



ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, www.spvc.org

December 2016 – January 2017

The best part of Christmas is ...

(write your answer here in the box)

What is the best part of Christmas for you? Will you share your favorite part of Christmas with your brothers and sisters in Christ this Christmas?

Here's what you do: as you walk toward the church you'll find a large piece of white paper on the wall and some markers. Take a moment and write what you think "The Best Part of Christmas" is. Sketch a picture, post a photograph, tell a little story, or give the title of a book, movie, or song that makes your celebration of Christmas just perfect. It'll be fun to see what we have in common, and what makes each family unique.

Every family has their traditions: certain decorations go certain places (no matter how ugly they may be); certain carols must be sung or it just doesn't feel like we've had Christmas; a particular recipe will be cooked/baked and shared with friends and neighbors; kids will hope for a particular gift to be waiting for them under the tree; and the children will dress as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, and Joseph while they recite the familiar account of the birth of Jesus.

There is a lot that goes into our yearly celebration of Christmas. So much so, that it's easy to lose sight of what we are really celebrating. Our jumbled emotions of joy and melancholy will give us pause to wonder why Christmas evokes so many memories and feelings.

My guess is that the traditions that make celebrating Christmas special to you are grounded in something to do with the birth of Jesus. The carols sing of Jesus' birth and the various characters who heard and experienced that good news. The lights we hang recall the star that led the wise men to Jesus who is the Light of the World. Many treats we enjoy sprang from earlier celebrations of Jesus life (like the candy cane or chocolate gold coins for St. Nicholas day). The trees that grow in our living rooms that hang with the fruitful work of children's hands remind us that there is always life and growth with God and that the way to the tree of life is open again because of Jesus. There are lots more!

Mark your calendar for the many events that we will enjoy this December: from the Christmas Tea, and Midweek Advent Services, all the way to our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Each of these events will explore some of these "best" parts of Christmas.

Make special note of the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18, 10:30am. The children will explore "The Best Part of Christmas" and discover what we are really celebrating. Their songs and stories will warm your heart and rejoice your spirit as we head toward December 25 and celebrate the birth of Jesus who has brought peace on earth and God's goodwill to you. Maybe that's the best part of Christmas of all.

In Christ,
Pastor Zielinski



Family

Decorations

Music

**THE BEST
PART OF
CHRISTMAS**

Presents

Kids' Program

Christ

**WEDNESDAYS
IN
ADVENT**

**11:30AM
&
7:00PM**

**NOVEMBER 30
DECEMBER 7
DECEMBER 14**

**CHRISTMAS TEA
DECEMBER 3
3:30PM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM
DECEMBER 18
10:30AM**

CHRISTMAS EVE **4PM & 7PM**
*3:30pm & 6:30pm
Carols by request*

CHRISTMAS DAY
& New Year's Day

10AM
*One Service
on Sunday*



GOOD SHEPHERD INSTITUTE 2016

The Worship Committee was pleased to attend a yearly worship conference--The Good Shepherd Institute-- at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. What follows are their notes of thanks as well as their reflections on what they learned and how valuable the conference was.

As we work hard to plan the songs and services of the congregation, we are equally joyful to have the opportunity to lead the congregation into God's gifts as pray, praise, and give thanks to Him for all His blessings to us.

The Worship Committee:

Kathy Fargo, Ray Miller, Karen Myers, David Spry, and Pastor Zielinski

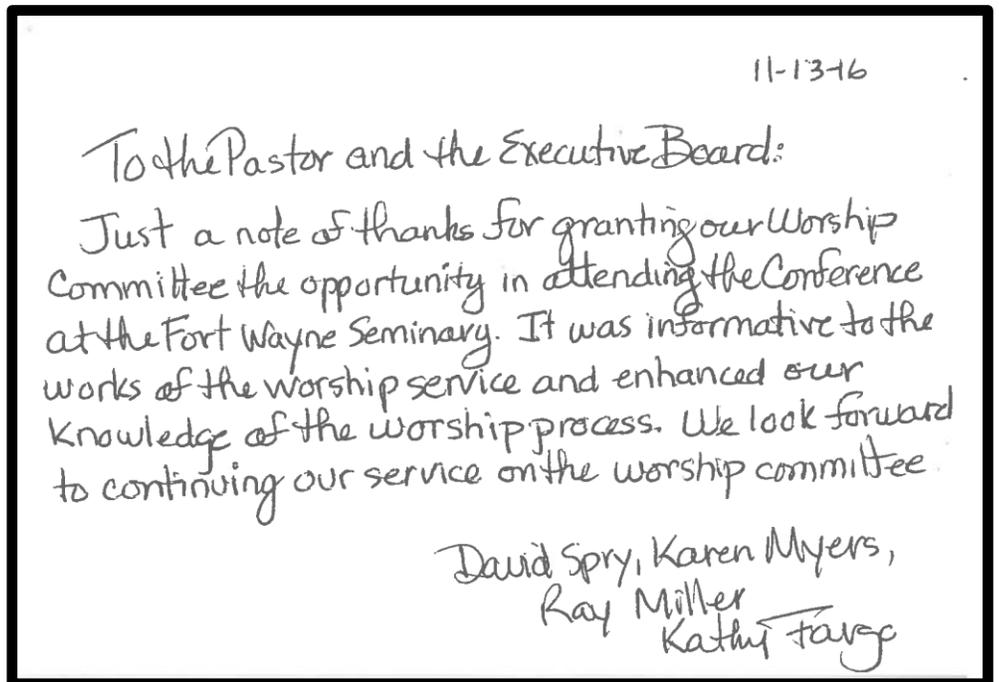
Our Worship Committee was granted the privilege to attend this year's conference held at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The conference was titled, "Lutheran Service Book at Ten Years".

As a member of the Worship Committee, I viewed this as an opportunity to learn the history of the Lutheran Hymnal and what's planned for the future, the components of the service and its applications we use today in planning a service of worship.

The speakers were pastors, professors, kantors, and a senior editor of

CPH. There were daily chapel services and music recitals. The recitals included an organ recital, a saxophone and piano duet, and singing (by a children's choir and also by the Seminary Kantorei). Such beautiful music!

Here are the things I learned about our hymnal: 1). the hymnal is a symbol of what we believe/teach/and confess. Our hymnal, the Lutheran Service Book, celebrates a 10-year anniversary. About 85% of the Lutheran congregations use this book. There are still 15% of congregations that use The Lutheran Hymnal, which celebrates 75 years of service. 2). It was interesting to learn the process of putting together the hymnal. It took years of planning, research, and organization. There are 161 new hymns in the LSB. Some of the language was updated to fit with the language of today. 3). I learned the history of the Canticles, their use in

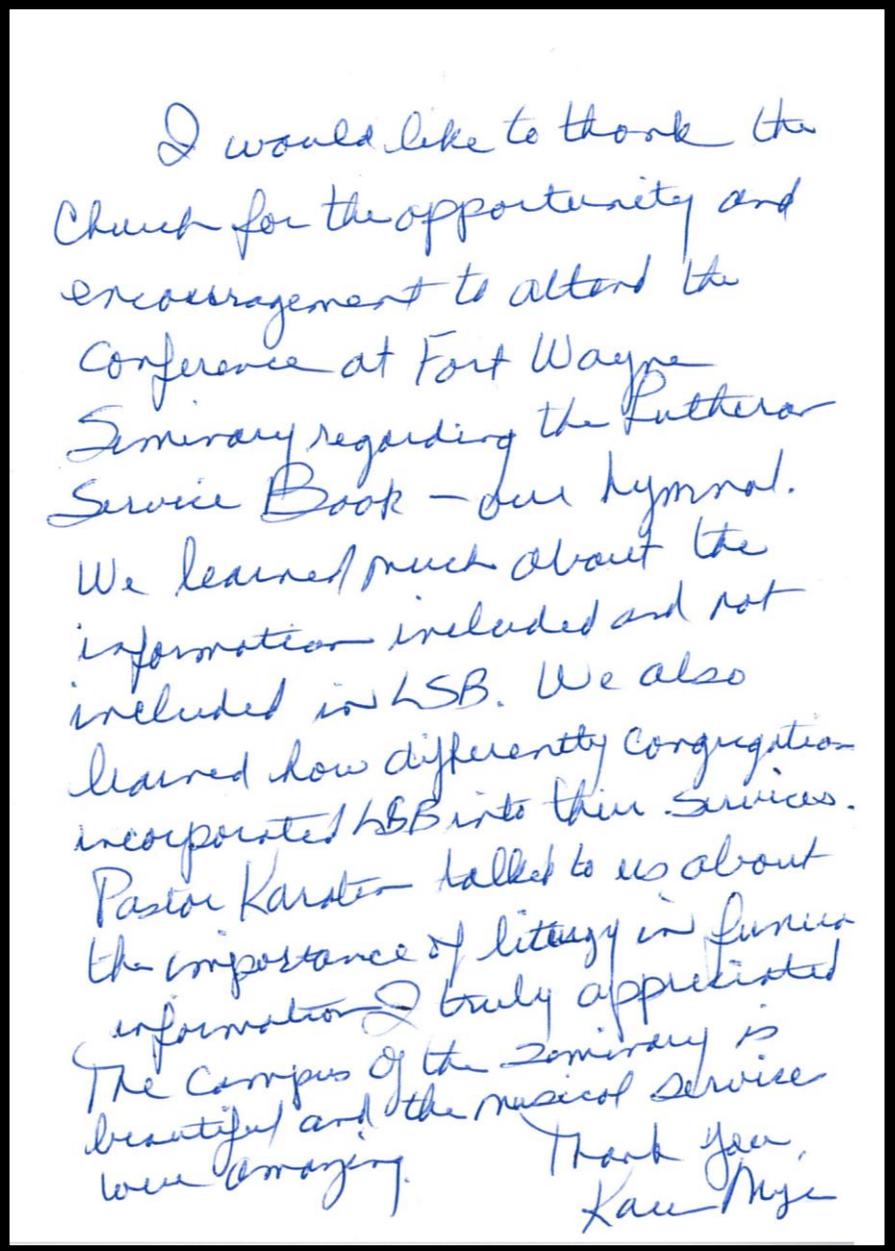


specific times of the church year, and when/where to use them in the planning of the service. 4). The hymns we select help tie into the readings of the day and also to the context of the sermon (and this is what we have been doing in our committee work).

Lastly, what are the plans for the future? At present, there is work being done not on another hymnal, but on a supplement called the LSB Companion. It will provide a bio history on each hymn (date, author, text, and the use of the tune). It's projected completion date is 2018.

To all the pastors, kantors, editors who give of their time, hard work, and dedication to this project—we give thanks to God, for all you. I also am grateful for the opportunity to have attended this conference of learning and witnessing this history in the making.

Kathy Fargo

A handwritten note in blue ink on a white background, enclosed in a black rectangular border. The text is written in a cursive style and expresses gratitude for attending a conference at Fort Wayne Seminary regarding the Lutheran Service Book (LSB). The note mentions learning about the information included and not included in the LSB, and how different congregations incorporate it into their services. It also mentions Pastor Karsten's talk about the importance of liturgy and the author's appreciation for the seminary's campus and musical services.

I would like to thank the Church for the opportunity and encouragement to attend the conference at Fort Wayne Seminary regarding the Lutheran Service Book - our hymnal. We learned much about the information included and not included in LSB. We also learned how differently congregations incorporated LSB into their services. Pastor Karsten talked to us about the importance of liturgy in Lutheranism. The information I truly appreciated. The campus of the Seminary is beautiful and the musical service were amazing. Thank you, Kathy Fargo

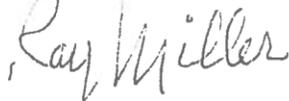
Good Shepherd Institute 2016

I have been very blessed to be able to attend the Good Shepherd Institute again this year. My first experience was in 2014. Both times have been extremely rewarding and enriching for me. Meeting other Lutherans from all over the country and the world was truly an amazing experience as we all gathered to learn, worship and celebrate our heritage. The corporate worship services, workshops and lectures have all left me feeling positively renewed and refreshed.

The Good Shepherd Institute has been an invaluable resource to help and enable us to maintain the high standards of worship for which we always strive.

I am very grateful to have been able to attend and thank all those who made it possible.

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Miller".

Ray Miller

LWML

You are invited to the LWML **Family Christmas Tea** on Sunday **December 4 at 3:30 PM**. This special time of worship, fellowship, entertainment and refreshments has become a tradition at St. Paul. Please join us as Pastor Zielinski leads us in worship, Ray Miller and Hal Lissow share their musical talents, Jeremy Jackson and Pastor Don Poest give us insight what it is like to live with a disability, and partake in the delicious spread of bakery and sweets afterward. Also, each attendee will be given an embroidered angel especially made for this year's Tea by Denice Horton.



LWML thanks the 2016 officers for their service and look forward to the leadership of our 2017 officers: Outgoing officers include Sandy Turner, Ethel Schiemann, and "Charlie" Djordjevic. 2017 officers are: President: Diane Johnson, Recording Secretary: Margit Gery, Treasurer: Jean Wadle, Chaplin: Kathy Fargo, Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Rauhaus

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Food Pantry. Fourteen people/ families were given Thanksgiving food and we will prepare Christmas baskets for others also. Judy Renz will be managing the Food Pantry in 2017. The food items and monetary donations are amazing. Food can be placed in the food pantry and monetary donations given to Judy Renz or any LWML officer. St. Paul is such a generous congregation! The Food Pantry is open the third Sat. of the month to the community. We hand out bulletins and religious materials to those from outside St. Paul.

Thank you for all the items you donate each month. Whether it be stamps, box tops for education, eye glasses or magazines for the prison ministry, your donations are appreciated. Judy Scaife faithfully takes donated magazines, books and religious tracts to prisons and juvenile hall. Norma Rankin is in charge of the stamps, box tops and eye glasses this year. Thanks to all!

Looking for LWML information? Stop by the LWML bulletin boards that will be maintained and updated by Ethel Schiemann this year.

The 2017 officers will be meeting to set up the calendar and activities for 2017 in December. The Tea will be our December activity so there will be no "monthly meeting". The 2017 officers will be inducted after the Christmas Tea.

Diane Johnson,
LWML President-elect for 2017

LWML Lorain – Medina Zone

Our group met on Sat., Nov 12th and began plans for 2017. The Prayer Service is scheduled for March 5th at Bethany, Wellington. Plans were presented for other activities through the year. We will have a zone meeting on Sat. April 1st to finalize and tweak the activities.

We have been blessed with our 2016 activities and ingatherings. We were able to collect knitted squares which were made into a blankets for the homeless, eyeglasses, health supplies, clothes for Trinity Lutheran, toys and wrapping paper for HARP.

Thanks is extended to all for these bounties and for the mite collection throughout the year. Through mites we are able to support mission work voted on by our LWML Ohio District delegates. LWML Ohio District tithes 25% of all the donated mites collected for their national missions throughout the world. So our mite door collections are quite mighty.

Ethel Schiemann

QUILTING



Figure 1 Quilters: Norma Rankin, Hlly Bennis, Jeanette Rafter and Judy Renz

The Quilters have been busy! We have 13 quilts to donate this Christmas season with several more in various stages of completion! Jeanette Rafter has secured a Thrivent Action Grant for our "Quilts of Many Colors" project. This Grant will allow us to purchase batting and fabric to back many of the quilts in progress. Thank you Jeanette and Thrivent! Thank you to everyone who has donated fabric also. If you have cotton fabric that could be used for quilting, you can leave it in the food pantry. Although Quilters will take the month of December off, we will meet the third Wednesday of January at noon, (Jan. 18). There is an open invitation to join us for stitching and fellowship. Just bring scissors!

EVANGELISM

The Wiggle Bags are being changed to Christmas activities - Christmas books, paper, and stickers through January. These bags have been appreciated by the parents of "energetic" young children.

Don't forget the "free" Christmas cards at the Welcome Center. They are mixed, religious and secular, in packets of twelve. Please take them for your own use or share them with others. Thank you to those who have donated these cards.

The Card Ministry continues with the dedication of Carol Hesketh, Dianne Holland, Diane Johnson, Karen Myers, Norma Rankin, Marilyn Rauhaus, and Carole Zwingelberg. Greeting cards are sent monthly to church members on special occasions. Thank you, ladies! It is very heartwarming to hear of the enjoyment of members when they receive these cards in their mailboxes.

Visitor Packets are always available at the Welcome Center. Feel free to share these with a family who is visiting our Sunday School and worship services. Included in these packets is church information, pen, and a bookmark.

The bulletin board in the narthex continues to display news articles and pictures of the activities of our members, both adults and youth. These activities are also mentioned in the Sunday bulletin. These activities will continue during 2017. Prayerfully, consider volunteering to help in any of the above areas that may be of interest to you. Please speak to Marilyn Rauhaus or Cindy Hawke.

TRUSTEE

As we move into the winter months, the Trustees have been assessing several HVAC and insulation alternatives to help with reducing utility costs, improving air circulation in both the inside buildings and attic areas, and eliminating any roof leaks as a result of ice dams over the winter.

We have been getting a number of expert alternatives to accomplish the above goals and we will keep all members informed of the best solutions with the most payback. For those members who meet during the week, please be sure to turn down the thermostat when leaving and make sure all lights are turned off.

Snow plowing arrangements and salting of the parking lots are in effect for the next few months. As always, please exercise caution when walking through the parking lots. We hope the younger members will remember to leave the spaces near the church door open for those senior members who would appreciate a closer parking spot.

At the recommendation of the IT Committee, a new sound board for the audio/visual needs we have at St. Paul is being evaluated for purchase. The old equipment (10 years) has various limitations and recently has encountered a number of problems. The new sound board will fit into our existing rack and will provide for better audio reception. The various microphones at the lectern, pulpit, sanctuary will have better control for recording and broadcast through the sanctuary and hall. This will also improve the level of hearing impaired devices now used by our members.

Don't forget to turn off the lights before you leave Church!

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Please begin to look in your church mailbox for our 2017 Offering Envelopes December 11th. If you do not have envelopes this year and would like to have them for 2017 please see me or leave a note in the office. Please do not use the new envelopes until January 1st!

At the Voters Meeting I mentioned all monies for 2016 need to be in before December 31st. I am going to amend that. If you wish a contribution applied to the 2016 tax year, you may place it in the January 1st offering. But you need to use a 2016 envelope and if using a check, date it 2016.

Your annual offering statements will be in mailboxes by mid-January, or via email if that is preferred. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year. Thank you, Dianne Holland

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A huge “thank you” to **Don Gotsch**, **Dave Knopf**, and **Marilyn Rauhaus** who have served at St. Paul for many years. **Don Gotsch** has served as head trustee since 2003. Don has spent countless hours working here at St. Paul to keep everything in working order and up to date. Whatever needs fixed, the trustees get together to complete the task. Without the Trustees, our church would not look as beautiful as it does today. **Dave Knopf** has served as an Elder since 1995, over 20 years! The Elders help to make for seamless services and carry out the policies of St. Paul. Prior to being an Elder, Dave was on The Board of Christian Nurture and a Sunday School teacher for many years. **Marilyn Rauhaus** has served in many capacities in the congregation, most recently as chair of the Board of Evangelism. She has always stepped up to the task to be sure our guests are welcomed, children have something Christ-centered to occupy their hands, and that cards go out to members and friends of the congregation in times of need and prayer. Thank you all for your loving service here at St. Paul!

Three-Kings Epiphany Party Friday, January 6, 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Pot-Luck — Games

A little work taking down the Christmas decorations and then time for fun and games. Bring a favorite board game or card game to share. Euchre, Bunko, Dominos, etc. Fun for the whole family!

Sign-ups for dinner will be out closer to the event.

“AMAZON SMILE” to support St. Paul

Don't forget to use Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com>) for your holiday gifts and Amazon donates to St Paul Lutheran Church.

December 2016

Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Choir Practice 7pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class SS Practice 11:30a-2:00p Christmas Tea 3:30pm	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm		Bible Study 10-11:30am Morning Advent Service 11:30am Evening Advent Service 7:00pm	Choir Practice 7pm		6pm Valley City Community Sing-a-long
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & BC Blood Pressure Clinic SS Practice 11:30a-2:00p	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Elder Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10-11:30am Morning Advent Service 11:30am Evening Advent Service 7:00pm	Choir Practice 7pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8a Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class 10:30a SS Children's Program	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting 7pm	No Bible Class	Choir Practice 7pm		Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 & 7:00pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Worship 10:00am	No Confirmation No Handbell Practice		No Bible Class	No Choir Practice		

December 2016

Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Randy Silk	Irmgard Cordes Autumn Kuenzer	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
James & Joyce Willson #40 Morgan Hama David Holland Sarah Myers Chris Strekely	Darrin & Sarah Read #1 Jacob Adams 'Charlie' Djordjevic	Tom & Terri Giese #36 Bryan Klooz	David & Christine Carlson # 3	Julia Scheiman Greg Tyrpak Yuliza Zielinski	Robyn Heffinger Arnold Knake	Matthan Hibler
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Debbie & Ralph Scheiman # 23	Gavin Beck	Pam Witt	Jerry & Marilyn Skidmore #22 Todd Myers	Jackson Raycher	Katie Wilkins	David & Cinthia Holland # 14 Bob Schiemann
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bob & Faye Denman # 51 Teresa Harrell	Jim Baker Jr. Cassie Bremke	Michele Gatt Tammy Rhodes	Todd Gery	Karen Myers Kenzie Perrien Jaren Pflaum	Angela Bailey	Jill Bores
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
David Knopf Dorothea Miller		Bill & Debbie Frickey # 36 Marci Sherepita	Brad & Susan Adams # 25 Heinrich & Irmgard Cordes # 38 Elijah Inman	Tom Giese Jim Willson		Mark & Martha Konzelman # 23 Jennifer Schnurr

January 2017

Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day Worship Service 10am No SS or Bible Class today.	No Confirmation Class No Handbell Practice	LWML Meeting 10am	Bible Class 10:00 am	No Choir Practice	Congregation Pot Luck 5:30-8:00pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class Blood Pressure Clinic	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Elder Meeting 7:00pm	Bible Class 10:00 am	Choir Practice 7:00pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	No Confirmation Class Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm	Bible Class 10:00 am Quilters Meet 12:00pm	Choir Practice 7:00pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm		Bible Class 10:00 am	Choir Practice 7:00pm		
29	30	31				Save the Date Feb 4, 2016 German Dinner
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class SS Practice 11:30a-2:00p	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm					

January 2017

Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Steve & Colleen Kato # 24	3 David Gigliotti Katie Willkom	4 Debbie Gotsch Heather Zimmerman	5 Kylee Eager Rob Zacharias	6 Brian & Teresa Harrell # 23	7 Mark Andrukat Cindy Balliet Terry Palmer Lynne Perlik
8 John Johnson	9 Alexandra Provenzano Isabel Spry Alice Tyrpak	10 Kari Bosela	11 Larry & Arlene Klooz # 48 Alaina Goodhart Harrison Hibler Carl Strekely	12 Tim & Jean Wadle # 44	13 Magdalena Dill	14 Elaine Reisner
15 Richard Gatt	16	17 Ariana Whitmer	18 Jacob Gatt	19	20 Liam Bores	21 Magdalyne Hibler Grace Tighe
22	23 Kristine Kenniston Jan Shook Yesenia Zielinski	24 DJ Gilles	25 Lauren Raycher	26 Kristen Nagy Cherece Rasschaert	27 Kayla Whitmer	28 Jarod Baab Jackson Baker Gretalyn Beck Bill Frickey Rachel Lachance
29	30 James & Michelle Murawski #14 Dennis Murawski Diane Raita	31				