



EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
AUGUST 2023



Pastor Brian Coffey

A Note from the Pastor

Thanks be to God for the privilege to serve Christ's mission from our location here in Carbondale! As I have gradually become a "local" over the last 19 months, I'm getting a better understanding of the Southernmost Illinois region and the unique setting in which we live. This congregation serves the community in so many incredibly generous and important ways that it's sometimes hard to keep up with all that is done in Jesus' name.

As your Pastor, I am called to preach God's word faithfully from the pulpit and serve the body and blood of Christ to nurture and sustain us in our ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I told our new Church Council, we work together as a leadership team to ensure that the mechanics of "church operations" serve Christ's mission flexibly and courageously and don't get us bogged down with preserving an institution that could mirror any other civic organization in town. Christ is alive, and so are we, since we have been baptized into His death and resurrection and commissioned to serve as His hands, feet and voices in the world in which we live!

I think it's worthy to note that our monthly attendance has remained steady throughout the year with an average Sunday worship of 63 in the building and an additional 11 online for a total average weekly attendance of **74**. That's a whole pew of folks online who have the opportunity to remain connected and worship with us! Jazz Vespers, which is attended by more people from the community than Epiphany members, has averaged **23** this year. New folks are visiting both our Sunday services and our monthly Jazz Vespers services, which is a positive sign that people are curious about what God is up to in this place!

August will be busy with Campus Ministry in particular as we go onto the SIU Campus to welcome students to Carbondale. This year we will be partnering with the Wesley Foundation to co-sponsor their annual "Taste of Carbondale" event on Sunday evening, August 20th. This is a new opportunity that I took the opportunity to arrange following our incredible Vacation Bible School (VBS) collaboration with Grace UMC. This is one of the fruits of the ELCA's full-communion agreements with other denominations, which allows us to fully support one another in ministry.

As I mentioned last month, a personal highlight for me in August will be attending the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago where it returns to its birthplace for its 130th anniversary! Funding is from the Continuing Education benefit that you provide me as your pastor, for which I am grateful. I have known about this event since high school and never dreamed that I would have an opportunity to experience it! In addition, I will be rooming with Father Bob Flannery who is not only a local colleague but a member of the Parliament's Board of Trustees.



I continue to study and share with the Council the Synod's resources on "Fresh Expressions" to determine in what ways we might be able to think more broadly about what mission and ministry look like outside the walls of our building with people in the community who are never likely to be attracted to "church."

Lastly, it's critically important for members and friends of the congregation to support the work of the various ministry committees. This is hands-on ministry that makes a difference! This year, in particular, we will be developing a plan to keep our grounds looking good ourselves rather than relying so heavily on paid professional services. We will also be working to maintain robust children's education and encourage youth and young adults to attend the National Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Gathering in New Orleans next July. We also consistently run short week-to-week on volunteers to support our Sunday worship. Please take the initiative to volunteer in areas that are a "fit" for you.

Enjoy the remaining summer months, and pray for the Holy Spirit to move us in new and creative ways as we discern what God is calling us to do for the remainder of the year and into the future.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian

Presidential Reflections



Deb Sarvela
Council
President

Greetings from the great state of Oklahoma!

I am visiting for two weeks in lovely Oklahoma, spending time with my sweet little granddaughter! So I really don't have a lot to say this month. Other than being a grandmother and being retired are both pretty great.

Your newly elected Council's first meeting together as a unit will be August 8.

Some things we will be considering include planning for the solar eclipse next April, reviewing the amended Constitution, increasing our presence in Campus Ministry and discussing our grounds care needs for the future. So we will be busy right off the bat.

There are so many opportunities to become involved with the work of Epiphany. Please consider joining a committee. Don't feel like making the time commitment? Offer your services to assist with just ONE thing! Could be as simple as providing Fellowship snacks one Sunday, serving as an usher one Sunday, being a teller for a Sunday, helping with Altar Guild once, or sign up for a month, or attend a committee meeting once & see what it's all about.

Blessings to you all. It will be my pleasure to serve you,

Deb Sarvela



Vivienne Eloise Sarvela
Baptized July 2, 2023
Photo by **Erika Sarvela**

LSSI School Supplies: "Our Most Successful Drive"

Thank you to everyone for the outstanding response to our annual LSSI school supply drive. This was our most successful drive to date and your generosity is inspiring.

Cathy Lay

Our Epiphany Business Manager, **Olise Mandat**, sent this report to Cathy with the final totals:

Cathy,

Including the \$820 from last Sunday's donations, here are the numbers for this year's campaign to raise funds for LSSI school supplies:

\$550.00 - Leftover from 2022

\$2,295.00 - Raised this year

\$2,845.00 - Available for 2023 school supplies

Thanks for your organization and work with purchasing and gathering these items.

Olise



Cathy Lay



[Editor's note]
In addition to the \$2,845 available to purchase school supplies, this photo shows supplies purchased by members and friends of Epiphany that **Cathy** transported directly to LSSI staff in Marion to be distributed to students throughout the area before the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Photo by **Pastor Brian**

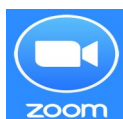
These Folks Have Birthdays in August

August 8 Beth Scally
 August 10 John Schneider
 August 12 Peyton Viernum
 August 13 Brody Eigenrauch
 August 16 Elaine Melby
 August 17 Dorothy McDaniel



August 19 Kyle Logan
 August 22 Tony Geiselman
 August 23 Brian Benz
 August 23 Leo Gher
 August 31 Ginny Solverson

Worship



Our Sunday morning worship is at 9:30 AM (Face-to-Face and livestreamed on Zoom), with sung liturgy and hymnody. Here is the link for the Zoom services.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2101246575?pwd=MVhOR1FOb3BkWDJrQ09sMmR3ZTcyZz09>

Sunday Morning Fellowship — August Could Use Some Help

Fellowship updates for July 2023

Fellowship hosts for the month of July have included the **Sarvela family** in honor of **Vivienne's baptism**, **Lyn and Kevin Bame**, **Jim Sylwester and Peter Gimse**, **Beth Bivens**, and the cookie bank. I thank all who have provided delicious post-church treats for the congregation!

August is wide open for Fellowship opportunities!!!

August 6 _____

August 13 _____

August 20 _____

August 27 _____

Deb Sarvela
Fellowship Chair



READY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME? ISRAEL IN APRIL 2024

Join ELCA Program Director for Ministry with Children, **Janelle Hooper**, and Epiphany member and ELCA Schools Executive Director, **Cory Newman**, on a **10-day trip to the Holy Land, April 2-11, 2024**. Our tour operator, **Elias Nawaweih**, is a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem who leads many ELCA-coordinated trips each year. He has curated a pilgrimage that will not only help us experience the land, its history, and its archaeology but will also introduce us to the "Living Stones" of the Holy Land. We will experience the warmth and hospitality of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and discover some of their amazing work and ministry.

Read the full itinerary and details of this incredible opportunity at <https://www.eliastours.com/tours/elea-holy-land-trip-with-rev-janelle-hooper>. This trip is open to you, your friends, and your family. Our maximum trip size is 50 people but we expect about 25.

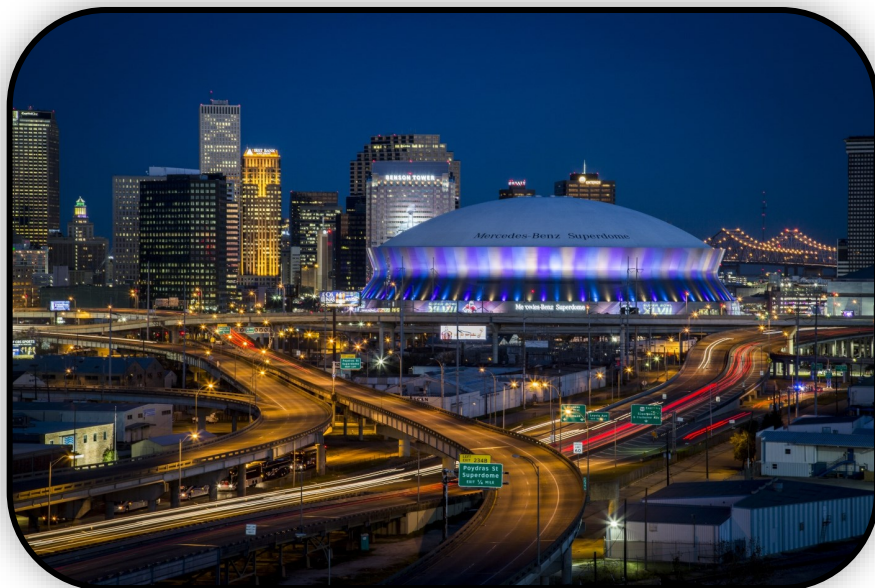


Cory Newman
Executive Director
ELCA Schools



2024 National Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering July 16—20

The ELCA's incredibly popular **National Youth Gathering** is back after being twice delayed by the pandemic. The theme is "Created to Be," centered on Psalm 139:14. It will be held in **New Orleans** from **July 16-20, 2024** (Tuesday - Sunday).



New Orleans—Superdome

Youth participants must be in **8th to 12th grade this school year**. Registration time-lines and amounts are shown below. A **\$150 non-refundable deposit** is due at the time of registration. The registration fees only cover the cost of programming, *all transportation, meals, and housing will be additional expenses*. Epiphany Lutheran Church is committed to the faith development of youth and young adults and will help cover some of the additional expenses by supporting fund-raising activities led by the participants and providing some funds in the 2024 annual budget.

Priority Registration	(September 15 – November 1, 2023):	\$375
Regular Registration	(November 2, 2023 – February 14, 2024):	\$425
Late Registration	(February 15 – April 15, 2024):	\$475

In addition, there will be a concurrent **Young Adult Gathering for those who will be 18-35** at the time of the event! This event is being created to include people who didn't have the opportunity to attend an ELCA Youth Gathering due to the pandemic delays. Participants in this program will be housed in a separate hotel with its own daily activity schedule but will join in the nightly Mass Gatherings and the Closing Worship with the youth participants. The same cost information noted above applies to this separate Gathering as well.

Priority Registration	(September 15 – November 1, 2023):	\$260
Regular Registration	(November 2, 2023 – February 14, 2024):	\$310
Late Registration	(February 15 – April 15, 2024):	\$360

We will be registering as a congregation within our Central/Southern Illinois Synod. **Please let Pastor Brian know by September 1st** whether or not you plan to participate in this incredible opportunity!!!

From there we will form an action team of participants to plan out our months of preparation and fund-raising.

More details can be found online at:

<https://www.elca.church/gathering>



Street Cars Along Canal Street

Greetings From Marcia Anderson



Marcia Anderson

Greetings to all my friends at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale from **Marcia Anderson** in Greensboro, North Carolina!!! The past six weeks have been a blur getting the Carbondale house packed, moved, and unpacked, but I am fairly well settled now. I am living in a townhouse at the Villas at Sedgefield, a community of 100 homes near the Sedgefield Golf Course where the Wyndham Golf Championship will be played next week.



There is a Club House and swimming pool down the block—there are monthly

gatherings for community members with food, of course. My daughter and family live 4 minutes away. I am enjoying my friendly neighbors—nearly all have dogs that they walk—I still haven't met anyone originally from outside of North Carolina. Of course, I have had to take time to put out flowers and hummingbird feeders.



My Carbondale house has sold with closing next week—it will be nice to have that settled. My next venture is to take the North Carolina driver's license exam—my grandsons are tutoring me.



I am attending Emmanuel Lutheran Church in High Point with my family. It is a small congregation similar to Epiphany with just a few young people. The service is traditional Lutheran with communion in a circle around the altar—the structure is beautiful.

I so miss Epiphany's worship sermons, music, greeters, fellowship, and, would you believe, name tags. I have difficulty hearing the names and then trying to remember them in addition to new neighbors' names. I plan to visit a couple of other ELCA churches in Greensboro that are closer before deciding where to transfer membership.

As I said on my final Sunday at Epiphany, please stop by to see me if you are traveling on Interstate 40 through Greensboro. The Villas are only 15 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from I-40. My address is 19 Troon Way, Greensboro, NC 27407; phone number is 618-559-3144.

Do take good care of Epiphany—it is indeed a special place.

EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA



Global Mission Reminder: Change-For-Change Jars



December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent, just four months away! It is also the day we collect our “change-for-change jars” that have been collecting coins for the past year. After coins and other donations are collected, our support is sent to our Global Missions partners, **Willie and Anne Langdji**, the ELCA’s West and Central Africa Regional Representatives. Jars are available...

The Evangelism Committee



Jazz Vespers: Sunday, August 13, 5:00 pm

Second Sundays at 5:00P
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois

Jazz Vespers

an Evening Prayer Service led by **Tim Fink**

with members and guests of the **New Arts Jazztet**—Bob Allison, trumpet;

Mel Goot, vibraphone; Tom Edgar, piano; Phil Brown, bass; Darlene DuFay, drums—**August 13, 2023**

works by **Harold Blanchard, Leon Lee Dorsey, Bokani Dyer, Billy Strayhorn, Billy Taylor, and Peter Zak**

Christian Education

The Christian Education committee met on July 25 to begin planning for the coming fall. We are all very excited about Sunday School and the fun that we will have together.



Anne Terry
Christian Education
Chair

For starters -- **“Blessing of the Backpacks”** will be this **Sunday, August 6** -- prior to school starting. All teachers and students are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special prayer and blessing as we begin a new school year.

RALLY DAY will be **September 10th**. We have LOTS of things planned for the whole congregation, so please plan to attend and wear your Epiphany T-shirts!

Epiphany Lutheran Church will be giving every child a Bible this year.

Children in grades 3-6 will receive the Whirl Kids Study Bible. The younger children in PreK-2nd grade will receive the Whirl Story Bible. In the years to come, we plan to give a Study Bible to every child as they enter 3rd grade. The plan is to create some “Bible literacy” among our young people as they begin their journey to confirmation.

We also are planning a **church-wide PICNIC! Plans are underway for a picnic on the church grounds following the service on September 10.** More to come on this **very soon! Please plan to attend.**

Pastor Brian is planning an adult Sunday School class on the book of Acts. The time will be concurrent with the children’s Sunday school to allow parents to attend.

The first official day of Sunday School will be September 17. The time is still being worked out but we hope all children will plan to attend. We will be using the Whirl curriculum, which reflects our lectionary—the “big kids” in the congregation will learn the same lessons as the children. Children will have age-appropriate Sunday School materials, children’s bulletins for service, and children’s sermons to help give children an understanding of the lesson of the day.

Confirmation will be moved off Sunday morning and onto an evening that works for the kids and their busy school schedules. If you are a parent of a confirmation student, please check your emails and get back to **Pastor Brian or me** about your availability. We would like to get our plans firmed up in the very near future.

There are many opportunities to help—at this time I am looking for a few more adults or High School kids who would be willing to help with Sunday School. For the picnic, if you are a party planner and want to help, please let me know. We talked about some games to play outdoors so, if you have anything like that and are willing to lend it out, let me know! My email is auntianne71@gmail.com. You may also text me at 618-201-4033.

Thank you for your investment in Epiphany’s kids. I am looking forward to a great year.

Your sister in Christ,

Anne Terry

Baptism of Vivienne Eloise Sarvela July 2, 2023

On July 2 **Pastor Brian Coffey** baptized **Vivienne Sarvela** with many friends and family in attendance. Everyone was impressed with how Vivienne seemed to enjoy the entire ceremony, and Pastor Brian was relieved. (It was his first Baptism of an infant.)



Photo by "Mom" Erika Sarvela



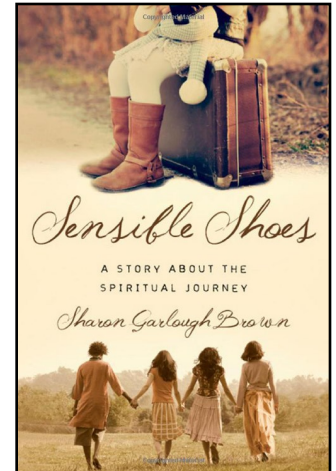
WELCA News: Be Sure To Register For “Sensible Shoes” by August 2

Please be thinking about the characters, and which, if any, you relate to! We will gather on Saturday, August 5 at 10:30 at Cathy Wood’s home for some discussion, and visiting, and having fun! Here is your “official invitation” from Cathy:

All WELCA who are reading “Sensible Shoes” are invited to a brunch at my home on Saturday, August 5 at 10:30 AM. We will discuss the book while enjoying Mimosas or Pimms with a light brunch.

Please sign-up on the WELCA board in the Fellowship Hall by August 1 or let me know by August 2nd if you plan to attend.

Call me at 618-528-1888 or email woodcat0214@gmail.com. My address is 9565 US Highway 51 North, Cobden, IL 62920. I am 1.1 mile past the “smiley face water tower” on Route 51. Cathy Wood



More Suggestions and Information From the “Green Team”

These are provided (once again) from United Methodist Creation Tips:

“**Put your [senators](#) on your “speed dial.”** Call them regularly. You don’t have to talk directly to them or for more than a minute or two. The recording or the staff person will add your yay or nay to the tally column to give the lawmaker a sense of support or opposition to an action. Do state that you are both a constituent and a person of faith.

“Whatever you do to care for God’s creation and for justice is important and needed. But changing big systems is also crucial. Voting season is upon us. **Vet your candidates for their commitments** to address climate-change-related issues—especially justice for those most adversely affected.

“To God’s prophet Jeremiah, it seemed nobody was listening as he warned of impending doom. In the face of climate change, we too may feel ineffectual. **Take heart from Jeremiah**, who was faithful to his call from God to speak up. He trusted God and bought land as a sign of hope. Continue to do all you can and talk about your hopes for a more just and verdant future.”

“The Truth About Plastic”

[This article is provided by NEXAMP, Inc. 101 Summer Street Floor 2, Boston, MA 02110]

Plastic has undoubtedly become an integral part of our daily lives, revolutionizing industries and convenience. However, beneath its apparent benefits lies a darker truth. In recent years, the devastating impact of plastic pollution on the environment and human health has come into sharp focus. Here and on the next page we’ll explore five mind-blowing facts that underscore the harmful effects of plastic on our planet and its people.

1. Plastic Pollution and the Ocean Crisis

It’s estimated that over [8 million metric tons](#) of plastic enter the oceans each year, wreaking havoc on marine life. Marine animals, such as sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, often mistake plastic debris for food, leading to injury or death. The plastic debris also fragments into microplastics, which find their way into the marine food chain, [potentially affecting human health when consuming seafood](#). The ocean’s delicate ecosystems are threatened by plastic pollution, which highlights the urgent need to take action.

“The Truth About Plastic” (Continued)

2. Plastic's Contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The lifecycle of plastic contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating climate change. From fossil fuel extraction for plastic production to the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases during the plastic waste incineration process, plastic is intricately linked to climate-related challenges. Addressing plastic pollution is, therefore, a vital part of combating climate change and transitioning to a sustainable future.

3. Plastic and Environmental Justice

Plastic pollution disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, leading to environmental injustice. Plastic production facilities and [waste disposal sites are often situated in low-income areas](#), exposing residents to health risks associated with toxic chemicals released during plastic production and incineration.

4. Health Risks of Plastic Exposure

The health risks of plastic exposure extend beyond the environmental realm. [Some plastics contain harmful chemicals](#) like bisphenol-A (BPA) and phthalates, which can leach into food and water. These chemicals are known endocrine disruptors and have been linked to various health issues, including hormonal imbalances, reproductive problems, and developmental disorders. The implications of plastic on public health necessitate immediate action to reduce its usage and improve waste management practices.

5. The Challenges of Plastic Recycling

While recycling is often touted as a solution to plastic waste, the reality is far more complex. Only a fraction of plastic produced is recycled, and much of it ends up in landfills or the environment. In fact, only [1 and 2](#) out of the seven using the chasing arrows symbol are actually accepted by local recycling facilities. Single-use plastics, which constitute a significant portion of plastic waste, are particularly challenging to recycle due to their composition and contamination. Effective recycling infrastructure, coupled with a transition toward sustainable alternatives, is crucial to combat the plastic pollution crisis effectively.

Plastic pollution is a global crisis that demands urgent attention and collective action. The five mind-blowing facts presented above underscore the harmful effects of plastic on our planet and people. By raising awareness about plastic's impact and promoting responsible practices, we can take significant strides toward a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for all. It is time to come together as individuals, businesses, and communities to tackle the plastic problem head-on and preserve the planet for generations to come.



Plastic “garbage” floating on the ocean.

Epiphany Calendar Items

August 3-4, Thursday and Friday – SIU Final Exams

August 5, Saturday 10:30 a.m. – Cathy Wood’s home: WELCA book discussion and brunch

August 6, Sunday - (Pentecost 10)

- 9:30 am - Worship
- Blessing of school backpacks during worship. Any students (all ages) may bring their backpack to be blessed!

August 8, Tuesday,

- 7:00 pm - Council Meeting

August 13, Sunday – (Pentecost 11)

- 9:30 am - Worship
- 5:00 pm – Jazz Vespers Service

August 14, Monday

- 3:00 pm – Evangelism Committee Meeting

August 14-18 - Parliament of World Religions, Chicago (Pastor out of office)

August 17, Thursday – Light up the Lake, SIU Campus Ministries, Julie Bohnsack

August 18-19, Friday (9 to 4) and Saturday (9 to 1) World Hunger Sale at the University Mall

August 20, Sunday – (Pentecost 12)

- 9:30 am - Worship
- SIU Campus Ministry Back to School.
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm – Taste of Carbondale hosted by Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministries

August 21, Monday – SIUC Fall semester begins

August 27, Sunday – (Pentecost 13)

- 9:30 am - Worship
- Fellowship - Saluki Welcome

There will not be a Worship Committee meeting this month.

Calendar information supplied
by
Olise Mandat

August

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

WORLD HUNGER SALE

48TH ANNUAL

WORLD HUNGER SALE

August 18 – 19, 2023

Friday August 18 9 - 4

Saturday August 19 9 - 1

WHERE

University Mall

ACROSS FROM AMERICAN EAGLE

Sponsored by Church Women United

Donations accepted on Tuesday 10-3,
Wednesday 9-5:30
Thursday 9-1.

No clothing will be accepted after Wednesday.

Pull up to the door labeled "Donations" and
volunteers will help you unload.

Any questions?

Contact Nan Gher for more information.

618-203-1121 or nangher43@gmail.com

Volunteers are greatly needed if you can spare
an hour or two!

SALE ITEMS:

Jewelry, electronics, baked goods,
furniture, housewares, antiques,
clothes, toys, books, bulbs, and plants,
etc.

**SOME ½ PRICE
SPECIALS ON
SATURDAY**

BENEFITING:

Good Sam Food Pantry,
Feed My Sheep
(Bethel AME),
Victory Food Pantry,
Senior Citizens' Meals,
The Women's Center,
Carbondale Warming Center,
Murphysboro Food Pantry,
S.P.I.N.
and more

View sale items and
updates on our Facebook
page @Hunger Sale

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Brian Coffey, Pastor
Mary Kelly, Church Secretary
Olise Mandat, Business Manager

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2023-2024 Epiphany Church Officers:

Deb Sarvela	Council President
Cory Newman	Vice-President
Patrick Dwyer	Secretary
Kevin Bame	Treasurer
Lynn Smith	Financial Secretary
Olise Mandat	Business Manager

Epiphany Church Council Members:

Anne Terry	Christian Education Committee
Cory Newman	Communications/ IT Committee
Beth Bivens	Evangelism Committee
Deb Sarvela	Fellowship Committee
Patrick Seger	Property Committee
Tim Fink	Worship Committee
Peter Gimse	Social Ministry Committee
Trish Welch	Stewardship Committee
Patrick Dwyer	Youth Committee