



FOOTNOTES

C H R I S T T H E S E R V A N T
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

January 2008
Volume 34, No. 5

**The Reverend
Peter Bastien,
Pastor**



Martin Luther

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to clear up a big misconception about Martin Luther as we kick off a new year. Because of his doctrine of justification by faith (alone) without the works of the Law, because he taught that we are saved by grace, and not by our own efforts, Luther has been calumniated as the Christian theologian without a system of ethics. Luther, we are told, was “against good works.” Nothing could be further from the truth. Listen to Luther himself:

I would not give up one of my sermons, not one of my lectures, not one of my treatises, not one of my Lord’s Prayers, nay, whatever small work I have ever done or am doing, for all the riches of the world; yea, I hold my good works dearer than my own life, which certainly should be held more precious than all the world; for if what I do is good, God has done it through me and in me.

My personal belief is that far from disparaging good works, Luther’s real goal was to elevate them. When Luther insists that we are not saved because of good works, he is not only relieving me of the burden of worrying about whether or not I have done enough good works, of sufficient quality, to “merit” eternal salvation (who ever could merit such a thing?), but he is also establishing good works, the ethical life, as a thing of ortance in its own right. Lutherans don’t do good works to earn salvation, we do good works to do good works, because they’re good, for their own sake.

Medieval Catholicism devalued good works by making them into something we do just to earn brownie points with God—just as modern capitalism causes us to calculate value on the basis of an exchange. We moderns have corrupted the concept of value itself by turning it into a matter purely of dollars. Is a Picasso great art because it is worth millions or is it worth millions because it is great art? I don’t think we know the difference anymore. Are churches teaching the truth if they have huge buildings, big budgets, and crowds of people? Or does truth have other bases? Do we any longer know how to think about these things?



Prayer Concerns

Nyna Andersen
Richard Andersen
Viveka Bhasker
Jean Bonald
Justin Brunce
Cora Burkley and family
Ricardo Castillo
Ann Clinger
Margaret Condon
Patty Ferry
Walter Fisher
Ann Gairloff
Sam Gates
Dave Gearing
Dorothy Gerald
Lorinda Graf
Pat Guss
Kammy Haag
James Harris
Jan Henson
Sharon Henson
Fred Jaeger
Barbara Kalema-Musoke
Emily King and family
David Lashof
The family of Richard
Markwart, Jr.
Lauren Sue Masoero
Pr. John Muller
Althea Nottingham
Irene Paar
Joyce Pacheli
Ron Pacheli
Bob Petersen
Ingse Petersen
Patsy Picken
Jane Rhine
Dieter Richter
Ann Schwill
Dana Swan
Kathy Warholic
Joe Wheeler

Please notify the church office (301-977-0285, Prayer Concern box, or wcgarvey.comcast.net) if you would like anyone removed or added to the prayer concern list. Names will be removed after a six-week period if no update is received.

Luther's ethics is organic. For him, being ethical is not about obeying rules; it is about being planted in Christ, watered by baptism, nourished by the Holy Supper. It is about living out a new identity in Christ. Forgiveness is important ethically (and I'm not talking about forgiving, but about being forgiven) because it frees me to live in a gray world, an ethically complex world, where there may not be clear, absolute, answers to ethical dilemmas. It is scary how often our choices are between two undesirables and we must decide which is the lesser evil.

As we head into 2008, I wish we could all benefit from Martin Luther's wisdom. We live in a world of clashing absolutes, of moral legalism, and of a consequent gridlock. We need to learn to reset our ethical systems toward compassion and goodness and away from self-righteousness and slander. We need to learn to think together toward solutions we can all embrace. Luther's organic ethics, founded on God's grace, is a dandy place to start!

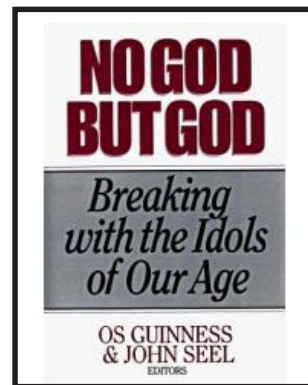
Happy New Year,
—Pastor Bastien

CTS Book Club For January: No God But God

The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam. We will meet on January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor; come and join us.

Though it is the fastest-growing religion in the world, Islam remains, for much of the West, shrouded in ignorance and fear. In *No god BUT GOD*, Reza Aslan, an internationally acclaimed scholar of religions, explains this faith in all its beauty and complexity.

Beginning with a vivid account of the social and religious milieu in which the Prophet Muhammad forged his message, Aslan paints a portrait of the first Muslim community as a radical experiment in religious pluralism and social egalitarianism. He demonstrates how, after the Prophet's death, his successors attempted to interpret his message for future generations—an overwhelming task that fractured the Muslim community into competing sects. Finally, Aslan examines how, in the shadow of European colonialism, Muslims developed conflicting strategies to reconcile traditional Islamic values with the realities of the modern world, thus launching what Aslan terms the Islamic Reformation. Timely and persuasive, *No god But God* is an elegantly written account of a magnificent yet misunderstood faith.



Sunday Readings

January 6—Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (11)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13—Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 20—Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (8)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 27—Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Other Readings

January 1—Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8 (1)
Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

January 18—Confession of Peter, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

Acts 4:8-13
Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19 (2)
1 Corinthians 10:1-5
Matthew 16:13-19

January 25—Conversion of Paul, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 67 (3)
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 21:10-19

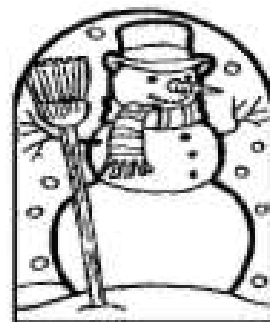
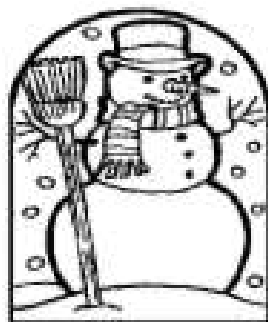
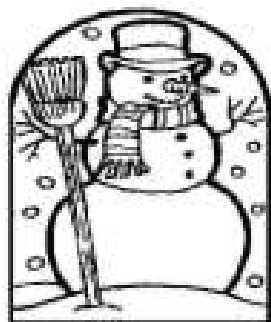
Council Meeting Summary

December 3, 2007 Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Council

(The complete version is posted on the CTS hall bulletin board.)

- ★ Financial secretary's report: we are currently under budget for the year by \$746; but contributions by those who haven't pledged offset pledges that are behind; we could still end the year with a positive balance.
- ★ Treasurer's report: November ended with a negative balance of \$1486.83. However, we still have a positive balance of \$3224.72 going into December, with no major expenses for December expected.
- ★ Council approved the draft 2008 budget. It includes \$3000 retained cash based on the current positive balance, meets synod guidelines for Pastor's salary and for synod benevolence, and keeps most budget line items the same as 2007.
- ★ Council recommends that the worship committee investigate the feasibility and cost of using microphones, and to ask ministry area coordinators to ask their servants to raise their voices (especially lectors and prayer leaders).
- ★ The Congregational meeting agenda includes presentation of the 2008 budget and the selection of Synod voting members: the candidates are Steve Garvey and Barbara Harner.

Respectfully submitted,
—Polly Brody, CTS Council Secretary



January 2008





Gifts-in-a-Jar—A Thank you

The youth fundraiser was a wonderful success. We sold some yummy items. If you missed them this year, look for the sale next year! Thank you to all who helped make bags, jar tops, and labels; made announcements; provided hospitality; assembled jars and bags; shopped for food; donated to the fundraiser in anyway; bought the GIAJ items; and in any other way helped/participated in this activity. It was most appreciated!

—Cathy Kuchinsky

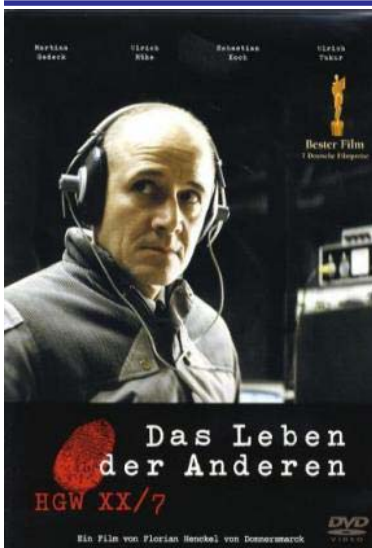
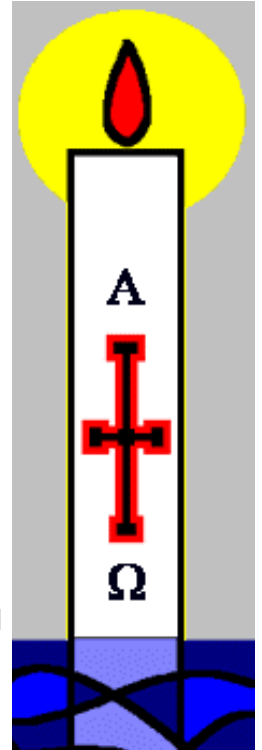
About Worship

On Christian Worship: Candles

“God is light and in him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5) The radiance of candlelight brings joy to those who see it, disposing the mind and heart to seek the light of Christ. “Look to him, and be radiant.” (Psalm 33:5)

Originally candles were used as a practical means of lighting in homes as well as in churches. In the Sacred Liturgy, candles take on a symbolic value. The Easter Vigil begins with the blessing and lighting of the Paschal Candle, the sign of the risen Christ illuminating the Church. Three times the deacon raises it aloft, intoning “Light of Christ!” As the procession makes its way through the darkness, the flame of the Paschal Candle is divided again and again, and loses nothing of its brightness, as it is distributed among the baptized members of the assembly to serve as a reminder that they have received the light of Christ. At Baptism, a lighted candle is given to the new Christian. The pastor entrusts it to the parents and godparents (when the baptized is a child), saying, “Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.” At the holy Eucharist, two candles are placed on the altar, symbolizing the Epistle (right side) and the Gospel (left side).

—From Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons by Mark Daniel Kirby, revised for Lutheran use by Pastor Bastien



Forest Oak Film Buffs for January

“Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)”
January 20 at 5:30 p.m.
Please bring “movie food” to share.

A tragic depiction of a totalitarian dystopia, where individual privacy becomes the casualty of a paranoid government’s secret police. No, it’s not George Orwell, it’s the German Democratic Republic in 1986, before the fall of the Berlin Wall. “The Lives of Others” takes a bold look at how surveillance affects not only the lives of those whose privacy is breached, but also the lives of those doing the surveillance. A subject with disturbing relevance to our times. (Winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, 2007.)

The Happiest of Birthdays to:

- Lucy Vela 1/1
- Marcy Kabemba 1/7
- Anne Lipe 1/10
- Linda Backus 1/10
- Matthew Alfano 1/10
- Joyce Backus 1/11
- Frank Ndumbalo 1/14
- Joanne Eater 1/20
- Frank Foge 1/21
- Ingse Petersen 1/23
- Erica Adams 1/26
- Halley Fehner 1/27
- Becky Henrich 1/29
- Tony Kerlavage 1/30

Happy Anniversary to:

No one this month! Any single people out there who'd like to marry in January??



Parish Life



Fun Night—Saturday, February 2

Celebrate our cultural diversity with an international theme to the pot-luck dinner at 6:00 PM and entertainment to follow. Think of a story to share about your family history, recite a poem, share a musical ditty and/or dance, or explain a custom from your country of origin. And later we'll split into teams to answer trivia questions, so beef up on your geography and history. This will be a fun way to learn little known facts about us all and get to know each other better. Contact Connie Graf or Michelle Backus for more information.



Camping

Who's interested in a camping trip this summer? Please contact Connie Graf (cqgraf@yahoo.com or 301-253-5180) to help plan where and when.

Bowling Party—Saturday, January 19th

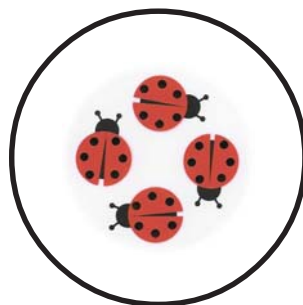
Bowling starts at 7:00 PM at AMF Shady Grove Lanes. Come join the fun for an evening of bowling with your family and friends at CTS. For the early birds, we'll start at 7:00 PM, and the adventurous late nighters can stay for the Xtreme bowling starting at 9:00 PM. Come early or late and visit while you're not bowling. For more information check the bulletin board sign-up list in January or contact Michelle Backus (mebackus@comcast.net) or Connie Graf (cqgraf@yahoo.com).

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Montgomery Village, MD

Footnotes Staff

- Editor Joanne Eater
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- Servants' List Wilma Garvey
- Youth Grp News . Barbara Harner
- Production Steve Garvey

Footnotes is issued eleven times a year by Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod. Articles of interest to the congregation are solicited from members of the CTS community and are due to the editor by the third Sunday of each month. Articles for the July/August issue are due by the third Sunday of June.





Put Your Best Spiritual Feet Forward

"A friend once described spirituality to me as 'theology on two feet.' In other words, spirituality (at least in a Christian context) is a useful term to describe how, individually and collectively, we personally appropriate the traditional Christian beliefs about God, humanity, and the world and express them in terms of our basic attitude, lifestyle, activity. On a personal level, spirituality is how we stand with God in the context of our everyday lives. For Christians, this involves two complementary dimensions: our tradition and our experience of the culture and the world in which we live, by which we are influenced, and to which we respond. The question of how these two dimensions relate to each other is a complex one."



—Philip Sheldrake

Gaithersburg HELP needs

- Canned fruits
- Cereal
- Instant potatoes
- Boxed rice mixes
- Spaghetti sauce with meat (26.5oz can)
- Canned beef stew
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Peanut butter
- Large paper grocery bags



Upcoming Retreats

Treat yourself to some quiet and gentle movement after the flurry of holiday preparations and celebrations. Start the New Year with time and space to hear and feel God. The Contemplative Movement series begins Sunday, January 6, with additional gatherings on February 10, March 30, and April 13. You may register for one, two, three, or all four sessions. See the brochures in the narthex for detailed registration and location information.

There are two more opportunities coming up in the New Year to spend time in quiet contemplation with the Divine: January 12 and February 16. Both Saturday mornings of quiet will end at 12:30. You are invited to bring a bagged lunch and break silence in fellowship over lunch. Again, see the attached flyers for further registration and location information.

After inviting God into your heart during the Advent season, intentionally spend some time with God nurturing your relationship with the Divine. If you do not know where to start, find it difficult to do alone, or want something different please join me in one or all of the above opportunities to deepen the journey.

Grace and Peace,
Mother Linda

—The Rev. Linda S. Harrison



Blessing of the Home at Epiphany

INTRODUCTION

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (2: 10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

*Twelfth Night (January 5) or another day during the season of Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing of the home, using the following as a model. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 08. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica*, which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).*

GREETING

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

By wisdom a house is built
and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled
with rare and beautiful treasures.

See Proverbs 24: 3-4.

READING

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household,
let us listen to the words of scripture.
In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace
and truth.
From his fullness we have all received, grace
upon grace.

John 1: 1-4, 14, 16



INSCRIPTION

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 08

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell
among us

20 two thousand

08 and eight years ago.

+ Christ, bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the new
year.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

O God,
you revealed your Son to all people
by the shining light of a star.
We pray that you bless this home and all who live
here
with your gracious presence.
May your love be our inspiration,
your wisdom our guide,
your truth our light and your peace our
benediction;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Then everyone may walk from room to room,
blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling
with water, perhaps using a branch from the
Christmas tree.*

*This blessing is adapted from *Come, Lord Jesus: Devotions for the Home* (Augsburg Fortress, 1996).*

Faith Talk: Confirmation at Home: The topic of this spring's retreat is Lutheran doctrine. Let's start the conversation by talking about what you think it means to be a Christian with a Lutheran understanding and let's start with Law and Gospel. Here are some statements to consider: "God created the law to help us embrace the gospel," "The law is what we do for God; the gospel is what God does for us," "The law shows us our sin; the gospel shows us our savior." What do you think these mean?

Chrysalis 2007 / ((Hear me now)) By now you've seen the clothesline and the blue strips of fabric hanging on the stair railing in the hallway. This was an artifact from one of the Small Groups at Chrysalis. The fabric strips hold prayers regarding relationships written by participants. Over 200 of them were strung across the room for worship on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Six youth (Sarah, Selena, Melissa, Michelle, Jonathon and Eric) were accompanied by Barbara, Tony and Mike for a weekend filled with opportunities to listen to ourselves, each other and to God.

Fundraisers Reports: Thank you for your support of our three December fundraisers – GIAJ netted \$748 (29 people ordered 125 items!), the Chili, Cornbread and Chocolate totals were \$297 and the YMBA brought in \$644. All proceeds go into our 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering Fund. The Gathering – Jesus ✕ Justice ✕ Jazz – will be held in New Orleans, LA, July 22-29, 2009. Thank you to everyone who bought, donated, ate, and bid!

January Activities and Events

(in addition to Sunday School every week at 9:50 am)

Senior High Koinonia / Agape Supper **Thurs, Jan 3, 6:30 - 9:00 PM / H-K**

Join us for a simple supper of soup and bread followed by another Nooma video – *Kickball*: We always think we know what's missing from our lives in order to really make us happy, don't we? How often do we want something only to find out it wasn't that great after all? Do we really trust God?

Confirmation Koinonia **Thurs, Jan 10, 6:30 - 8:30 PM / H-K**

We'll share an evening of food (pizza), fellowship and fun as we share our faith.

Confirmation Youth and Adult Mentors **Sun, Jan 13, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Confirmation youth and adult mentors will meet each other this afternoon. We'll start with lunch, engage in some get-to-know-you activities, and then you'll find your partner!

Cosmic Bowling **Sat, Jan 19, 10:00 PM – Midnight**

Come join in the CTS Parish Life activity! Watch your email and listen to the announcements for details!

Gaithersburg Help **Jan 24, 4:30 - 7:00 PM**

We need 2-3 volunteers each month to help with our ongoing service project at the food pantry. Please call Inge Harman or Barbara to volunteer or with questions.

Upcoming Activities

Gaithersburg Help **Feb TBD, 4:30 - 7:00 PM**

We need 2-3 volunteers each month to help with our ongoing service project at the food pantry. Please call Inge Harman or Barbara to volunteer or with questions.

CTS Souper Bowl Sunday (Rehearsal on Sat, Feb 2) **Sun, Feb 3**

This is our 8th year of participating! Everyone is invited to bring cans of soup or stew (preferred) and/or cash for Gaithersburg Help. Youth will be collecting your donations in soup pots during both services and the Roaring Sheep will provide music during the 11:00 AM service (rehearsal Saturday morning!)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper **Tues, Feb 5**

30-Hour Famine **Fri, Feb 15 (begin after lunch on your own) – Sat, Feb 16**

This is the second time we will participate in this worldwide hunger awareness program where we will go without food for 30 hours to get a taste of true hunger. We will start our fast individually on Friday after lunch and then come together that night at CTS beginning at 6 PM. Bring your sleeping bags and pillows, pajamas and clothing for Saturday, and toiletries. We will spend Saturday morning in service to others at the Lamb Center and Saturday afternoon preparing to serve dinner at the CBOS that evening – where we will break our fast.

Lamb Center **Sat, Feb 16, 8:00 AM**

As part of our 30-Hour Famine, we will spend this morning in service to others at the Lamb Center. If you can't join us for the whole fast, please join us for this. We will leave from CTS at 8 AM.

Community-Based Overflow Shelter Dinner **Sat, Feb 16, 5:00 PM**

This is one of our annual service projects and we need everyone's help to prepare and serve dinner at the shelter. This year, because Tony and I are out of town at the beginning of the week, we'll finish the week for CTS with our famous Taco Salad. We'll prepare the meal Saturday afternoon during our fast and leave from CTS about 5:00 to travel to Rockville where we will finish preparing the meal, and then share it with the residents. If you can't join us for the fast or the Lamb Center, please come join us for this!!

Shekinah 2008 **Fri, Mar 7 – Sun, Mar 9**

Metro DC Synod's annual Youth Ministry event for 7th and 8th grade youth. Put these dates on your calendar now so you can join 200 of your peers for a great weekend! Registration forms coming in January...

Spring Confirmation Retreat **Fri, Apr 18 – Sun, Apr 20**

Topic: Lutheran Doctrine; Where: Summit Lake

Shema **Sun, Apr 20**

Metro DC Synod's annual Youth Ministry event for 3rd – 6th graders. Watch for registration forms in February....

**Don't forget about our new website - <http://web.mac.com/arkerlav>
Check your email 1-2 times per week for new possibilities, reminders and updates!**

Servants' Lists for January 2008

January 1, 2008

Name of Jesus

7:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Asst Vernon Toelle
 Lector Pat Andersen
 Prayer Leader TBD

January 6, 2008

Epiphany of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes Robin Peterson
 Altar Preparation Wilma Garvey
 Communion Assts Joyce Backus
 (Vest) Vernon Toelle
 Communion Bread Wilma Garvey
 Prayer Leader TBD
 Lector Sandy D'Angelo
 Usher Steve Garvey
 Greeter Ernie Graf

11:00 a.m. High Mass

Acolytes Thurifer Joanne Eater
 Crucifer Tom Eastlack
 Bookbearer Paul Mayer
 Altar Preparation Joanne Eater
 Communion Assts Dave Larrabee
 (Vest/Process) Mike Mayer
 Communion Bread Hope Walker
 Lector Chuck Eater
 Prayer Leader Polly Brody
 Usher Pat Andersen
 Greeter Inge Harman
 Hospitality Inge Harman
 Flowers given today by OPEN

January 13, 2008

Baptism of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes Polly Brody
 Altar Preparation TBD
 Communion Assts Steve Garvey
 (Vest) Connie Graf
 Communion Bread Sandy D'Angelo
 Prayer Leader TBD
 Lector TBD
 Usher Doreen Foge
 Greeter Wilma Garvey

11:00 a.m. High Mass

Acolytes Thurifer TBD
 Crucifer TBD
 Bookbearer TBD
 Altar Preparation Barbara Harner
 Communion Assts Barbara Harner
 (Vest/Process) Tony Kerlavage
 Communion Bread Pat Andersen
 Lector Barbara Harner
 Prayer Leader James Kabonge
 Usher Paul Bender
 Greeter Frank Ndumbalo
 Hospitality Jackie Severynse
 Flowers given today by Ndumbalo Family

January 20, 2008

Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Matins

Acolyte Carson Fehner
 Lector Tom Lipe
 Usher Robin Peterson
 Greeter TBD

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes Bridget Ndumbalo, Kayleigh Austin
 Altar Preparation Sandy D'Angelo
 Communion Assts Roger Rasnake
 Sandy D'Angelo
 Communion Bread Uschi Larrabee
 Lector Tony Kerlavage
 Prayer Leader Dave Larrabee
 Usher Dave Larrabee
 Greeter Kwan Koehler
 Hospitality Marcy Kabemba
 Flowers given today by Eater Family

January 27, 2008

**Third Sunday after Epiphany
 (Reconciliation in Christ Sunday)**

8:30 a.m. Matins

Acolyte Steve Garvey
 Lector Vernon Toelle
 Usher Ron Backus
 Greeter Joyce Backus

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes Brenden Austin, Joel Ndumbalo
 Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Assts Chuck Eater
 Joann Eastlack
 Communion Bread Joann Eastlack
 Lector Polly Brody
 Prayer Leader Pat Andersen
 Usher Tom Eastlack
 Greeter Joann Eastlack
 Hospitality Melanie McMichael
 Flowers given today by Harner/Kerlavage Family

