

SAVED

By Grace,

CALLED

To Serve.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

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"ONE Nation,
UNder God..."

July 4
1776



Independence Day

Volume XXXIV - Number VII - July 2014

The OUTREACH

Rev. Christa Forsythe, Pastor
christaforsythe@gmail.com
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Janelle Eisenbacher
Office Administrator

Melissa Rossell
Office Administrator

Church Contact Information

Phone: 320.974.8695

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Website: www.immanuelatwater.com

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 6 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

July 13 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.Worship

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

July 20 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.Worship

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

July 27 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY



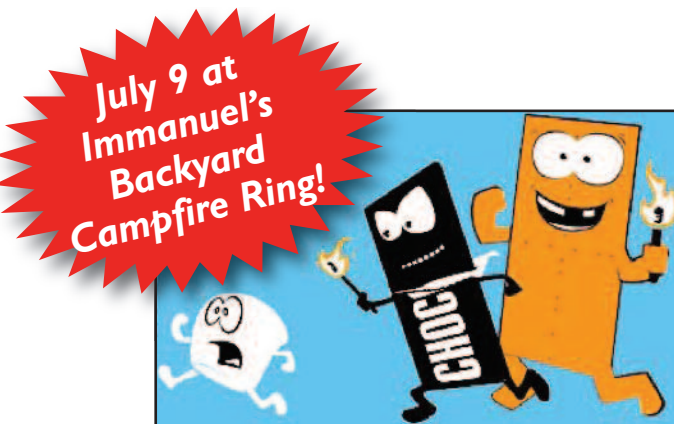
The Women's Morning Bible Study meets at Peaceful Thymes at 9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings.

GLLM ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries is hosting its Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, July 26. Quilt review is Friday, July 25 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 26 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Cost for review is \$3.00. Live auction begins at 11:30 a.m. Live online bidding at www.gllm.org.

COORDINATORS NEEDED

We are looking for new coordinators for the Roast Beef Dinner for September, 2014. Please contact the church office or Deb Mickle for more information.



S'MORES NIGHT

Join us for S'mores Night at Immanuel Wednesday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a campfire, s'mores, yard games, fun and fellowship. Bring hot dogs and buns if you would like...ketchup, mustard, plates, napkins, beverages and all s'mores ingredients provided. Invite your friends and neighbors! Everyone welcome!

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'S MESSAGE

Not worthy --- but WORTH IT!

DC Talk was a famous Christian band in the 80's and 90's --- Toby Mac was one of its members and is now one of the most popular Christian artists. DC Talk's song "What if I Stumble" begins with the quote, "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians – who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and then walk out the world and deny God with their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable."

This quote and song, asks the questions --- what if I stumble? --- what does God do when I, as his follower, mess up and do things with my words or actions that seem to oppose the life of faith? What does God do and what do others see when – to put it simply --- I'm a hypocrite?

Many people who are outside the walls of regular church attendance or participation in organized religion often voice this concern about Christians that they see and know. We are hypocrites...

For many people, that accusation rubs us the wrong way. It is painful to have someone look at us and think we are a hypocrite. However, it is completely true. But not just for us --- for everyone.

Part of our Lutheran theology and faith teaches us this understanding: in latin: Simul Justus et peccator which means --- simultaneously saint and sinner. It means I am completely justified by God in Christ --- while at the same time – completely guilty of sin at work in my life.

Being a hypocrite is not a charge to run from --- but a charge to boast about. For far too long, across denomination lines – Christians of all walks of life, have unfortunately, supported the myth that what it means to be a Christian is that we have it all together, that we are completely happy and completely satisfied and that we live a better life than others. It is time for us to take off the mask – and be real --- with ourselves and with others.

The reality of the life of faith is that we are 100% a forgiven saint in God's eyes --- while at the same time 100% guilty of sin.

The Apostle Paul got it --- even in the first century. In the book of Romans he writes about this dual reality in our lives --- the reality that we often do what we don't want to do and so on. Eugene Peterson's translation of Romans 7 is,

"15 What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. 16 So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. 17 But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! 18 I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. 19 I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. 20 My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has

Pastor - to page 4

AUGUST OUTREACH DEADLINE

August Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, July 20.**

We will be **folding** the August Outreach Wednesday, **July 30**, at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

Pastor - from page 3

gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. 21 It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. 22 I truly delight in God's commands, 23 but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. 24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? 25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different."

Isn't it time to take off the mask --- the mask that tries to say we have it all together? For when the mask comes off --- our lives point to Christ. Our lives with all their good intentions, yet broken realities --- point to the Living God of this world who loves us even when we were dead in sin, even when we struggle, even when we are not perfect and life does not go according to our plans. Our need for forgiveness points to the One who truly can see our guilt and wrong and love us and forgive us anyways. Our need for restoration --- paves a path to the Living God of this world -- who truly can restore us and set us free from the power of sin, our propensity to worship the idol of me, myself, and I. Our lack of being whole and complete --- paves a path to God in Christ Jesus --- the one who not only forgives our sin --- but makes us new --- so that we truly are forgiven saints. Or as Henri Nouwen calls it, "wounded healers..."

When we face our need for Christ --- we see and hear God say, "You do not have to be worthy of my love ---- but in my eyes you are WORTH IT!" Christ's heart for us on the cross was focused completely on the fact that in God's eyes, in spite of our fears, failures, and sins --- we are completely WORTH IT. Worth Christ's death and resurrection --- not worthy of it, but worth it.

Wounded healers... that is our reality. We are not simply hypocrites -- because God makes us something far more. Our identity is forgiven sinners, wounded healers, mended fractures, new creations, and salt and light for a world that needs to be pointed to the God who truly can forgive our sins, bring light into darkness, hope to the hopeless, and bring us from death to new life. It means we have to lay down our masks that insist to others that we are not hypocrites --- but instead boast all the more in our NEED for the Living God of this world --- who can, will, and is --- making all things new!

What if I stumble? --- thanks be to God --- that God in Christ Jesus is there to catch me, mend me, and turn me around to walk --- and even run with the Living God of this world toward the life and service he is calling me to...

***Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Christa***

SUMMER CHALLENGE:

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. Last month, I challenged you to dive in and read two chapters a week of the Gospel of Matthew each week throughout the summer. We are on Matthew 9&10 for June 29th and 11&12 for July 6th. If you didn't start yet --- jump right in. Or -- you can read the book of Philippians throughout the summer. Let's dwell in the Word together. Blessings on the journey... 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Scholarship Awards were made during coffee hour June 15.

From left to right: John Hagstrom, scholarship team representative, Jacob Peterson, Miranda Borchert, Katie Peterson, Jordan Nelson, and Pastor Christa Forsythe.

Not pictured are Lucas Damm & Tori Anderson.



Marv Otto Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Miranda Borchert, daughter of Mark & Lissa Borchert; Tori Anderson, daughter of Don & Kristy Anderson; and Jacob Peterson, son of Donn & Jan Peterson, who each received a 2014 Marv Otto Memorial Scholarship. The Marv Otto Memorial Scholarship was established in 2009 at the direction long-time member Marv Otto, who passed away in 2009.

Donna Grahn Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Katie Peterson, daughter of Russ & Pam Peterson, who received the 2014 Donna Grahn Memorial Scholarship. To date, 39 students have received this award. The scholarship fund was established to honor the memory of Donna Grahn, who served as Immanuel's organist for 26 years prior to losing her battle with cancer September 3, 1982. To date, \$17,000 in scholarship money has been awarded. Donations to the fund are greatly appreciated.

Broman Scholarship

Congratulations to Jordan Nelson, son of Tracy Madsen, Greg Madsen, and Gary Nelson, who received the 2014 Broman Memorial Scholarship. The Broman Scholarship was initiated by the Broman family, long-time members of Immanuel. The scholarship funds are to be used for continued post high school education.

Anderson Scholarship

Congratulations to Lucas Damm, son of Tim Damm and the late Kathy Carity, and guardians Lee & Konnie Carity, who received the 2014 Martin Anderson Family Memorial Scholarship. The Anderson Family Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2003 and was established for students who wish to continue in post-high school education. This is the fifth year the scholarship has been awarded.

WELCA NEWS

Thanks to everyone that helped in some way to help make the Hog Roast a success. (Since I am pre-submitting the July report, I can only hope it will go well). It is so great when we can work together.

The Quilt Auction raised over \$700.00 to go towards our Bible campers and youth trips. We appreciate the support for that group of youth.

Group 4 is in charge of keeping the kitchen tidy for July and August. While helping with Bible School, I noticed several areas that need attention. WELCA is in the process of purchasing a new 100 cup coffee maker. Apparently they do not last forever.

Happy Independence Day to all of us!

Sisters in Christ, Linda Burns, WELCA President

corner

Christian Education

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.

Youth Mission Trip Kids will be sharing about their experiences in Chicago during worship June 29.



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!

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.

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.

bible school Thank You's

Thank you to all those volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make a truly special week for all our VBS youth.

2014 VBS STAFF

PreK Group Leaders - Jacklyn Frericks, Katey Rosenquist

PreK Helpers - Alicia Bierwerth, Jade Bierwerth, Elizabeth Sherwood, Teri Evenson

Kindergarten Shepherds - Jaylen Rossell, Gabby Lawver

1st/2nd Grade Shepherds - Katie Peterson, Taylor Bolton

3rd Grade Shepherds - Lyle Schmidt, Morgan Erickson, Melissa Litzau

4th grade Shepherds - VaLoris Anderson, Rose Snavelly

5th/6th Grade Leader - Pastor Christa Forsythe

Coordinators - Pastor Christa Forsythe, Barb Everson, Jacklyn Frericks, Janelle Eisenbacher, Melissa Rossell, VaLoris Anderson

Registration Desk - Shelly Erickson, Morgan Erickson

Music Team - Pastor Christa Forsythe, Janelle Eisenbacher

Kitchen Team - Deb Mickle, Linda Burns, Kala Kaehler, Danita Hansen, Peggy Starz, Pam Narragon, Veda Stockland, Lee Mickle, Harold Eisenbacher

Snack Leaders - Miranda Borchert, Erica Borchert, Jeana Denton

Game Leaders - Gabriel Eisenbacher, Kobe Holtz, Ryan Peterson, Skye Powers

Craft Leaders - Barb Everson, Liz Everson, Sharon Johnson

Story Leaders - Robin Johnson, Janet Rossell

Detective Cookie Clueless - Jaylen Rossell

Abundio - Gabriel Eisenbacher

Additional Skit Characters - Kobe Holtz, Mia Eisenbacher, Marie Chalupsky, Gabby Lawver

Skit Audio - Mia Eisenbacher, Katelyn Fjerstad

Decorations - Janelle, Gabriel, & Mia Eisenbacher, Melissa & Jaylen Rossell

Christian Education Ministry Team Members

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

christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
June 299 a.m./ImmanuelMission Trip Youth Share about Trip to Chicago



SCENES

FROM



VBS!



MAY OFFERING

General Fund

Misc.	\$1320.00
First Sunday	4235.00
Second Sunday	1627.00
Third Sunday	1823.00
Fourth Sunday	1187.00
Total	\$10,193.00

Building Fund

First Sunday	\$50.00
Second Sunday00
Third Sunday00
Fourth Sunday00
Total	\$50.00

Organ Replacement Project

First Sunday	\$15.00
Second Sunday	15.00
Third Sunday00
Fourth Sunday	10.00
Total	\$40.00

Per Sunday

Average Attendance (per Sunday)	98
Avg. General Giving (per service) ...	\$2218.00
Avg. Building Fund Giving (per service) .	\$12.50

Offering Needed

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

Income for 2014 (excluding Organ Project)

Thru May	\$54,517.00
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2014 Total Budget

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

MEMORIAL GIFTS

March 23 - June 21, 2014

In Memory of Bryon Schroeder

To Kitchen Fund	\$5.00
To Kitchen Fund	\$10.00
To Kitchen Fund	\$10.00

In Memory of Lawrence Bjornson

To Sunday School	\$5.00
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In Memory of Bob Nelson

Undesignated	\$10.00
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In Memory of Eloise Olson

Undesignated	\$10.00
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In Memory of Jerry Bengtson

Undesignated	\$10.00
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In Memory of Karen McKeon

Undesignated	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$20.00
To Kitchen Fund	\$5.00

In Memory of Westley Thompson

Undesignated	\$10.00
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In Memory of Jerry Anderson

Undesignated	\$10.00
To Anderson Scholarship Fund	\$100.00
To Organ Fund	\$25.00

In Memory of Blanche Hoepner

Undesignated	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$20.00
Undesignated	\$15.00
Undesignated	\$15.00
Undesignated	\$5.00

In Memory of Greg Swalin

To Organ Fund	\$100.00
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In Honor of Julie & Harlan Madsen's 45th Wedding Anniversary

To Organ Fund	\$45.00
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*Please read these memorials over carefully and let the church office know if there are any additions or corrections. Please note that there may be more memorials that have not yet been received in the church office at this time.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - June 11, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Litzau, Harold Eisenbacher, Pastor Christa, Sue Bohn, Pat Walsh, Robin Johnson, John Hagstrom, and Dean Nelson.

Meeting called to order by John Hagstrom. Minutes of the last meeting, May 7, 2014, approved. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Representatives from Family Promise of Kandiyohi County met with Council. Council voted to move forward with gathering more information about possible partners in the project to become a host church. Family Promise is a system where community churches of all faiths work together to house, feed, and support homeless families.
2. Scholarship Committee has designated the awarding of scholarships, which will be presented to the students during coffee hour Sunday, June 15.

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

Christian Education:

1. Pastor Christa & Barb will meet to discuss possible curriculum changes, class lists, and teachers.
2. Planning to have 5th-7th graders as acolytes, 8th-10th graders as worship assistants beginning fall, 2014.
3. VBS very successful with 70 kids participating.
4. Will set Rally Sunday pending roast beef dinner date.
5. Will be looking at confirmation schedule later in the summer.

Building/Property: Dan Pirsig has joined the property committee. Walk-through has been done to address repairs needed.

Finance/Stewardship: Will have a meeting in July.

Worship & Music: Outdoor services will be planned for July, August.

Evangelism/Faith in Action: Plans continue to organize a softball, food, and fellowship event in August, and possibly a challenge with another church.

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

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS: None.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Johnson, Secretary

FINANCIAL CHALLENGE SUMMER 2014:

Please, continue to remember Immanuel Lutheran in your summer giving, even if you are worshipping at campgrounds, at the lake, or on family vacations. We dipped significantly into other dedicated monies to meet the June expenses and still have July and August to go. Our Stewardship and Finance team are incredible faithful with their calling and sometimes challenging job. They always return dedicated monies to their accounts, etc. However, regularly faithful giving to Immanuel throughout the summer months helps them in their job and helps us as the people of God to do the ministry we are called to do. There is a concern that summer giving may mean needing to have the pastor position become $\frac{3}{4}$ time for part of the summer. It is not our plan, but it is an option to help with the financial challenge of our summer. So, many, many thanks for all of your giving so far and your continued giving to the ministry of God in and through Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Peace... Pastor Christa

Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Council Meets: July 9, 7 p.m.

Devotions: TBD

Worship & Music: TBD*

Christian Ed.: TBD*

Finance/Stewardship: TBD*

Property: TBD*

Evangelism/Faith in Action: TBD*

*Team Leaders, please notify the church office of your monthly meeting date and time so that information can be included in the Outreach.

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

- 7-1Amanda & Matthew Fusari
- 7-7Ross & Michelle Johnson
- 7-9Matthew & Ashley Fordyce
- 7-10Michael & Angela Walsh
- 7-14Steve & Heather Lease
- 7-24Michael & Sarah Maxwell

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!

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 #1
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

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

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
11055 180th St. NE
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8273

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

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

JULY

6-24 Kenneth Johnson

7-1 Karen Skillings

Lily Rudningen

7-2 Jared Marquardt

7-4 James Wallin

Sheryl Stranberg

Brooke Schroeder

7-5 Christafer Evenson

7-6 Kevin Kelbing

Hayden Krug

Cael Blom

7-7 Michelle Sherwood

7-8 Rhonda Garcia

7-10 Braylon Sing

7-11 Marge Nelson

7-13 Karen Soltis

7-14 Todd Everson

Amy Krug

Justin Hanson

7-15 Doris Thompson

Brooks Miller

7-17 Terry Lease

Josh Norine

Joshua Halvorson

Eric Cramlet

7-18 Julie Madsen

Roger Johnson

Matthew Fordyce

Dustin Ehrenberg

7-21 Jennifer Theis

7-22 Elvern Bomstad

7-23 Jill Smith

7-24 Donald Nelson

7-25 Gerald Schwartz

7-26 Gwen Anderson

7-28 Muriel Aljoe

Sue Bohn

7-29 Valerie Carlson

7-30 Mia Eisenbacher



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July *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers Val Carlson, Karen Soltis
Vivian Nelson, Elsie Potter

Communion Assistants

July 6 Sue Bohn
27 Connie Halvorson

Lectors

July 6 Bob Starz
13 Elsie Potter
20 Linda Burns
27 Connie Halvorson

Greeters

July 6 Bob & Peggy Starz
13 Bruce & Elaine Wothe
20 Borchert family
27 Sharon Cramlet

Acolytes

July 6 Elizabeth Sherwood
13 Marie Chalupsky
20 Holly Hoekstra
27 Kobe Holtz

Altar Guild

Tracey & Jayde Kalkbrenner

Offering Counter

TBD

Coffee Hour Servers

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

August *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers John Hagstrom,
Dale Anderson

Communion Assistants

Aug 3 Linda Burns
24 John Hagstrom

Lectors

Aug 3 Julie Madsen
10 Shane Hagstrom
17 Chuck Stranberg
24 Jaylen Rossell
31 Gabriel Eisenbacher

Greeters

Aug 3 Don & Kristy Anderson
10 John & Carla Hagstrom
17 Rolayne Beerman
24 Erick & Pam Narragon
31 TBD

Acolytes

Aug 3 Alex Hovey
10 Gabby Lawver
17 Emily Naber
24 Jeremy Nelson
31 TBD

Altar Guild

Sandy Edwards & Deb Mickle

Offering Counter

TBD

Coffee Hour Servers

Aug 3 Rasmussen &
Madsen Families
10 Connie Halvorson &
Val Carlson
17 Elaine, Mark, Jason &
Tiffany Johnson
24 Lila Snavely, Rhonda
Garcia, James Schwartz
31 Nick & Melissa Rossell