

fall  
2022

## ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Matt Cote  
*president*

CJ Ullrich  
*vice president | personnel*

Lee Dryden  
*secretary | mutual ministry*

Ellen Pancoe  
*treasurer*

Ginny Hohl  
*financial secretary*

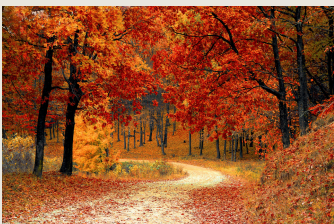
Rick Bosch  
*building & grounds*

Rev. Marsha Irmer  
*stewardship*

Rev. Don Reidell  
*christian education*

Shirleen Besch  
*social ministry*

Brian Hirschey  
*finance*



## THE PASTOR'S NOTE...

I just looked down at my hand and realized... I'm healing.

Who knew? I did not. At least not until right now.

See, I cut my hand a few days ago at church and it bled a good bit. I had a decent share of pain. It was quite uncomfortable. Afterwards, people asked me what was wrong. Nearly everyone noticed I was hurt and asked what happened. Because of its location, the cut kept opening. It kept bleeding through band-aids. I was hurt and I knew it.

Since I cut my hand, I have been *constantly* reminded of that **hurt**. It **hurt** to greet others. It **hurt** to play guitar. It **hurt** to type. It **hurt** to drive. All forms of movement... **hurt**. And, sometimes it **hurt** when I wasn't doing anything at all. And then, even when the hurting started to feel better, the bandage still reminded me: Scott, you're **hurt**.

Strangers asked, "How'd you do that?"  
Friends worried, "What's wrong?"

My youngest son, Matthew, just kept saying, "Dadda boo boo," which translates roughly: "Daddy's **hurt**."

But I just noticed... I'm **healing**. And, quite frankly, I'm shocked because it sort of just happened.

It's funny how different hurt and healing can be.

The hurt cried for my attention.  
The **healing** just arrived.

The hurt kept reminding me of its presence.  
The **healing** just did its own thing.

The hurt told the world I was wounded.  
The **healing** just ministered to the wound.

The hurt was loud.  
The **healing** was quiet.

The hurt was noticeable.  
The **healing** nearly went unnoticed.

In a simple cut on my hand, I think I have realized one of my fears for the world right now. I'm afraid we're all so hurt we forget that we are also **healing**. I worry that our focus is on what's wrong and that has us missing what's right. My fear is that the hurt has us fixed on what's falling apart to the point where we're blind to the **healing** ...

unable to see what's coming together.

# Life Passages

**Teagan Harper Newman**

was baptized on July 1, 2022.

**Easton Wayne Roll**

was baptized on July 10th, 2022.

**Bennett James Saxer**

was baptized on July 30th, 2022.

**Jay Lawrence Shanley**

was baptized on July 31st, 2022.

**Maeve Rose Scheck**

was baptized on September 3, 2022.

**Jalen Joseph Hirschey**

was baptized on September 18th, 2022.

A Celebration of Life was held for

**Marie Palermo**

on July 18th, 2022.

A Celebration of Life was held for

**Marge Reidell**

on July 23, 2022.

A Celebration of Life was held for

**Kristine Griffiths**

on July 23, 2022.

A Celebration of Life was held for

**Mervyn Moore**

on September 17th, 2022.

**Benjamin Schmitt & Danielle Weigel**

were married on September 2, 2022.

**Jonathan Zippoli**

**& Morgan Allender** were married on

September 9, 2022.

**Meghan McCormick**

**& Michael Pieczynski** were married

on September 10, 2022.

**Michael Oles**

**& Joan Metzger-Hubbell** were

married on September 17, 2022.



You are healing at this very moment. We are perpetually in the process of healing in body and in spirit. Our God has ordered creation and all its creatures in such a way that we are healing even when we don't ask for it or expect it to happen. Moreover, the ministry of Jesus reminds us of this reality.

It should not be lost on us that Jesus' ministry was more than just forgiving sins and telling stories. A significant appeal to Jesus, both then and now, is fact that he brought healing to this hurt world. Remember, the crowds that flocked to Jesus were not the healthy, well, or whole. They were the hurting, broken, and ill. Jesus showed all those who were **hurt** that there was **healing** too.

I encourage you now and in the days ahead to look for signs of healing - look down, look up, look in, and look out at the world. Be mindful of the healing that is taking place without your permission, without your asking, and without your effort. Marvel at the good news that light shines in darkness, life emerges from death, and healing happens for all those who are hurt.

Those scars aren't there to remind you that you're hurt. They're reminders that we heal.

In the Way,

Pastor Scott



"but I will restore you to health and heal your wounds."  
Jeremiah 30:17

## Sunday School fun.





# Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class resumed this past Sunday.

Future classes will be held on Sundays:

11/6, 12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/16, & 5/7 from 11:30 - 12:30

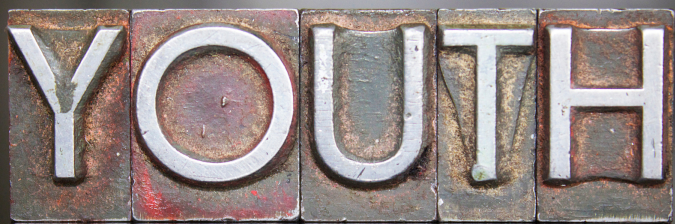
All youth grades 7-9 are encouraged to participate.

## Youth Night

Youth Night resumes on Tuesday, October 11 from 6:30 - 8PM.

All kids grades 5 - 12 are encouraged to attend.

(Youth in Grades 9+ will have additional opportunities to serve in leadership capacities.)



# Nursery & Streaming



When the service is streamed (typically at the 8:30AM service) it will broadcast in the nursery for parents of small children who find that space more accommodating for worship.

Many thanks to Larry King, Rick Bosch, and Peter Schmude for making live-streaming possible.

## Streaming Help Needed.

We hope to continue to livestream our worship, however we need your help. We are seeking a group of volunteers who can rotate in and out covering weeks throughout the year. No experience necessary. On the job training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact the church at [office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com).

## Assisting Ministers Welcome.



Might you be interested in becoming an Assisting Minister for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service? Assisting Ministers read the lessons and assist with communion distribution. (Lessons for new assisting ministers will be provided!) Each one reads at most once per month and has control of his/her schedule.

If you would be interested in serving St. John in this way, please contact Ginny Hohl or the church office.

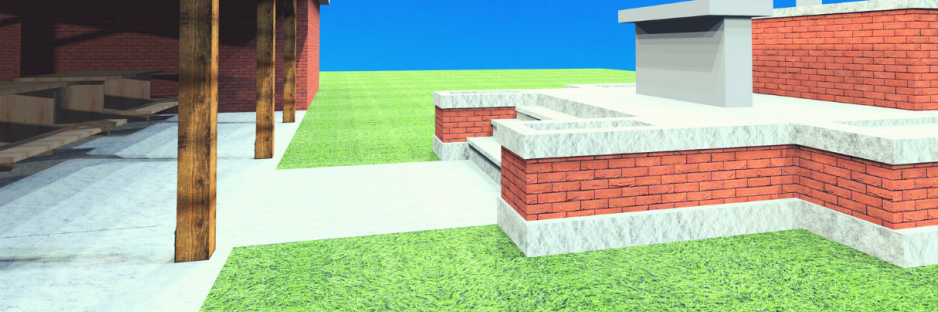
Thank you!



Congregational Happy Hour @ the Tavern at Windsor Park  
10.6.22 from 4 - 5:30PM  
8444 Transit Rd.

All are welcome to join a congregational "happy hour" at the Tavern at Windsor Park on October 6th. The plan is to catch up, laugh, share stories, and touch base. WHY KNOT?

Martin Luther wrote: *"Whoever drinks beer is quick to sleep. Those who sleep long, do not sin. Whoever does not sin, enters heaven. Therefore, let us drink beer."* Cheers.



**BUILDING**

# BRICK BY BRICK

with your help.

**DONOR BRICKS - \$250**  
**MEMORIAL/IN HONOR OF BRICKS - \$275**

The altar of the Outdoor Ministry Center will be wrapped in bricks that name those who made this project possible. **Thank you** for your consideration. (see reverse for details)

This brick campaign is intended to demonstrate our congregation's commitment to the OMC project. Beyond that, it will provide initial resources to begin building and potentially reduce the amount of money we borrow from a bank and withdraw from our investments. **Your help and consideration is most sincerely appreciated.** To purchase a brick, please fill out the attached form and return to the church office. Please call (716)632-6557 or email [office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com) with questions.  
GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.



## Thank you!

Thank you for your gift to FeedMore WNY Foundation. Because you choose to give, thousands of Western New Yorkers of all ages can put nutritious meals on their tables.

Through our network of partner hunger- relief agencies and programs throughout our four county service area, FeedMore WNY distributed 12.8 million meals in 2021, including more than 1.3 million nourishing meals to homebound neighborhoods in need.



Thank you so much for all the prayer for healing and for the delicious meals. They sure made a difference in our progress.

With love & hope,  
Rick & Gayle Bosch



Thank you for your donation made in support of Child and Family Services' Haven House Program. Haven House is a recognized leader in the provision of domestic violence services, which consist of an emergency shelter in a confidential location, long time transitional housing and counseling to help individuals cope with pain and trauma. With your gift Haven House will be able to continue to prevent violence and promote peace in the home.

construction is set to begin in the next month or so on our outdoor ministry center. stay tuned for ways you can support the project and contribute to this exciting venture.



# More Graduates of 2022

Catilyn Kutis

Graduate from Jean Madeline Aveda Institute of Philadelphia. She is a full time stylist at Super Cuts in Philadelphia.

Shaelyn Kutis

Graduate from the University of Tampa and will be attending the school of Veterinary Medicine of Long Island University.



Women's Lunch Brunch went well in July. They went to Tully's and had a good time of community and fellowship.



Nicole Favale pinning a coin on her father Steve's lapel just before her wedding @ SJLC.



The bell choir is back at it preparing for Reformation Sunday.



John Sivak, our oldest member, celebrated his 102nd birthday with the Eucharist @ SJLC.

*Happy Birthday*

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!  
1 Chronicles 16:34



# COUNCIL UPDATE - AUGUST

The August church council meeting was held on the 23rd at 7:00 PM. The meeting began with scripture and prayer. After the agenda was adopted and the previous month's minutes approved, the pastor gave his report. The pastor's report noted 3 baptisms and 2 celebrations of life that took place this summer. Pastor Scott had just returned from 15 days of rest and renewal and shared gratitude to the council and congregation for the ongoing support.

The committees offered the following reports:

**Social Ministry** – a meeting will be scheduled for the fall. St. John continues to help at Friends of Night People. Food that has been collected and ongoing pantry donations will be brought to Tiger's Den.

**Fellowship** – stay tuned for upcoming events and opportunities to connect. A new member gathering was held in July.

**Worship and Music** – We return to two services (8:30 & 10:30 AM) on September 11th. Many thanks to Pastor Nancy and Pastor Don for providing coverage and worship leadership while Pastor Scott was out of town.

**Personnel** – Staff reviews will take place in the coming weeks. We are still ironing out the details and responsibilities of the sexton position.

**Christian Education** – Sunday school resumes on September 11th with a parent meeting and a fun day for the kids. Registration is open. All parents are encouraged to teach one lesson a semester.

**Youth** – 7th & 8th graders should be gearing up for Confirmation. Youth Night will resume in the fall once school starts.

**Building and Grounds** – Lots of work has been done around the building by many volunteers, including yard work, weeding, caulking windows, painting, & pointing. The basement workshop has been reorganized, the oven repaired, stained glass trim replaced, leaky hose bibs replaced, and drywall patching. The church is always in need of new, energized, young volunteers to help us care for the facility.

**Stewardship** – The offertory plate will be brought forward to the altar at the traditional time during the service. Pastor Marsha commended (and reminded) St. John of its history of support for the Family Promise Center.

The finances of the church were discussed. The council discussed the progress of the Outdoor Ministry Center. Once the ground has been broken, fundraising efforts will increase with the hope of retiring the mortgage for the new center as quickly as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM and concluded with the Lord's Prayer.





# COUNCIL UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

The September Council meeting was held on the 20th at 7:00PM. The meeting began with devotions and prayer. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the August Council meeting were amended to include notes from the Financial Secretary.

Pastor Scott submitted a report that included multiple weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Kicking off our fall ministry has been exciting and busy. The committees offered the following reports:

**Social Ministry** – The Family Promise Center will be the focus of our yearly Angel Tree Project. Representatives from Family Promise will be present at church and will meet with our social ministry committee on November 6th. On October 16th our focus will be on ELCA World Hunger.

**Fellowship** – A “Happy Hour” will be held on Thursday, October 6th from 4-5:30 PM at the Tavern at Windsor Park. All are welcome.

**Worship and Music** – A discussion was held regarding the collection of the offering. Moving forward the plate will be passed (as it was before the pandemic). Ushers and/or Assisting Ministers will assist with the collection. The council encourages members to be constructive and not destructive while framing their criticisms and concerns with worship. Concerns should be brought to the attention of the worship and music committee directly.

**Personnel** – Brittany’s last day as sexton will be October 15. A discussion on the best route to find a new sexton was held. Sara was counseled about her hospitality and welcome. (NOTE: since the council meeting, the personnel and executive committee have made some personnel decisions. Klaus Schonrank was hired as Sexton. Sara was removed from the position of administrative assistant.)

**Christian Education** - 18 children are registered for Sunday School. The Fall session concludes on November 20th. The Spring session resumes on January 8th. In the in between times, we will have a Christmas Play. John Reich has agreed to help with the writing and production of a unique play for St. John. Thank you, John. Our adult Christian Education group is reading “Tattoos on the Heart” by Gregory Boyle. All are welcome. We meet on Wednesdays at 7PM via zoom. For the link, please contact the church office. Some participants will be attending an event on 10/20 at Canisius College where Greg Boyle will be speaking. In other news, the C.S. Lewis dramatic presentation is rescheduled for November 13. Those who wish to participate in any of our Christian Education events should contact the church office.

**Building and Grounds** – St. John requires new and younger volunteers for various projects around the church. Our building is a blessing, but also has the potential to be a burden without enough hands to help. A list of tasks is being created. If you can help, your church needs you.

**Finance** – A builder’s risk insurance policy has been secured to cover our construction. The finance committee will meet in November. A congregational vote will be held at the annual meeting on December 11th to approve a budget for 2023.

**Stewardship** – A meeting will be held on September 22.

**Permanent Endowment** – Pastor asked that the account manager be reminded that up to \$100,000 will be removed for the construction of the Outdoor Ministry Center.

**Financial Secretary** – Ginny requested that a few funds on the balance sheet be transferred to their permanent location. Weekly income is projected to be short of what we budgeted. It is unlikely that we will carry a surplus into 2023. Given financial realities at the church and in the world, we anticipate a difficult budget for 2023.

In the business portion of the meeting, the nominating committee for new council members was discussed. Pastor Scott will identify who is going off council and how many spots need to be filled. The council discussed the Outdoor Ministry Center. The Town of Amherst has approved our plans. Our mortgage paperwork is in the final stages of being processed.

The meeting concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.

## Creative Ministry

It's time for Creative Ministry to get started for the year. We will once again meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 AM to about noon to work on various projects that will be donated to local organizations. This past year we have donated to local nursing homes, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Haven House and other local facilities as well as a number of people on our prayer list. Anyone is welcome to join the group and you do not need to sew. There is always something for everyone to do. Our first meeting on September 14th will be a planning meeting to decide on projects and sort out donated supplies. Any questions, please contact Pam Figel (716)-639-0235 or kfigel@aol.com).

## Altar Help



We will need help with preparing the Altar for Communion. What we will need help for is to fill the communion cups up, or clean up after the 8:30 service. If you can help please reach out to Joni Cote, she regularly helps us with this and would know more information.

Joni Cote: pokerjoni1956@gmail.com

## BJ's Membership



BJ's memberships are available through St. John at a discounted rate.

For details please contact the church office at office@sjlcamherst.com or (716) 632-6557

## Sunday School



A Parent/ Child Orientation was held at 9:30 AM on September 11th, 2022 in the Sunday school room. Please be reminded that we are in need of teachers and there will be a signup sheet available at orientation.

Sunday school will be starting on Sunday September 18th, 2022 at 9:30 AM and running through November 20th.

If you have any questions or comments about Sunday school please feel free to reach out to me or our Sunday school coordinator

Office- office@sjlcamherst.com

Don Riedell- mdreidell@verizon.net

## Men's Group



We will be meeting every Saturday outside weather permitting, if not outside we will meet inside in the Gathering Space at 9 AM.



# Welcome to the SJLC Staff in the role of Sexton: Klaus Schonrank about Klaus...

I was born July 8, 1957 in Euclid, Ohio (Cleveland area) of German immigrant parents; baptized 7 weeks later at Zion Lutheran on East 30 th Street. I learned English while in kindergarden. I grew up in Chesterland (east of Cleveland) and was confirmed at St. Mark Lutheran (Missouri Synod).

I graduated with a BA in Business from Heidelberg College in 1979. Entered the Air Force in 1980; remaining on active duty until 2000. I primarily was a mission crew commander onboard airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft. I retired as a major.

While in the Air Force, I obtained an MBA from Oklahoma City University.

After retiring, I worked for Boeing Aerospace in Oklahoma City for six years. Then Joined Cubic Applications in Kansas City for 9 years. At both firms I was an instructional designer, platform and on-line instructor. I was laid off from Cubic due to defense cuts, joining the Kansas Highway Patrol as a DOT motor carrier (semis and other vehicles) inspector.

My wife Lori (Ferguson) and I moved to Williamsville in 2016 to care for her aging parents. She became the executive assistant to Catholic Health System's CEO, Mark Sullivan. I had various jobs at Tim Hortons and Wegmans, before becoming a security officer, primarily at Citigroup in Getzville. In 2021, with the pandemic in full swing, I left security and remained home, working on countless projects.

One project was making Lori's garden dreams come true. During last year's Williamsville Garden Walk weekend, we had 350 visitors. She also was selected as one of Buffalo's Open Garden locations for 2023.

Lori and I both (officially) retired this summer. We obviously enjoy gardening, along with finally having time to spend with family. After reluctantly staying home during the pandemic, we resumed attending St. John this summer.

our office will remain open during our staffing transition for the admin. asst. position. if you're able to help in the meantime, please email [office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com) and we will be in touch.



important  
**UPDATES FOR**  
**PERSONNEL**

# Fall Meat Raffle

to benefit  
**A Purrrfect Fit**

Saturday 10/8/2022

St John's Lutheran Church  
6540 Main St, Williamsville.

Doors open at 6pm

1st Spin at 7pm

\$10 admission includes:

Beer, Soft Drinks  
& Door Prize Entry

Basket  
Raffle

50/50

Tickets available  
at our adoption center  
Or Venmo @APurrrfectFit



Welcomes

**MELANIE  
RUSHFORTH**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rushforth brings to Lutheran Charities a wealth of experience, spanning over 25 years, in the nonprofit sector and leadership roles. Her skillset and drive will align well with Lutheran Charities' rich history of supporting regional social services. With a passion for cultivating a culture of compassion, Melanie is eager to lean in, inspire, and contribute to the living legacy that is Lutheran Charities of WNY.

[CLICK HERE](#)

to Learn More About Melanie!



## World Food Day 2022

In the aftermath of the tragic Topps shooting last May, terms like “food insecurity” and “food deserts” have become familiar watchwords for the glaring inaccessibility of healthy food and large neighborhood grocery stores, continuing to make it impossible – usually for the underserved and marginalized - to have enough food to eat and a healthy diet.

As such, on October 16, in conjunction with the annual initiative of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, we, as one of its 150 member nations, are encouraged to promote awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger, and to consider how food insecurity has been increased by multiple challenges: post-pandemic unrest, conflict, climate change, inflation and international tensions – all of which affect food insecurity and heighten the difficulty of making a healthy diet available for all.

Given the watchword of our own denomination’s far reaching ministry for alleviating hunger - “That all the world may be fed” - we at St. John will highlight hunger on Sunday, October 16, with a special appeal for ELCA World Hunger. We are fortunate to be able to support and trust that our world hunger dollars are supporting a relief agency whose stewardship of our gifts to world hunger and disaster relief has earned it a global reputation of the highest standing.

On the 16th, you are invited to give in two ways:

At worship, ELCA World Hunger envelopes will be available – channeled through our offerings. If by check, make it out to St. John, with ‘World Hunger’ in the subject line.

On the web: to witness our world hunger dollars in action, tune in to a major fundraising event led by legendary travel guru and ELCA World Hunger advocate Rick Steves – a vocal, active Lutheran advocate for peace, whose mission is to increase understanding and ‘neighborliness’ through travel. (Information to follow elsewhere or in a ‘Weekly Update’)

Bless you for your generosity – “that all the world may be fed”.

Pr. Marsha Irmer, on behalf of the St. John Social Ministry committee



world hunger



# ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound  
**Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry**

Loss and Bereavement  
**Family and friends of Merv Moore**

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns  
**Rick Bosch, Steve Favale, Bob Tiffany, Wayne Yendall, Gayle Bosch, Ellen Manthey, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ethel Semrau,**  
Mary Mussel, family of Susan Hadala  
Michelle Newman, friend of Susan Hadala  
Kevin McNamara, friend Ray and Ginny Hohl  
Susan Henckel, cousin of Deb Francis  
Peggy Warfield, friend of Marsha Irmer  
John Senn, uncle of Rich Bosch  
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate and Jim Olson  
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate and Jim Olson  
Jan Vincent, sister of Deb Francis  
Elaine and Syd Small, friends of Marsha Irmer

For wise governing dealing with world tension, suffering, and war in Ukraine.

Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from climate change and natural disasters.

For all suffering after mass shootings.

Those victimized by any form of violence, racism, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Military: Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, John Wendelin, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt , Zachary Beers

Celebrations:

**Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.**



# SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

## September

Paul Swanson	9/2	Judy Nitchke	9/17
Al Kaye	9/3	Kate Hannon	9/17
Jill Rainero	9/3	Diana Brock	9/18
Matthew Rosa	9/3	Donna Wylie	9/18
Jerry Szykowny	9/4	Vikki Hirschey	9/18
Ace Mullins	9/5	Kim Roll	9/19
Connor Wark	9/5	Betty Williams	9/25
Lisa Bogart	9/5	Janet Cooper	9/25
Brian Roll	9/7	David Pawlowski	9/26
Haley Parker	9/8	Justin McMullen	9/26
David Camp	9/11	John Wendelin	9/27
Andy Licht	9/13	Matthew Roll	9/28
Beatrice Lawniczak	9/13	Sydney Blake	9/30
Jan Svec	9/17		

## October

Shavonne Kruszynski	10/2	Alyssa Hong	10/19
Evelyn Ullrich	10/3	Zachary Mayer	10/19
Oaklie Zdrojewski	10/4	Brian Urbanski	10/20
Sean Menzies	10/5	Andrea Goubksi	10/21
Connor Merlihan	10/7	James Olson	10/21
Brooklyn Gerstung	10/9	Diane McMullen	10/22
Alexa Yard	10/11	Larry King	10/22
Kenneth Reid	10/11	Darryl Steinman	10/24
Mary McVee	10/11	Jean Delamere	10/24
Barb Tiffany	10/13	Michael Utz	10/25
Sheryl Kutis	10/14	Joel May	10/27
Allison Goehle	10/15	Paulette Allen	10/30
Rick Bosch	10/16	Gail Drahms	10/31
Victoria Utz	10/16	Ken Figel	10/31
Sarah Reid	10/17		
Charles Crankshaw	10/18		
Mike Manning	10/18		

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*

Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*

Klaus Schonrank, *Sexton*



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