second Sunday
First Sunday\$0.00

### Per Sunday

Average Attendance (per Sunday) $\dots$	I I 8
Avg. General Giving (per service)\$	3028.00
Avg. Building Fund Giving (per service)	.\$50.00

### Offering Needed

Per Sunday	\$3417.00
Per Month	\$14,807.00

### **Income for 2014** (excluding Organ Project)

Thru April	 \$44.274.00
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### 2014 Total Budget .....\$177,685.00

\*please note that these figures do not reflect all financial transactions

# Scholarship Committee will be awarding scholarships during coffee hour June 15.



# Like Us On Facebook

Find us at Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN. We hope to use this site as a valuable outreach tool, and to post announcements and information. There are lots of great photos to see, and it is a great way to stay in touch with church events.

### WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST TIMES

Our Sunday Worship is broadcast on Channel #8 every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

If you have a special request for a church service broadcast, please call 320.974.3388.

# Immanuel's Website is New & Improved!

Visit the church website to view The Outreach, Weekly Bulletins & The Monthly Calendar.

### www.immanuelatwater.com email: imman@frontiernet.net

**Other Helpful Internet Links: Prayer Ventures:** 

http://archive.elca.org/prayerventures/

**Synod Update:** 

http://www.swmnelca.org/html/Synod%20Update.html GLLM Retreats: www.gllm.org

### Pastor - from page 3

way. Yet, some of us look to the church and ask what it can do for us, rather than what we can do as part of the Body of Christ. One of the things I have loved about serving here at Immanuel, (a smaller congregation than I have served or worked in before) is that there is more involvement and more ownership of the congregation because we all know one person or a few people can't do it alone. We are all needed to be the people of God that God has made us to be. It has been wonderful to see so many of you stepping up in leadership – and I look forward to seeing that continue to grow and blossom.

April 28th, I looked at myself in the mirror and first, thanked God for the incredible ministry and life that flowed through us and this place throughout Lent and Easter. Secondly, (perhaps because I had just had a weekend-long confirmation retreat or lack of sleep) I realized that I was running on empty. Not so much in the physical sense --- but I knew that I needed to be recharged. My spiritual tank was running low.

May 19-23, God filled me back up. I attended a Festival on preaching in Minneapolis, where I had the opportunity to hear renowned preachers from around the world, worship in a variety of settings and styles, attend lectures and learn, reconnect with friends I had not seen in a while, and take significant time alone just me and Jesus. Daily devotion time is a part of my everyday, however, if I'm being honest, there are times it gets cut back, rushed or more like doing things for God rather than WITH God.

My week away was an excellent reminder that I can't afford to run on empty --- and neither can you. We are made to be in an intimate relationship with the Living God --- whether we are sitting in a church pew or fishing at the lake. We were designed to be intimately connected daily with Jesus.

What about you? In what ways have you been lagging in terms of your physical health? Mental and emotional health? Spiritual health? Often times, our spiritual well-being is the first area that takes a hit when life gets busy. But it is just as vital as all other areas. So – I encourage you to see this summer as OPPORTUNITY TIME. Opportunity time: to step out in leadership and involvement in your church family. Opportunity time: for you to reconnect with God in a more meaningful, regular way. Opportunity time: to nurture your relationship with God, just as you seek to nurture your relationships with family and friends. Opportunity time: for us to truly be church, with all of us as ministers in the family of God. And then let's see...see what God will do in and through us as we draw near to him.

God's Blessings during this Opportunity Time!

Peace - Pastor Christa

### **Summer Challenge from Pastor Christa:**

**Dive into God's Word** --- Whether you are regularly at worship this summer or away, we can still commit to grow in faith together as we read God's Word together. Let's dive in and read two chapters a week of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew has 28 chapters and will carry us through the summer. The Gospel of Matthew is the Gospel that we are reading together in worship throughout this year. In this Gospel you hear the Good News that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. Let's dwell in the Word together. June 1: Matthew 1-2; June 8: Matthew 3-4; June 15: Matthew 5-6; June 22: Matthew 7-8; June 29: Matthew 9-10.

**Spiritual Tool-kit Basket** --- there are many resources in the narthex for you or your family to reconnect or stay connected to God this summer, let me know if we can order any for you - or check one out!

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - May 7, 2014

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Harold Eisenbacher, Pastor Christa, Chuck Stranberg, Sue Bohn, Jaylen Rossell, Pat Walsh, Robin Johnson, John Hagstrom, and Jacklyn Frericks.

Meeting called to order by Chuck Stranberg, Devotions led by John Hagstrom. Minutes of the last meeting, March 16, 2014, approved. April Council Meeting was not held due to weather. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

### **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

I. Council voted to be included in the Atwater City Map & Information Brochure.

### Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Council Meets: June 11,7 p.m.

Devotions: TBD

Worship & Music: TBD\*
Christian Ed.: Sun., June 8, 10:00 a.m.
Finance/Stewardship: TBD\*
Property: TBD\*

Evangelism/Faith in Action: Wed.. June 11 - 6 p.m.
\*Team Leaders, please notify the church office of your monthly meeting date and time so that information can be included in the Outreach.

- 2. Scholarship Committee: All scholarships will be reviewed by one committee consisting of no fewer than 3 members appointed by the church council. The Marv Otto Scholarship Committee will be the overall Immanuel Scholarship Committee.
- 3. Family Promise video reviewed. In June there will be representatives from Family Promise at the Council meeting to discuss the program. Family Promise is a program where community churches of all faiths work together to house, feed and support homeless families.
- 4. Festival Days Service: Community worship service is planned for 6/22/14 at 9:00 a.m. No service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran that day. A potluck picnic will follow.

### MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS: Full reports, if available, can be found in the Church Office.

Christian Education: VBS is June 1-5. Need help with decorating.

Building/Property: Walk-through will be done to address repairs needed.

Finance/Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: There will be no Diamond Lake services this summer because of pastor, musician, and church schedule conflicts.

<u>Evangelism/Faith in Action</u>: Great response to Lenten Giving Tree. Looking for volunteers to participate in the Festival Days Parade June 21. Planning to organize a softball, food & fellowship event during summer. S'mores night in July and August. Hope to participate in the ELCA service event September 7.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:** Full report is available in the Church Office.

- I. Holy Week and Easter Sunday, as well as our Lenten Service, were well-attended and a great blessing.
- 2. Hope to see more response to the Quarterly Stewardship letter in the coming months.
- 3. Several Milestone Ministry celebrated: graduation, kindergarten bibles, pentecost doves, camper blessing, 1st communion.
- 4. Exciting to see our youth enjoy gathering, learning, and playing at Immanuel.
- 5. Looking at moving up Scholarship award dates to coincide more with ACGC awards night for grads.

### **OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:** None.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Johnson, Secretary

Celebrating An Anniversary This Month	
An Anniversary This Month	

# HOMEBOUND LIST

Please remember these homebound people with a visit, a card, or a special prayer to bring a little added sunshine into their lives.

Mark S. Berscheid Sunnyview Room #I 316 Sunrise Lane P.O. Box 686 Atwater, MN 56209

Lucille Carlson
Bethesda Heritage
1012 3rd St. SE
Room 360
Willmar. MN 56201

Blanche Hoepner Sunnyview 316 Sunrise Lane P.O. Box 686 Atwater, MN 56209

Bill Hutchinson
Bethesda Heritage
Room 322B
1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201

Chet Johnson Room 106 Emmanuel Home Litchfield, MN 55355



Robert & Darlene Kirk 20277 105th Ave. SE Atwater, MN 56209

Grace Peterson
Emmaus
Room 315
200 N. Holcombe
Litchfield, MN 55355

Rocile Sokolosky 322 Sunrise Lane Atwater, MN 56209 974-8217

**Dennis Wallin** 441 Williams Ave. E. Apt. 207 Dassel, MN 55325

### 6-I Allen Finsrud Lucas Damm

- 6-2 Art Nelson
- 6-3 Tori Anderson
- 6-4 Rose Snavely
- 6-7 Jaylen Rossell Myli Narragon
- 6-10 Jed Smith
  Liz Everson
- 6-11 Bethany Ehrenberg
- 6-12 Katie Peterson Justin Stranberg
- 6-14 Amanda Peterson Gregory Peterson
- 6-15 Connie Halvorson Taylor Bolton
- 6-16 Kevin Bomstad Carol Hintz Mark Borchert
- 6-17 Jan Peterson Isaac Fordyce Miranda Borchert Brayden Johnson
- 6-18 Robert Starz
  Jason Schwartz
  Jeremiah Nelson
- 6-21 Haley Holm Elizabeth Sherwood

# JUNE



- 6-22 Robin Johnson
- 6-24 Melissa Rossell
- 6-25 Lynnae Shoultz
- 6-28 Dwight Skillings
  Kimberly Garcia
- 6-29 Jim Halvorson Matthew Hintz Joseph Evenson

# SAVED By Grace, CALLED To Serve.

Please remember to notify the church office of any corrections that should be made to birthdays, anniversaries, names, addresses, etc., so we can keep our files updated.

Thanks!

## June Assisting Schedule

June Assisting Schedule			July Assisting Schedule			
Ushers		Roger & Janet Rossell Bob & Peggy Starz	Ushers		Val Carlson, Karen Soltis Vivian Nelson, Elsie Potter	
Communion Assistants		Communion Assistants				
June	1 29	Linda Burns John Hagstrom	July	6 27	Sue Bohn Connie Halvorson	
Lector	s		Lectors			
June	1 8 15 22 29	Peggy Starz Julie Madsen Carol Hintz Harlan Madsen Pat Walsh	July	6 13 20 27	Bob Starz Elsie Potter Linda Burns Connie Halvorson	
		Tac Walsh	Greeters			
<b>Greete</b> June	1	Connie Halvorson	July	6 13	Bob & Peggy Starz Bruce & Elaine Wothe	
	8 15 22	Roger & Janet Rossell Elsie Potter FESTIVAL DAYS		20 27	Borchert family Sharon Cramlet	
	29	Vivian Nelson	Acolyt			
<i>Acolyt</i> June	es 1 8 15	Jayden Anderson Taylor Bolton Holly Hoekstra	July	6 13 20 27	Elizabeth Sherwood Marie Chalupsky Holly Hoekstra Kobe Holtz	
	22 29	FESTIVAL DAYS Skye Powers	Altar C		& Jayde Kalkbrenner	
Altar Guild Sue Bohn & Sandy Walsh		Offering Counter TBD				
Offering Counter		Coffee Hour Servers				

### **Coffee Hour Servers**

June	1	John & Sharon Holm
		Greg & Kim Holm
	8	TBD*
	15	Ernie & Shirley Frarck
	22	FESTIVAL DAYS
		CHURCH COUNCIL
	29	Vern & Gerry Passmore
		Don & Karen Soltis

<sup>\*</sup>If anyone would like to help out by serving June 8, please contact the church office.

July	6	Lisa Naber Gwen Anderson Staci Sing Tracey Kalkbrenner
	13	LeRoy & Linda Burns Sharon Cramlet
		Lynnae Shoultz
	20	Jane Hovey, Julie Evenson Marge Nelson
		Paula Pistulka
	27	Barb Everson
		Elsie Potter Terry Lease
		Terry Lease