

## Growing Together

**March  
2025**

### **Cross Lutheran Church & School**

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

[www.crosslutheranpigeon.org](http://www.crosslutheranpigeon.org)  
[www.crosslutheranschool.org](http://www.crosslutheranschool.org)

Email:

secretary

[@crosslutheranpigeon.org](mailto:@crosslutheranpigeon.org)

### **Our mission:**

***Bring people to  
Christ.***

***Teach Christians  
to be disciples.***

***Send disciples to  
reach the world.***

.....

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## ***Listening for the Promise***

Weekly Devotional

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025

*“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.*

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.*

- Joel 2:12-13 -

**Lent**  
B E G I N S

As kids, my younger sister and I would often get into disagreements. There is a three-and-a-half-year age gap between my sister and me. So, it meant we could be heard bickering over some of the silliest arguments. When our voices got to a certain volume level, my mom or dad would intervene. It was escalating quickly, and it would most likely turn into a physical brawl rather quickly if measures weren't taken. So, Mom or Dad would break us up. Then they listened to both my sister and me grumble and complain as we tried to explain our side of the situation. After listening to both sides, our mom or dad would settle the dispute. “Theresa, tell your sister you're sorry.” I'd mumble “Sorry” while glaring at my sister. My sister would return the same apology with the same muttering and glaring. Mom or Dad would then tell us to go, play, and get along with one another. We'd stomp out of the room, no more reconciled than when we'd begun the argument.

My sister and I were not displaying true repentance or reconciliation. As an adult, I understand that reconciliation can't happen without truly feeling sorry and genuine repentance. In Bible days, people expressed sorrow by tearing (rending) their clothes. Everyone who saw them knew they were grieving. If someone wanted to demonstrate their repentance and sorrow over their sin, they would publicly tear their clothes. However, the outward display didn't always mean they were sincerely repentant in their heart. Much like when I muttered “I'm sorry” to my sister, it wasn't sincere. When we sin against God and others, God's Word insists outward sorrow isn't enough. We must mean it on the inside.

So, what is the appropriate response to sin? The spiritually proper response to sin is a rending of our hearts— seeing our sin as God sees it— and humbling ourselves in confession and repentance. “Return to the Lord your God,” Joel 2:13 reads, “for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger

and abounding in steadfast love.” Confession and repentance don’t restore our salvation, because Christ’s death on the cross settled that forever. Instead, they restore the relationship we enjoyed with God before sin interrupted our fellowship.

So, the next time we sin against God, may we pause to reflect on why we did it and how it affected God. Then, take a moment to pray, confessing your sin to God and asking for his forgiveness. Rend your heart, not your garment, because when you do, God’s steadfast love and patience will surround you in forgiveness and restoration.

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Please join us on Wednesday, March 5th  
at 6:30 pm for our Ash Wednesday Communion service  
as we start our journey thru Lent.

*“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return”*

*Genesis 3:19*

### Preparing for Worship

#### March 2 - Transfiguration

1R – Deuteronomy 34:1-12, P – Psalm 99, 2R – Hebrews 3:1-6, G – Luke 9:28-36

#### March 5 – Ash Wednesday

1R - Joel 2:12-19, P – Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19), 2R – 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10, G – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### March 9– First Sunday in Lent

1R - Deuteronomy 26:1-11, P - Psalm 91:1-13, 2R—Romans 10:8-13, G - Luke 4:1-13

#### March 16 - Second Sunday in Lent

1R - Jeremiah 26:8-15, P – Psalm 4, 2R – Philippians 3:17—4:1, G - Luke 13:31-35

#### March 23—Third Sunday in Lent

1R—Ezekiel 33:7-20, P—Psalm 85, 2R—1 Corinthians 10:1-13, G—Luke 13:1-9

#### March 30—Fourth Sunday in Lent

1R—Isaiah 12:1-6, P—Psalm 32, 2R—2 Corinthians 5:16-21, G—Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

# Celebrate

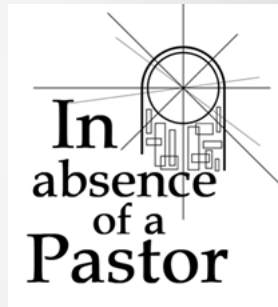


- 1 Robin Buschlen
- 3 Al Licht  
Maureen Reibling
- 4 Mark Fritz  
Larry Smith
- 5 Bonnie Schulz
- 6 Joshua Barry  
Peggy Licht  
Kevin Ohlrogge  
Robin Stack  
Avenia Thiel
- 7 Leanne Schuette  
Aaron Smith
- 8 Ben Smith  
Chad Sturm
- 12 Henry Lange Jr.
- 13 Joshua Kunisch
- 16 Kolton Smith  
Haidyn Krzeszewski
- 17 June Sturm
- 20 Jena Zimmerman  
Kyle Buchholz
- 21 Raylene Henkelmann
- 22 Alissa Peterson-Daoudiya
- 24 Emily Sturm
- 25 Emalee Fritz-Osantoski  
Wesley Trowbridge
- 26 Terry Collison
- 27 Nicholas Trost

Robin Krzeszewski  
 28 Lonnie Schulz  
 29 Jim Licht  
 30 Jeff Buchholz  
 Roberta Danks  
 Kobain Smith



3/16 Allen & Mary(Terry) Collison,  
40 years



In the absence of a pastor, these people can be contacted.

**Gwynne Barry**  
 989-551-2452  
[gwynnebarry@gmail.com](mailto:gwynnebarry@gmail.com)

**Phil Schadd**  
 989-553-6150  
[pschadd@gmail.com](mailto:pschadd@gmail.com)



## THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Dawn Hendricks, Steve Schulze, Bernice Shupe, Connie Eden, Beth Elston, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Mike Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerck, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Corey Messing, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis.

## CROSS CHURCH SHUT INS

Delores Lange, Vivian Buschlen, Dolores Elftman, Cordelia Trost, Margaret Edler, Roberta Danks, Mark Fritz, Carol Diener, Marvin Trost. Please keep them in your prayers.

## THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (US Air Force), Michael Cox (US Navy)

## From the Desk of...Nicole Shupe

Greetings from the 3rd-4th grade class!

This has been a wonderfully, wintery winter, but the school is abuzz with activities. Elementary girls and Jr. High basketball wrapped up at the end of February as the elementary boy games began.

Five members from the Jr. High band attended the Solo Ensemble hosted at Bad Axe School. Each being awarded a metal!!

### March Calendar

3/03 thru 3/07 Lutheran Schools Week

3/16 Students sing in church

3/28 End of 3rd grading period  
half day of school, dismiss at 11am

3/31 thru 4/04 NO School—Spring Break



Cross' robotics team, The Robros, will head to Monroe on March 9th, to participate in the State Robotics Tournament.

The Winter Dinner Auction also was a HUGE success!! We cannot thank those enough that organized and helped at the event. Thank you also to all who braved the winter storm to attend and bid on the items!

March is also the start to Reading Month. The classrooms will be setting reading goals to send Bible stories to Haiti. By reaching their goal for the week the children will be able to send a Bible story book and devotional materials to the Haitian families in their native languages of Haitian Creole and French. This is an amazing opportunity for our children to reach other children spreading the word of God.



Please continue to pray for our school to grow our roots deeper in Christ!





**In memory of Inez Allen Koehler, for Lutheran School:**

Cordelia Trost

**In memory of Fred Henkelmann, for Cross Lutheran Church:**

Linda Fietzer

**In memory of Fred Henkelmann, for Cross Organ fund:**

Delores Lange  
Janet Steinberger  
Neil & Connie Herford  
Norm & Tonja Nelson

**In memory of Alice Trost, for Cross Lutheran School:**

Cordelia Trost  
Huron Castings Crew  
Frances Engelhardt  
Donna Schuette  
Peggy Hellwig  
Brian & Brenda Particka  
Leonard & Ron Wing  
Carl & Marla Heck  
Myrna Born  
Randy Schulze  
Charles & Gloria Staroska  
Denny & Leanne Smith  
Jeff & Kay Meharg  
Dave & Deb Armbruster  
Wisneski Farms  
Randy & Lorna Baur  
Nancy Schuette, James & John  
Margaret Edler  
LouAnn Trost

**In memory of Alice Trost, for Cross Building fund:**

Bonnie Schulz  
Krisie Fritz  
Dorothy Thuemmel

**In memory of Alice Trost, for Cross Lutheran Church:**

Ken & Janet Rink  
Todd & Carol Poppy  
Dane Niebel  
Cindy & Rudy Siemen  
Kevin & Debbie Ohlrogge  
Charles Buchholz  
Richard Koehler  
Sebewaing Class of 1962  
Shirley Deering  
Karen Anklaam  
Henry & Barb Trost  
Peter Shupe & Grace  
Doug & Michelle Richmond  
Elaine Trost  
Brink's Transfer

**In memory of Alice Trost for Cross Organ fund:**

Dave & Peg McCrimmon  
Delores Lange

**In memory of Alice Trost, for Cross Cemetery fund:**

Ron & Cherilyn Diebel

**In memory of Alice Trost, for Cross Hot Lunch:**

Kay Schuette  
Norm & Tonja Nelson  
Kenneth Schulze  
Brian & Arlene Hass  
Mike & Jeanne Sting  
Kristie Steele  
Tim & Shirley Schuette  
Don & Jo Wehrman  
John, Katie & Emily House  
Rick & Tracy Conquergood  
Bob & Eileen Johnson  
Anonymous donor

**In memory of Jeff Trost, for Cross Building fund:**

Bruce Baur

**In memory of Jeff Trost, for Cross Organ fund:**

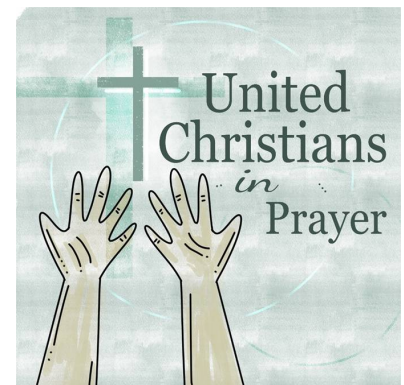
Dave & Peg McCrimmon

**In memory of Joan Gebauer, for Cross Lutheran ASchool:**

Kent Renn

**In memory of Susan Taschner, for Cross Building fund:**

Nancy Schuette & family



**World Day of Prayer Service**

will be at

Cross Lutheran Church

On March 2, 2025

At 3:00 pm

Refreshments and fellowship  
following the service!

# CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday 2-11-2025

**Attending:** John Smith, Dick Koehler, Al Licht, Norm Nelson, John Trowbridge, Nancy Schuette, John House, Kim Delpiere

**Absent:** [Kim Sears, Kim Fritz, Kevin Stachowiak, Peter Shupe](#)

**Guests:** Phil Schadd, David Faupel

**Opening Prayer / Devotional** – President John Smith: Meeting opened at 7:02PM with a reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy and a prayer.

**Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda made by John House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Norm Nelson, Motion passed.

**Approval of Council Meeting minutes from January with corrections of Christmas Eve service changes (instead of New Years Eve) - Motion to approve amended minutes made by Al Licht, 2<sup>nd</sup> John House, Motion passed.**

**President Report** - \$485 donations for NALC Disaster Relief collected after church services; shut-in visitations ongoing.

**Principal Report: David Faupel**

- Profit from CEA Winter Dinner Auction estimated to be \$47,000
- One of the robotics teams qualified for the State Championship.
- Custodial Assistant (Deb Lange) has been selected. **Motion to hire Deb at \$15.00 / hour with an estimated 15 hours per week, made by Nancy Schuette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Koehler. Motion passed.**

**Early Childhood Center** – No report received

**School Board – Dick Koehler** No meeting this month. **Motion to appoint Rebecca Yackle as School Board Secretary for a 1-year term made by Dick Koehler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Licht. Motion passed.**

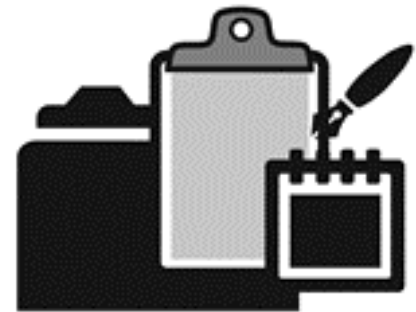
**Secretary** – no known communications.

**Treasurer – Kim Sears** – Phil Schadd gave the monthly report. Income was \$5,287 over budget for the month. **Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Al Licht, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Schuette. Motion passed.** Discussion on adding two people as authorized signers for the parsonage loan. Will table this item until next month.

**Properties – Al Licht** – Council will request additional members for the properties committee. Al Licht would be willing to be the first contact for any repair requests on an interim basis.

**Music – John House** Will implement communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays on a permanent basis, starting in Lent.

**Stewardship - Norm Nelson** Written year-to-date offering report provided.



Church Council  
Minutes

(Continued on page 7)

**Mission Outreach: - Nancy Schuette** - Cards sent to shut-ins. Outreach will host a few coffee hours. Garage sale week will be June 7<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Cross will be hosting the World Prayer Day for Pigeon on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00PM. Mission Outreach would like to request that another group coordinate the Poinsettia sales. Council will ask the Altar Guild to see if they could help.

**Parish life: - Nancy Schuette – Motion made by John Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Schuette to have Church council will host coffee hour on March 30th. Motion passed.**

**Youth – Written report provided** – Open Gym will continue through February. FAT Tuesday will be March 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00PM. Vacation Bible School will be June 16-19. All congregations are welcome to send children to VBS at Cross.

**Education** – Bible study is held on Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

### **Old business**

- Screens for the worship service are up and running again. Sign-up sheet passed around for volunteers to run it each Sunday.
- New council members / church leaders will be installed on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at the worship service.
- Health insurance for the principal – David Faupel proposed a health care plan that would lower the cost to the church by using Samaritan's Ministries. The monthly fee paid to Samaritan's Ministries would be \$665.00 for family coverage. **Motion made by John Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Koehler to rescind the January vote on the health insurance and accept the Samaritan's Ministries plan with the church to pay for David's out-of-pocket cost up to a total annual cost (monthly fee + out-of-pocket costs) of \$15,000. Motion passed.**

### **New Business –**

- Thank you to outgoing council members and newly elected members. Guidelines for council positions will be issued.
- Discussed requests from area churches to use Cross facilities to host Lenten Services, Easter breakfasts and community funerals. Council agreed that due to church staffing and logistical issues with the school that this is not feasible at this time.

**Motion made by John House, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Koehler to adjourn, Motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:03PM.**

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00PM.

Submitted by Phil Schadd.

## Mission Outreach Ministry

February 5, 2025

The meeting of Mission Outreach was called to order by President Krisie Fritz. Those in attendance were Krisie Fritz, Tonja Nelson, Sandie Haley, Lori Smith, Kim Delpiere, Maureen Reibling and Trustee Nancy Schuette. A prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was handed out and read. A motion was made by Krisie and seconded by Maureen to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

There was no treasurer's report, but Lori stated she purchased cards and stamps with money from our last coffee hour.

Coffee hour was discussed. The group agreed to have it on February 23 and March 23. Lori, Tonja and Maureen will bring snacks on February 23 and Kim, Krisie and Sandie will bring on March 23.

The World Day of Prayer was discussed. It will be held at Cross Lutheran church on March 2, at 3 pm. A motion by Kim was made to purchase cookies and crackers for coffee hour after this service, paid for by our group. Maureen volunteered to pick up the cookies and crackers. The motion was seconded by Krisie, motion carried. Krisie, Lori and Nancy agreed to serve. Coffee and lemonade will also be served.

On March 23, Kevin Ohlrogge will be speaking at Cross Lutheran Church and will be telling us about his mission trip to Haiti and what the group did there. Our money from our coffee hour will be designated to his future mission work.

The card ministry was discussed. Lori will be sending out Valentine cards to our shut-ins. She will also continue to send out cards to people who she hears are sick, in the hospital, or just need to know they are being thought about. Let her know if you hear of anyone who could use some cheer by receiving a card.

The garage sale was discussed. Kim made a motion and Sandie seconded it to have the sale. Motion was accepted. The date has been set for June 6-14, 2025, with June 6 set up day, June 7-10 collection and organizing, June 11 pricing and June 12-14 sale days. Please consider helping with this.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 5 at 1 pm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Nelson





Do you remember the mystery word from the game show format of the Christmas program “In One Word”? It was only two months ago, yet how soon we forget. It is easier to remember the commercials or the camel walking down the aisle because we laughed and were entertained. Well, the word was SAVED. A word that describes believers no matter the season. We sing joyfully in the Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

As we enter the season of Lent, our focus changes from the birth of Jesus to His journey to the cross. Our songs may not sound so joy-filled, but I challenge you to reflect on the words. Listen to the intensity of the scripture readings. Lent is different. The good news is that the word of Christmas is the same for Lent...SAVED. It is also true for Advent, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost! We are SAVED.

Lutheran churches follow a liturgical calendar. We have seasons. Each of us has a personal favorite I’m sure, just as each of us has a favorite season of the year. Having a snowy and cold winter will help us appreciate the temps of summer. Each season of the year gives us reason to appreciate another. Living in Michigan certainly gives us those opportunities! Having seasons in our church year also gives us an opportunity to appreciate each one. Lent is a time of reflection. It was never my favorite as a child, I admit. I like “ALLELUIA” songs. But those “ALLELUIA” songs certainly hold a deeper appreciation after Lent and I recognized that as I grew.

During this Lenten season, take time to do something different. The youth are again going to kick off the season with a FAT Tuesday event on March 4 from 4:30 - 6:00 P.M. There will be calendars available to all families with activities to do during the season of Lent. Anyone is welcome to take a calendar...they are not just for children. Another idea would be to choose someone in our church/school family to intentionally pray for during Lent. Whatever you choose to do, remember you are SAVED. Live like it.

No matter the season, we are SAVED through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is God’s gift to us. As sinners, it is certainly not something we deserve. Celebrate His deep love for us no matter the season.

In His love and service,  
Gwynne Barry

# Fish Fry



**Friday,  
April 11, 2025  
5 to 7 p.m.**

Meals include Fish, Baked Potato or Fries,  
Beans, Roll, Cole Slaw and Homemade  
Desserts

**All meals are \$15**

## **Cross Lutheran Church**

200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon

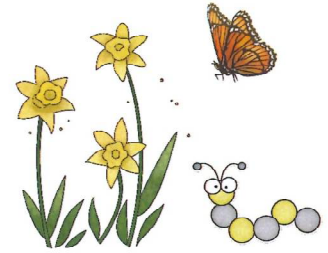
This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event.

Proceeds will support Cross Lutheran Church  
and School.

**Dine in or  
Take outs  
Available!**



# March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Lutheran Schools Week</b> <b>March 3-7</b>						<b>1</b>
Comm.Serv. 9:30 am <b>2</b> SS 8:45 am  United Christians in Prayer Service @ 3 pm	<b>3</b>	Worship & Music <b>4</b> 3 pm  Youth Fat Tuesday 4:30 - 6 pm	Ash Wednesday <b>5</b> Chapel 8:05 am  Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 w/communion	<b>6</b>  CEA 4 pm School Board 5:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Worship Serv. 9:30 am <b>9</b> SS 8:45 am  Daylight Savings Time begins	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  CLECC 3 pm Council 7 pm	Chapel <b>12</b> 8:05 am  Bible Study 6 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Worship Serv. 9:30 am <b>16</b> SS 8:45 am  Students sing	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	Chapel <b>19</b> 8:05 am  Bible Study 6 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Worship Serv. 9:30 am <b>23</b> SS 8:45 am	<b>24</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>25</b>	Chapel <b>26</b> 8:05 am  Bible Study 6 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  End of 3rd grading period 1/2 day of school dismiss at 11 am	<b>29</b>  
Worship Serv. 9:30 am <b>30</b> SS 8:45 am	<b>31</b> NO School Spring Break					

## **Officers, Ministries & Committees**

**Pastor** – Vacant

**Music Director** - Beth Elston

### **Church Council**

John Smith, President

Kevin Stachowiak, VP

Kim Fritz, Secretary

Kim Sears, Treasurer

John Trowbridge, Trustee

(Worship & Music)

Peter Shupe, Trustee

(Stewardship)

Kim Delpiere, Trustee

(Parish Life & Mission/Outreach)

Alan Licht, Trustee

(Property)

Joshua Barry, Trustee

(Youth/Education)

### **Ministry of Properties**

Mike Sting, Chair

Matt Zimmerman

Paul Schuette

Pat Azarovitz

### **Ministry of Worship & Music**

Karen Schuette, Chair

John House

Peg McCrimmon

Beth Elston

Mike Sting

Barb Degg

### **Ministry of Mission / Outreach**

Krisie Fritz

Connie Eden

Kay Schuette

Tonja Nelson

Sandie Haley

Lorraine LePage

Lori Smith

Kim Delpiere

Maureen Reibling

### **Ministry of Stewardship**

Norm Nelson, Chair

Carol Diener

June Sturm

Cindy Buchholz

Karen Anklam

Linda Fietzer

### **Ministry of Education/Youth**

Gwynne Barry, Chair

Jean Sturm

June Sturm

Kim Delpiere

### **Ministry of Parish Life**

Nancy Schuette, Chair

Pam Sturm

Paul Schuette

Dawn Hendricks

### **Cemetery**

Steve Schutze

Kevin Trost

Lonnie Schulz

Matt Zimmerman

### **Audit Committee**

Misty Rogers

Tim Fritz

James Schuette

Peg McCrimmon

Trevor Cariveau

Nancy Heck

### **Nominating Committee**

Brigid Trowbridge

Erica King

Phil Schadd

Karen Schuette

Michelle Walsh

open

### **School Board**

Kevin Stachowiak, President

Eileen Johnson, Vice-President

Rebecca Yackle, Secretary

Rita Herford, nonmember rep

Nicole Licht, CEA Treasurer

Katie Wilson, CEA Rep.

### **CEA/PTO**

Lindsay Stachowiak-President

Katie Wilson-Vice Pres.

Ashley Shetler -Secretary

Nicole Licht –Treasurer

### **Childcare Board**

Mike LePage

Shannon McCain

Michelle Walsh

Erica King

Nancy Heck

Amber Wise

### **Handy Helper Ministry**

Karen Anklam 551-8265

Patty Cucinello 453-3589

Barbara Degg 856-2678

Delores Elftman 453-2679

Pat Elston 453-2409

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

Laura Trost 453-3209

Brigid Trowbridge 453-3990

Donna Wheeler 453-3712

Sheila Yackle 453-2589

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

*Updated 2/10/25*

*(Officers, Ministries & Committees)*