

Cross Connection

Growing together

DECEMBER 2019



Cross Lutheran Church & School

200 Ruppert Street
Pigeon, MI 48755
989-453-3330

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www.crosslutherschool.org
Secretary
@crosslutheranpigeon.org

Our mission:

Bring people to Christ.

Teach Christians to be disciples.

Send disciples to reach the world.



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A popular saying goes, *“Red sky at night, sailors delight; red sky at morning, sailors take warning.”* This time-worn saying is similar to Matthew 16:2-3. ***He [Jesus] answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”*** We must admit that we have become self-proclaimed experts with predicting the outcome of events, such as the weather, sporting event scores, and elections to name just a few. We are assured that when a cer-

tain amount of time passes, we will be able to compare our predictions with the actual outcomes. Depending on the Season, we can become more ‘busy’ with things that we can see, and ignore the things of which we cannot see.

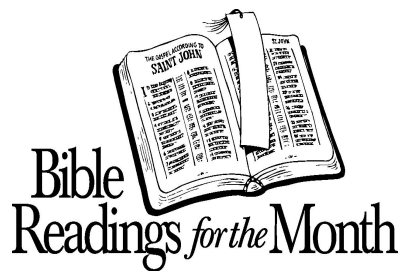
This time of year, the holiday shopping season can keep us ‘busy’ with temporary activities during four short weeks. The hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas Day is exciting, but after it is over, the thought of looking forward to months of cold weather can leave some feeling like a party balloon that has lost its helium.

At this same time of year, the Church observes the Season of Advent, which also keeps Christians actively engaged for four short weeks. Soon an Advent wreath will be displayed in the front

of the church sanctuary. Each week candles are sequentially lit as each of the four Advent Sundays arrive. As a new candle is lit at each worship service, it will begin to illuminate the way, becoming brighter and brighter. Each week, the message will help us to make ready; ***“Watch”, “Prepare”, “Rejoice”,*** and ***“Behold”.*** On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the white center candle is lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Once again in this new Season of Advent, we look forward to the coming of the Messiah; the baby Jesus. Matthew 1:23, ***“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”*** (which means, ***God with us***). Yes, the passing of the Season of Advent and Christmas Day can also seem to leave Christians with nothing ***(Cont. on Pg. 2)***

Preparing for Worship at Cross



Dec. 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 2:1-5
P – Psalm 122
2R – Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14
G – Matthew 24:36-44

Dec. 8– 2nd Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 11:1-10
P - Psalm 72:1-7

2R – Romans 15:4-13
G – Matthew 3:1-12

Dec.15– 3rd Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 35:1-10
P - Psalm 146
2R – James 5:7-11
G – Matthew 11:2-15

Dec. 22– 4th Sunday of Advent

1R - Isaiah 7:10-17
P—Psalm 24
2R – Romans 1:1-7
G – Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

1R - Isaiah 7:10-14

P—Psalm 110:1-4
2R—1 John 4:7-16
G—Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 25—Christmas Day

1R—Isaiah 52: 7-10
P—Psalm 2
2R—Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)
G—John 1:1-14 (15-18)

Dec. 29—1st Sunday After Christmas

1R—Isaiah 63:7-14
P—Psalm 111
2R—Galatians 4:4-7
G—Matthew 2:13-23

Choirs will practice on **Dec. 2nd & 9th only.**

Bells at 6:30 p.m. / Choir at 7:30 p.m.



to look forward to but a long stretch of cold and snow, but this first season of the Church is really making us ready; not for things that we can see, but for things which we cannot see.

The Season that instills faith, love, hope, and joy, Advent and Christmas reach out beyond the month of December to connect us with another promised unforeseen future event. It is making us ready to interpret the signs of the times; the promised return of Christ. No one cannot predict its exact time of arrival, but we don't

need to 'busy' ourselves with that. God is with us. God's Word never fails and it is by gathering together that we can see and hear Him. In Holy Communion and the proclaimed Word, Jesus Christ is with us.

Romans 5:1,
“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” In this upcoming season of trying to find personal satisfaction and peace in our busyness, come and hear the Word of the One who freely gives you His

peace.

Come to worship and watch as each Advent candle is lit. Come to be fed and nourished through God's Word and Holy Sacrament. Come and hear the wonderful story of the birth of our Savior. Come and let us together worship Christ, the newborn King.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel...God with us.

In Christ,

Pastor Glenn

Celebrate



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jordan Licht
- Denvyr Koroleski
- 3 Mark Trost
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 6 Troy Schuette
- 9 Neil Herford
- 10 Ryan Trost
- Arthur Hill
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 15 Roger Renn
- Kendal Delpiere
- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
- Maria Schumacher
- Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
- Kim Schadd
- 22 Donna Schuette
- 23 Bill Love
- 25 Jim Siewert
- 28 Janice Uhan
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- 31 Mitchell Schuette

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette, 44 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 38 years



FROM PRAISE & WORSHIP TEAM

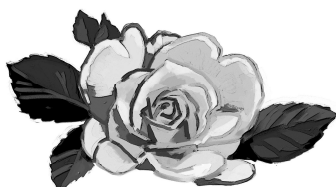
The next contemporary service is scheduled for **December 8th**. It will be an Advent service. This is a wonderful time of the year to prepare our hearts for Jesus coming at Christmas. We look forward to seeing you at our service and we wish everyone a blessed Happy Holiday Season!

Joyce Jarvis



Thank you to the people of Cross Lutheran Church and School for warmly welcoming us to Pigeon, Michigan. Your many words, acts, and gifts of kindness have been and continue to be a blessing during our transition to the 'Thumb'. As new members of the family of Cross Lutheran Church and School, we look forward to worshiping and working together – sharing the Gospel and serving our neighbor in Christ's name.

Blessings, Pastor Glenn and LuAnne Sokolowski



In Our Prayers

Remember our Shut-ins:

Fred Edler, Gloria Lewis, Elaine Licht, Ruth Schuette, Martin Knost, & Eunice Richmond.

Please Remember in Prayer:

Bill Gray (father of Lisa Gray), Allen Koehler Tiffany Swartzendruber, Mary Champion, sister of Betty Licht, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm,

Kim Edler (daughter-in-law of Gerry Edler), Clark Eidt, Elsie Trowbridge, Deann Lewis, Hope Kittel (niece of Carol Diener), Marilyn Blunt (mother of Laura Trost). Margaret McBride, and Robert Krzeszewski.

In the Service of Our Country:

Nathan Schulz stationed at Piqua, OH and Ryan Schulz who has been deployed. Both are Marines and sons of Lonnie Schulz and grandsons of Ron and Bonnie Schulz. Nicholas Swanson stationed at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. He is the son of Randy & Suzie Swanson and grandson of Nancy Schuette.

School News

DECEMBER CALENDAR



- 4 Chapel 8:15 am
- 5 CEA 4:45 pm
School Board 5:30 pm
- 8 Students sing in church
- 11 Chapel 8:15 am
- 13 CEA Christmas Fair
- 18 Chapel 8 a.m.
- 20 1/2 day of School
- 23 Christmas Break starts -
School resumes 1/6/20
- 24 Children's Program 6:30

From the Desk of Karn Brown..

Hello from the DK and Kindergarten classroom! We have been hard at work this fall in our room. We spent our first few weeks learning how to "do school." We spent a lot of time learning the procedures of walking the hallways, the playground and the lunchroom. We've moved well past that now and are currently working on letter names and sounds, counting and writing our numbers and letters. We also spend our day reading books, singing songs and

praying together. One of the most uplifting times of my day is listening to their sincere and heartfelt prayers. **"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 18:4) certainly rings true in our room!

We enjoyed a field trip to Leaman's Green Applebarn in October and are currently planning a walking field trip to the Pigeon IGA. We also love our every 3 weeks visit to the Pigeon Library. It's a great experience to get out of our classroom and explore our community.

As we enter into the frenzy of the Christmas season, I ask you to keep my classroom in prayer. **"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."** (Matthew 18:5).

Thank you for your continued prayers,
Karn Brown



1st QUARTER HONOR ROLL:

3rd Grade

Ethan Yackle*

4th Grade

Evan Braegger
Aubrey Curtis
Joshua Kuhl
Conner McLean
Julia Shupe

5th Grade

Preston Braun
Nicholas Rujan*
Zachary Trost

6th Grade

Anna Rochon
Mariam Shupe

8th Grade

Grace McLean
Ellie Rujan
Grace Shupe

* indicates all A's

December Time & Talents



Date & Time	Assisting Minister	Reader	Youth Message	Comm. Assist.	Ushers for the Month	Altar Guild	Acolyte
Dec. 1 9:30 a.m.	Karen Schuette	Phil Schadd	Eileen Johnson	Gwynne Barry	George Gardy, Neil Herford, Al Licht, Denny Smith, Larry Smith, John Trowbridge		Caden Carriveau
Dec. 8 9:30 a.m.	Gwynne Barry	Raylene Hinkelmann	Gwynne Barry				Grant Buchholz
Dec. 15 9:30 a.m.	Phil Schadd	Lori Smith	Leanne Smith	Karen Schuette			Caden Carriveau
Dec. 22 9:30 a.m.	Mike Sting	Jeanne Sting	Gwynne Barry	Carole Mead			Grant Buchholz
Dec. 24 10:00 p.m.	Mike Sting	Peg McCrimmon		John Trowbridge			Grace Shupe
Dec. 25 10:00 a.m.	Karen Schuette	Paul Schuette		Paul Schuette			
Dec. 29 9:30 a.m.	Gwynne Barry	Karen Schuette	Pastor Glenn	Karen Schuette			Zac Trost

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT A SUBSTITUTE. If unable to find anyone, please contact me at (989) 453-2744. Thanks and God's Blessings to you! Karen Schuette

USHERS PLEASE NOTE: Unlock doors, turn on lights, and sound system, then lock and turn off lights, etc. to close up the church. THANKS!



Women's & Men's Group Schedules

Women's Bible Study will NOT meet in December.

Men's Bible Study will be Tuesday, Dec. 3 & 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Jean Quilts will NOT meet in the month of December.

Women of Faith meet on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Church Council Minutes



CROSS LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The monthly meeting of the Cross Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Kent McKenzie at 7:15 pm. Members present were Kent McKenzie, Mike LePage, Pastor Glenn Sokolowski, Corey Messing, Nancy Schuette, Gretchen Roestel, Krisie Fritz and Barb Degg and Rachel Higgins. Guests were David Faupel and Sarah Brooks. Pastor Glenn Sokolowski opened the meeting in prayer and shared a devotional message.

AGENDA: The agenda was provided to all present. A motion was made by Gretchen Roestel to accept the agenda as provided, seconded by Barb Degg. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The Council Minutes dated October 8, 2019 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mike LePage to approve the minutes as presented. Krisie Fritz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS/ REQUESTS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed to all present. Motion was made by Nancy Schuette to approve the minutes as presented. Barb Degg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Glenn Sokolowski reported that the move into the parsonage went well and expressed thanks for the help that was provided. He reported that he has had a number of meetings with people of the congregation and is getting familiar with the routine and what is happening with the church and school. He has had 2 baptisms and another coming in January. Confirmation classes begin Dec 1, 2019 after the regular service. Details of the official installation are in place and Pastor Steven Hartten (Dean) will carry out the installation and provide the sermon on November 17, 2019.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

David Faupel reported that there has already been 1 school closing due to snow.

Students attended a robotics tournament in Ubyly on November 16, 2019 and Cross School will host a tournament on Friday,

Nov 22, 2019.

Sarah Brooks gave an update on the childcare center noting that 3 new staff members have been added for a total of 11 employees.

Current attendance is 7 infants, 9 toddlers, 10 all day preschool, 14 morning preschool and 4 children in the latchkey program.

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP: No Report

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Barb Degg corrected the previously reported date for the Christmas cantata for the community. The concert is scheduled for December 15th at 3:00 pm.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: No Report

MINISTRY OF MISSION OUT-REACH: Krisie Fritz reported that there had not been a monthly meeting due to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing that had taken place the previous week where 590 shoeboxes had been prepared for shipment.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH: No report

MINISTRY OF PARISH LIFE: Nancy Schuette submitted a written report.

MINISTRY OF PROPERTY: Corey Messing reported that the sealer

Council Minutes (Cont.)

had been applied to the outside walls by a work crew. Another coat can be applied in the Spring. He has LED lights on order and will be converting the gym lights to LED. Corey expressed thanks for the tremendous help that Paul Schuette has been in getting things accomplished.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Installation plans for Pastor Sokolowski are in place for November 17, a catered meal will be provided immediately following the service and a free will offering will be taken to defray the cost. Council members will meet at 8:30 am Sunday for set up in the gym.
- A permit for the new electronic sign will be secured in the upcoming week and the installation should take place within a few weeks.

Keeping in mind that a Congregational Budget Meeting is already scheduled for December 1, 2019 Mike LePage made a motion to have a brief special meeting beforehand to vote on replacing the ministry leaders on council with Trustees. Gretchen Roestel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion took place to work on leads to gather bids on snow removal from the sidewalks of the church and school. December 1, 2019 is the Congre-

gational Budget Meeting and February 9, 2020 is the Annual Meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of council will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Higgins



PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Parish Life met November 5th in the church overflow. Members present were Betty Grimaldi, Pam Sturm, Alice Trost, Paul Schuette and Nancy Schuette. We welcomed Pastor Glenn to our meeting.

Pam reported \$328.91 in our treasury after gift card expenses.

Women of Faith are now meeting the first Saturday of the

month, the next meeting will be December 7th at 10:00 a.m.

The Coffee hour schedule is filled until December 8th. Parish Life thanks everyone for all the support in this ministry. A new schedule for 2020 will soon be up, so please prayerfully consider signing up for next year or for one of the December Sundays.

We discussed Christmas Caroling and the pizza party before caroling. Caroling will be scheduled as soon as Christmas Eve program practices are finalized - probably Dec. 21 or 22.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Schuette, chairman



Memorials & Notes

Gifts & Memorials

These gifts were received to the glory of God in memory or honor of the following people:

In memory of Gloria Anderson, for Cross Lutheran School:

- James & Sheryl Butzine
- Edward & LaJean Nagrant
- Loraine Stear & Allan Charlton
- Jan Kirchgessner
- James & Marilyn Niskanen
- John & Marcia Roman
- Ingrid Anderson
- Dorothy Sundeck
- Gary & Nancy Hawald
- Rebecca Craig
- Richard & Kathleen Timmons
- Leonard & Jane Loveless
- Guy & Kathleen Periard
- Arlen & Judy Allender
- Jeffrey & Gloria Finken

In memory of Clarence Schadd, for Cross Building Fund:

- Keith & Theresa Windes
- Barbara Peterman

In memory of Beatrice Deering, for Cross Lutheran Church:

- Janet Schumacher



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will not meet in December and will resume in January. On Wednesday, January 8th from 1:30-3:30 we will be studying the story of Mary of Bethany with the focus on Wisdom. Readings are from Luke:10:38-42, John 11:1-44. and Proverbs 31:26-27. The Proverbs 31 woman this month will be Ruth Bell. We will be concluding this Study soon, so if you have a Bible study or ideas that you are interested in bring them. The invitation is open to all, come and join us! Questions call Leanne Smith 989-553-4241.



Coffee Hour

Not only can ministry groups sign up to host a coffee hour, anyone

can! You can earn funds for a student's tuition or donate the proceeds to the church general fund, school's tuition assistance fund, building fund, music fund, praise & worship team fund, capital improvement fund, cemetery fund, benevolence or LEAF fund.

The coffee hour you host can be simply juice, coffee and cookies, or you can offer up a feast of goodies. It's your choice! Just sign up on the Coffee Hour Chart in the Overflow area.



**December 22nd
1st day of Winter**

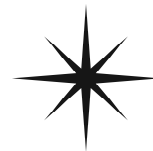
Advent Hope, Christmas Joy



A choral and handbell concert
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019
3:00 p.m.

Cross Lutheran Church
200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon, MI

Join us for a program of choral and
handbell music, carols and scripture.
A reception will follow.





Sunday, Dec. 1st	Communion Service @ 9:30 am
Sunday, Dec. 8th	Communion Service @ 9:30 am
Sunday, Dec. 15th	Communion Service @ 9:30 am Advent Hope, Christmas Joy Concert 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22nd	Communion Service @ 9:30 am
Tuesday, Dec. 24th	Children's Program @ Candlelight Service w/communion @ 10 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 25th	Communion Service @ 10 am
Sunday, Dec. 29th	Communion Service 9:30 am
Tuesday, Dec. 31st	NO SERVICE



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
FOR
Christmas



Children's Christmas Program December 24th @ 6:30 pm

Practice Dates:

- + Sunday, 12/1 during Sunday school
- + Sunday, 12/8 during Sunday school
- + Sunday, 12/15 during Sunday school
- + Sunday, 12/22 during Sunday school

The dress rehearsal will be on Monday,
December 23rd, at 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.



Children's Program

Please contact (text or call) Kristy Carriveau with any questions
at 989-553-3584.



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Advent 1 Comm. 1 Service 9:30 am SS 9 am Adult Bbl & Coffee Hr 10:45	2 Choir : Bells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	3 Worship & Music 3 pm Parish Life 5 pm Men's Bible 6:30 pm Mission/Outreach 6:30 pm	Chapel 4 8:15 am CEA Family Craft Night 5:30	5 Church Decorating at 9 am CEA 4:45 pm School Board 5:30 pm Praise Team 7 pm	6 Women of Faith 10-11 am Gym rented 2-7:00 pm	7
Advent 2 Praise & Worship 8 Service 9:30 am Students sing SS 9 am Adult Bbl & Coffee hr 10:45	9 Stewardship 5:30 pm Choir: Bells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	10 Executive 6 p.m. Council 7 p.m.	Chapel 11 8:15 am Quilters 1 pm	12 Praise Team 7 pm	13 CEA Christmas Fair	14
Advent 3 Comm. 15 Service 9:30 . SS 9 am Adult Bbl & Coffee Hr 10:45 Christmas Concert 3 p.m.	16	17 Men's Bible 6:30 pm	Christmas 18 Chapel 8:15 am	19 Praise Team 7 pm	20 1/2 day of school	21
Advent 4 Comm. 22 Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bbl & Coffee Hr 10:45	No 23 School Newsletter Deadline 9 am Dress Rehearsal for Children's Program 5:15-6:15 pm	Christmas 24 Eve Children's Program 6:30 pm Candlelight 10 p.m.	Christmas 25 Day Comm. Service 10 am	No 26 School Office 9-noon	No 27 School Office 9-noon	28
Comm. 29 Service 9:30 a.m.	No 30 School Office 9-noon	New 31 Year's Eve Office Closed				

Ministers - The People of Cross

Officers, Ministries & Committees

Pastor – Glenn Sokolowski
Music Director - Beth Elston

Church Council

Kent McKenzie, President
Gretchen Roestel, V P
Rachel Higgins, Secretary
Mike LePage, Treasurer
Gretchen Roestel, School Bd.
Corey Messing, Properties
Barb Degg, Worship & Music
Norm Nelson, Stewardship
Jean Sturm, Education
Tim & Michelle Fritz, Youth
Nancy Schuette, Parish Life
Krisie Fritz, Mission/Outreach

Advisors

Paul Schuette, Constitution Rep.

Ministry of Properties

Corey Messing, Chair
Mike Eden
Paul Schuette

Ministry of Worship & Music

Barb Degg, Chair
Peg McCrimmon
Beth Elston
Karen Schuette
Mike Sting

Ministry of Mission /

Outreach

Lorraine LePage, Chair
Krisie Fritz, Council Rep.
Connie Eden
Rachel Messing
Bonnie Schulz
Kay Schuette
Tonja Nelson
Lori Smith
Nancy Heck

Ministry of Stewardship

Norm Nelson, Chair
Carol Diener
Raylene Henkelmann
Paul Schuette
June Sturm
Cyndi Buchholz

Ministry of Education

Jean Sturm, Chair
Gretchen Roestel
June Sturm
Kim Delpiere

Ministry of Youth

Tim & Michelle Fritz, Chair

Ministry of Parish Life

Nancy Schuette, Chair
Betty Champagne
Pam Sturm
Alice Trost
Paul Schuette

Audit Committee

Mike LePage
Connie Herford
Bob Tate
Trevor Carriveau
Fred Henkelmann
Dorothy Thuemmel

Nominating Committee

Kim Delpiere
Brigid Trowbridge
Duane Peterson
George Gardy
Donna Schuette

Synod Assembly Rep—open

School Board

Gretchen Roestel, President
Vicki Yackle, Vice-President
Robbi Shaffer, Secretary
Nicole Shupe, Treasurer
April Rujan, CEA President

C.E.A

April Rujan-President
Lori Trost-Vice President
Marcine Moore -Secretary
Nicole Shupe -Treasurer

Handy Helper Ministry

Karen Anklam	551-8265
Marilyn Baur	550-8875
Patty Cucinello	453-3589
Barbara Degg	856-2678
Delores Elftman	453-2679
Pat Elston	453-2409
Carol Forster	375-2754
Vickie Forster	553-3875
Rachel Higgins	975-0668
Peggy Licht	975-1963
Lori McKenzie	553-3582
Marcine Moore	550-9405
Carol Schadd	550-5150
Donna Schuette	375-4328
Karen Schuette	453-2744
Nancy Schuette	453-3969
Bonnie Schulz	453-3116
Alice Trost	453-2279
Laura Trost	453-3209
Brigid Trowbridge	453-3990
Donna Wheeler	453-3712
Sheila Yackle	453-2589

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**Please let the office know of any changes to these Ministries and Committees.**

Updated 11/2019

(Officers, Ministries & Committees)