# he Acts of Ascension



**Through Window** 



Grace and peace to you,

"2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 ESV). Whenever I received a gift from relatives or family friends, my parents tried to instill the good habit of writing a thank you note. Unfortunately, it became more of a chore and burden rather than a joy. The way I understood it as a kid was that if I didn't write thank you cards, people would not send any future gifts. The motivation was all wrong, because it was missing the essence of a thank you - gratitude.

Paul is especially good at giving thanks with gratitude. Much of the time he directed his thanks to God because of the good people who were a blessing to their churches. The Thessalonians were one such group, as they continued to be steadfast amid a hostile ministry environment. Paul's gratitude extends beyond self and goes out to God and others. He is modeling the way of Jesus, who says the most important commandments are to love God and love our neighbor. (Matthew 22:37-39). Gratitude and appreciation flow out of love. Therefore, just as St. Paul gives thanks to God for the "work of faith and labor of love" found in the Thessalonians, I give thanks to God for each of you as members and friends of Ascension. All of you bring gifts to the ministry and mission of God in this place, and I have a deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifices you make. In this season of thanksgiving and gratitude, I remember all of you!

Thankful to God for you,

Pr Jim

Gracia y paz para ti,

"2 Siempre damos gracias a Dios por todos ustedes cuando los mencionamos en nuestras oraciones. 3 Los recordamos constantemente delante de nuestro Dios y Padre a causa de la obra realizada por su fe, el trabajo motivado por su amor, y la constancia sostenida por su esperanza en nuestro Señor Jesucristo," (1 Tesalonicenses 1:2-3 NVI). Cada vez que recibía un regalo de parientes o amigos de la familia, mis padres trataban de inculcarme el buen hábito de escribir una nota de agradecimiento. Desafortunadamente, se convirtió más en una tarea y una carga que en una alegría. La forma en que lo entendía cuando era niño era que si no escribía tarjetas de agradecimiento, la gente no enviaría ningún regalo futuro. La motivación estaba equivocada, porque le faltaba la esencia de un agradecimiento: la gratitud.

Pablo es especialmente bueno para dar gracias con gratitud. La mayor parte del tiempo dirigía su agradecimiento a Dios por las buenas personas que eran una bendición para sus iglesias. Los tesalonicenses eran uno de esos grupos, ya que continuaron firmes en medio de un ambiente hostil del ministerio. La gratitud de Pablo se extiende más allá de sí mismo y se dirige a Dios y a los demás. Está modelando el camino de Jesús, quien dice que los mandamientos más importantes son amar a Dios y amar a nuestro prójimo. (Mateo 22:37-39). La gratitud y el aprecio fluyen del amor. Por lo tanto, así como San Pablo da gracias a Dios por la "obra de fe y trabajo de amor" que se encuentra en los Tesalonicenses, yo doy gracias a Dios por cada uno de ustedes como miembros y amigos de la Ascensión. Todos ustedes traen dones al ministerio y a la misión de Dios en este lugar, y tengo un profundo sentido de gratitud por los sacrificios que hacen. En esta temporada de acción de gracias y gratitud, ¡los recuerdo a todos!

Agradecido a Dios por ti,

Pr Jim

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#### The Acts of Ascension

A monthly publication of scension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue Portland OR 97233-5009 Church Office: 503-665-8821

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

#### Web site:

www.alcportland.org

#### **Our Mission Statement:**

Go and Share Jesus Christ

#### Our Vision Statement:

Take part...

#### **Email Addresses**

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor pastor@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Coordinator of Worship and Music worship@alcportland.org

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Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber, Treasurer Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Treasurer treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary council@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management property@alcportland.org



# Come Celebrate Don Tigges 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday

There is an open house on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 2:00-4:00pm

Courtyard Fountains

Activity Room
1545 SE 223rd Avenue
Gresham OR 97030

All are welcome!



## PASTOR'S SEPTEMBER REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials -

**Etzel, Miki**—Died October 7, 2023, graveside service at Zion Memorial Cemetery in Canby at 1:00pm, Friday, November 3; memorial at Ascension Lutheran at 12:00pm, Saturday, November 4

**Blubaum, Judy**—Died October 23, 2023, memorial service at Ascension Lutheran at 1:00pm, Saturday, November 11

**Bauch, Audrey**—Died October 15, 2023, memorial service at Ascension Lutheran at 1:00pm, Saturday, November 18

Marriages -

Samantha Cassetty / Joel Brannies - December wedding planned

Transfers, New Members, etc. -

Sandy Kirchner and Karen Rivera from River of Life.

C-101 class began on Wednesday, September 20, from 6:00-7:00pm (running through November 15). Seven people are attending with three possible new members.

Baptisms –

Antonio, Audrina, and Teddy Brown (Danielle and Cody Brown's children) baptized October 15.

Confirmation -

Three young people are signed up for final year Confirmation. We are working with the families to choose the best day and time for classes.

Latino Membership -

Pastor Ruberto – leading every Sunday worship at 5:00pm, with communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Pr Ruberto is using funds from the Mayan translation offerings to send a downpayment to the translator in Mexico. The translator began his work on the Small Catechism (30 pages approximately, not with explanation) in the Mayan language.

Circuit Visitor Info -

Immanuel, Sandy - I'm still covering one Sunday per month. They will continue to seek a part-time pastor if available.

Christ the Vine, Damascus - The congregation is moving forward with a self-study, along with preparations for a call from the field after Pr Kris Morris retires at year's end.

River of Life, Troutdale - Final service is Sunday, November 5 at 2:00pm.

Immanuel, Hood River - Pr Tyler Moore was installed October 21.

Peace, Estacada - Continuing to seek a part-time pastor for their vacancy.

Miscellaneous -

#### **Scouts**

We signed a one-year agreement with the Scouts to allow them use of our lower level. They will meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. Approximately five families are signed up with around ten kids. Austin Ubelhor, a Scout leader in the area, will guide the group until leadership takes hold. If you are interested in helping, we are seeking leaders to support this new opportunity!

#### **Property Management**

For security purposes, there will be a new intercom system installed at the office door. The exterior glass door to the conference room and office will be covered with a solid film that blocks visitors from looking in. A two-way intercom with camera will be mounted on the porch. Intercom screens installed inside the door and in the office will allow us to see and speak to visitors similar to a Ring doorbell. In the future, this system allows for a door opening mechanism to be added for remote unlocking.

The red van needs a replacement fuel tank due to vandalism in the past year. After the repair is complete, we will store the van offsite to protect it from further damage.

#### **Outreach Board**

Thanks for all who helped support the purchase of Bibles! Over \$600 was raised for current and future needs!

Setting up an "Outreach Table" in the narthex for a onestop place to pick up Gospel bracelets, helpful ideas for outreach, Bibles to give away, Fully Rely On God F.R.O.G.s, and other information.

Hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 28 from 2-4pm in the Ascension parking lot. Contact Cindy Reinert if you want to know more, or are willing to volunteer to help.

#### **Stewardship Board**

Met to discuss opportunities for our members to use their time, talents, and treasures. Encouraging members to fill out a "Victory Celebration Form" for funeral planning, but also as an opening to consider legacy gifts for the congregation.

Unfortunately, with the numerous memorials planned on Saturdays in November, we need to reschedule our "A Look at Today and a Plan for Tomorrow" event that was set for November 11 from 10:30am-2pm. We will announce a new date and time as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

Encouraging leaders and lay people to take classes from Mission Training Center. Mission Training Center is based out of Concordia University - Irvine and offers college level courses online for anyone who wants to grow in specific areas of ministry. (cont. on pg. 4)

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## PASTOR'S REPORT Continued from pg. 3

If you have ever taken a community college class to learn more about a topic or interest, these classes are very similar with a Christian emphasis. Classes range from the study of God's Word to practical classes on equipping people to run church ministries, reach out with the Gospel, and many other topics. If you are interested in these courses, go to their website, or talk to Pr Jim to learn more. www.missiontrainingcenter.com

#### Dates to remember:

#### 2023

November 3, Friday - Miki Etzel graveside service—Zion Cemetery, Canby (1pm, all are welcome)

November 4, Saturday - Miki Etzel memorial at Ascension (12:00pm)

November 5, Sunday – All Saints' Day (observed)

(November 5, Sunday - International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church)

November 11, Saturday - Judy Blubaum memorial at Ascension (1:00pm)

November 18, Saturday - Audrey Bauch memorial at Ascension (1:00pm)

November 22, Wednesday – Thanksgiving Eve Service (7pm)

November 23, Thursday – Thanksgiving Day

November 26, Sunday – Last Sunday of the Church Year

December 3, Sunday – First Sunday in Advent

December 6, 13, 20, Wednesdays – Advent Midweek (3:30, 7pm)

December 24, Sunday – Christmas Eve Morning Service (11am only, w/ communion)

December 24, Sunday – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7pm, no communion)

December 25, Monday – Christmas Day (10am, no communion)



December 31, Sunday - 8:30 & 11am Services (no communion, 5th Sunday)

December 31, Sunday – New Year's Eve Service (7pm w/ communion)

#### 2024

January 1, Monday – New Year's Day

January 6, Saturday – Epiphany

January 15, Monday – MLK Day

January 22, Sunday – Sanctity of Life Sunday

February 14, Wednesday – Ash Wednesday (3:30, 7pm)

February 19, Monday – President's Day

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, Wednesdays – Lent Midweek (3:30, 7pm)

March 24, Sunday - Palm Sunday

March 28, Thursday – Maundy Thursday (7pm)

March 29, Friday – Good Friday (7pm)

March 31, Sunday – Easter Sunday

May 9, Thursday - Ascension Day (7pm)

May 12, Sunday – Mother's Day

May 19, Sunday – Pentecost Day

May 26, Sunday – Trinity Sunday

May 27, Monday - Memorial Day



'Tis the season to remember our policy on canceling services due to weather. If a snow and ice day affects a scheduled service, always call the church office to listen to the updated message before driving to church that day. We will also update the website and send out a Constant Contact email, but for those without Internet access, call the church office.

## **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!**

#### LCMS Stewardship - November 2023

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we man-age them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also

sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heav-enly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more dili-gent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

### **REGISTER NOW!**

A WOMEN'S WEEKEND TO LEARN ABOUT

### **COMPANIONING:**

WALKING ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY

7:00PM, FRIDAY, JAN. 12 THROUGH 12:00PM, SUNDAY, JAN. 14



THE WEEKEND WILL BE HELD AT AN OCEANSIDE BEACH HOUSE AT 2937 SUNSET BLVD., SEASIDE, OREGON. THE DRIVEWAY IS IN THE BACK OF THE HOUSE. MEALS AND LODGING ARE INCLUDED.

COST: \$99 — SPACE IS LIMITED TO 14 PARTICIPANTS (REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX)

Women of the congregation (and friends) are invited to join together for a weekend to learn about walking alongside one another in times of difficulty. Becky Oswald will lead sessions focusing on "The 11 Tenets of Companioning", as coined by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, along with Biblical components of each tenet. Get ready for a weekend of learning, growing closer in Christian love for one another, and participating in an incredible time of worship led by Kerry Bauer! Becky and Kerry are members at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aloha, OR.

For more information email Jan Oswald: janoswald@hotmail.com

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Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

# PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The family of Judy Blubaum, The family of Miki Etzel, The family of Audrey Bauch, The family of Brayson Pardue, Jim Eckart, Carol Hoefer, Jaden Saunders, Diana Laxton, Gina Kreps, Cindy Linnemann, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Alma Bangs, Randy Bryant's brother, Herb Reiniger's brother; Virginia Jacob's brother; Robert, Esperanza Gutierrez' mother; Antonia, \*Barbara Schrader, \*Kevin McInaney, \*Larry Hart, \*Mike Hatley, \*Lorraine Haggard, \*Carolyn Barendse, \*Home Bound.

\* If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821

#### PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821

## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE



## HUMAN CARE BOARD FOOD COLLECTION

Fall is here and we thank God daily for His many blessings.
Thanksgiving is only weeks away, and the Human Care Board will once again be collecting non-perishable food and grocery gift cards for SnowCap. We have all felt the sting of higher prices when we visit a grocery store. The food banks are feeling it, too,

as they try to feed more and more people. Pick up your colorful reusable grocery bag on the table as you leave church beginning Sunday, Oct. 29th through Sunday, Nov. 19th. Fill the bag and return with it on Wednesday, Nov. 22 for the Thanksgiving Eve worship. (if you cannot make it to the service

you may bring your bag and leave it in the conference room early.) If you pick up an extra item or two each week when you shop, by Thanksgiving Eve your bag will be full. This year let's fill the altar area with our offerings. Thank God for blessing us beyond measure!

SnowCap's list of most needed items includes hearty soups, chili, stew, canned fruits and vegetables, dessert mixes (cake, brownie, Jello), cooking oil, butter, sugar, coffee, pet food.

The Outreach Board will be the recipient of this year's Thanksgiving Eve offering unless you note otherwise on your monetary donation.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The kids learned about "The Good Samaritan" and how God loves each of us and is merciful. They had a chance to show love and mercy by making cards to send to our shut-in members which will be mailed out to them!





## **REFORMATION DAY**





### BAPTISM BLESSING



Antonio, Audrina and Teddy were all baptized on Sunday, Oct 15.

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Serving prayerfully, with love and joy, in Jesus' name

### **ALC Christmas Gathering ~ December 9, 2023**



Lutheran Women in Mission – We invite you to join us here at Ascension, in our Community Room, on Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to Noon. Bring a guest and an optional small Gift to exchange (White Elephant or \$5 to \$10 Maximum). We'll sing some Christmas Carols, get to know each other a little better, and have some fun!



2024 - SAVE THE DATE LWML Calendar Items:

June 21-22 ~ OREGON DISTRICT LWML 34<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION Living Savior Lutheran Church; 8740 SW Sagert Street, Tualatin, OR 97062



Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

A Look at Today and a Plan for Tomorrow

CANCELED: RESCHEDULING FOR A DATE TO BE DETIRMINED!



Nov. 28



# NOVEMBER Birthdays

Sherry Porath	Nov. 1.	Senai I. Lavadores	Nov. 5
Rick Vanover	Nov. 1.	Darlene Knoke	Nov. 7
Luke Arronson	Nov. 5.	Matt Ernst	Nov. 10
Daniel Reinert	Nov. 8.	Elliot Noonan	Nov. 10
Kaye Beaulieu	Nov. 11	Van Sooter	Nov. 13
Randy Schroeder	Nov. 14.	Ava Wentela	Nov. 14
Wyatt Brown	yatt Brown Nov. 25.		Nov. 15
Ava Wentela	Nov. 30.	Justin Zuriega	Nov. 15
Natalie Wentela	Nov. 30	Sean Ritchie	Nov. 17
		Gordon Strutz	Nov. 20
	IDED	KaiLeah Woods	Nov. 20

# NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Kevin and Merci McInaney	Nov. 7, 1987
Ty and Nichole Fogarty	Nov. 19, 2011
Joe and Wanda Cassetty	Nov. 24, 1990
Dave and Jan Oswald	Nov. 29, 1975

Mae Smith

Justin Zuriega

Nov. 15

Sean Ritchie

Rordon Strutz

Nov. 20

KaiLeah Woods

Antonio Brown

Jennifer Alvarado

Nov. 22

Don Tigges

Rebecca Williamson

Nov. 27

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in November! Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!

Heidi Lavadores

#### Set Clocks Back 1 Hour at Midnight! 1:00pm Judy Blubaum 1:00pm Audrey Bauch SATURDAY Memorial Memorial 12:00pm Miki Etzel Memorial 18 25 Ŧ 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Office open 10am to 1pm Familiar (Family Night) 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) Familiar (Family Night) Familiar (Family Night) 1:00pm Miki Etzel Inurnment Zion Memorial FRIDAY 9 24 17 Praise Team Praise Team Praise Team Praise Team THURSDAY THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED Choir Choir Choir 6:00pm 7:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 16 23 30 6 WEDNESDAY Thanksgiving Eve 2:00pm Crafting Fun! 6:00pm C-101-8 6:00pm C-101-6 6:00pm C-101-7 Service 7:00pm 15 29 22 œ 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Elder Meeting TUESDAY NEWSLETTER 2:00pm Ladies Bible Study OFFICE CLOSED ITEMS DUE 6:00pm 3:10 Group 4 28 7 6:00pm Altar Guild Mtg. 1:00pm Human Care OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY Board 13 20 27 9 Worship w/ Comm. Worship w/ Comm. 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 8:30am Worship w/Comm. Spanish Worship Worship Spanish Worship Spanish Worship Spanish Worship Education Hour Education Hour Education Hour Online Worship Education Hour Online Worship Online Worship Online Worship 19 Early Communion Early Communion 12 Late Communion 26 Late Communion SUNDAY w/ Comm w/ Comm 8:30am Worship Worship Worship Posted Posted Posted Posted 5:00pm 6:00pm 5:00pm 6:00pm 11:00am 11:00am 11:00am 9:45am 9:45am 8:30am 5:00pm 11:00am 9:45am 5:00pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 9:45am

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#### $RP \dashv \Gamma$ SAMOLI $OXM \rightarrow MMZO$ Oct. **WALLOC** <> T o∞m≲or 00> S⊞⊣≺г SPMJZ **NOVEMBER SERVANT SCHEDULE 2023** Acolyte: 8:30 8:30 8:30 11:00 8:30 Altar: 11:00 8:30 8:30 Counters: Bob and Elaina 11:00 11:00 **A** Marcus Young Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl 11:00 Bob Ritchie Elder: Flowers: Reader: Greeters: 11:00 John Hazen 8:30 Johnnie Driessner NEEDED Power Point: Jim Eckart 5 Communion Early Rose Cassetty Randy Schroeder NEEDED Wyatt Brown Laura Potter Karon Keup Margo Bachhuber Wendy Hazen Elizabeth Alvarado Frances Rippon Virginia Jacobs Ritchie Elder: 8:30 Altar: 8:30 8:30 ×: Marcus Young 8:30 11:00 8:30 11:00 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Christina Freeman 11:00 Rebecca Williamson 8:30 Taylor Osgood Stan Chapulis Counters: Dave and Jan Flowers: Margo Bachhuber 11:00 Julie Williamson Reader: Greeters: Power Point: 11:00 Laura Potter Bob Freeman Matthias McInaney 11:00 NEEDED Acolyte: James Freeman 12 Communion Late Sue Lewis Teresa Osgood Heather Gulde Riki Neagle Alex Hodges Herb Hoefer Randy Bryant Debbie Rekdahl Oswald Acolyte: 8:30 11:00 8:30 **Elder:** 8:30 8:30 Altar. **8:30** Carlyn State **11:00** J. E. Knox **A** Marcus Young Counters: Bonnie Webber Flowers: Reader: 11:00 Greeters: 11:00 NEEDED Power Point: 8:30 Debbie Rekdahl 11:00 NEEDED NEEDED 11:00 Bob Rekdahl Randy Schroeder Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Dan Parshall 19 Communion Early and Rebecca Williamson Carlyn Staudt Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard Norma Dillon Jean Dillon Dave Oswald Karon Keup Wendy Hazen 7:00 Debbie Rekdahl A/V: 7:00 J. E. Knox Elder: Counters: Karon Keup and Altar: Greeters: 7:00 Rosemary Knox Power Point: Ushers 7:00 NEEDED 23 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 Bob Rekdahl Sheryl Maier Margo Bachhuber Altar: AN: 8:30 Elder: 11:00 Peggy Hall 11:00 Celia Kreps 8:30 8:30 Evan Kreps 11:00 8:30 Bruce Blubaum 11:00 John Hazen Counters: Karon Keup and Reader: Greeters: 8:30 Wanda Cassetty Marcus Young Randy Schroeder 8:30 Lily Hodges Flowers: 11:00 Rosemary Knox Power Point: 11:00 J.E. Knox Eric Kreps Matthias McInaney Stan Chapulis Acolyte 26 Jim Eckart Sheryl Maier Stan Chapulis Carrie Graham Communion Late Bonnie Webber Sheryl Maier Karen Zahursky