



THE BETHANY BEACON

Building on the Past – Confident in God's Future – We make Christ known!



SEPTEMBER BEACON

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And so much more. . .



A message from Pastor Chris Deines

But the Church is About Grace...

Football is starting! Whether it is youth football, high school, college, or pro, I like watching football. And it has made me think that it would be kind of fun to be a coach—not that I have any particular skill in coaching. I am not well-versed in any sport, whether it is football, basketball, or golf, even though I do my fair share of coaching from my couch. I admit that I do not know enough about any one sport to be a proficient coach. But sometimes I wish I could be a coach because people listen to coaches. Even the highly paid athletes like Patrick Mahomes, Caleb Williams, or Caitlin Clark; with all the confidence they exhibit, will huddle up, listen to what the coach says, and give thanks to the coach after a win.

And I guess I want to be a coach because sometimes I think it would be easier. Hear me out here. I remember my football coach from high school would always tell us that if he asked us to jump, we would answer “How high?” If he asked us to run, we would answer “How long and how fast?” There are days I sit at my desk and wonder if my passion—my calling from God to lead the church, my call to this place—is met with lackluster attitudes. Because if I would have skipped a few days of practice each week, I would have been running for eternity, or worse yet, been kicked off the team. But the church is about grace. The difference between the playing field and the church is that one is based on a model of practicing your passion, putting your heart on the line, and giving of yourself in all that you do, and the other is just a game.

I remember in seminary we had a pretty good debate/lecture on excommunication (withholding the sacraments or suspending a person from worshipping). The professor let us know that excommunication is an option. And perhaps this is church that some of you knew growing up—stern and strict—and there was a certain level of expectations you to meet. As if you had to practice to play, to use coaching language. Think about it. What if you had to worship 3 Sundays a month to take communion on Sunday? What if confirmation students had to show the Pastor that their faith had grown; and if not, they would have to wait to be confirmed? What if you didn’t contribute 10% of your earned income to the church, you would be excommunicated? But, the church is about grace.

Sometimes it would be better to be the church coach—to make lists of demands and expectations on what you had to do in order to be accepted by the church and by God. But, the church is about grace. It is about the gift of new life, forgiveness, and wholeness. It is about understanding and acceptance of ALL people. So, even though it would be nice to play coach, that is not what the church is about. It’s not what our lives are about. That’s the thing; that’s what makes the church a wonderful place.

We come not to hear about all of the bad stuff that we have done or the ways in which we have fallen short. We do not come to hear that we don't come enough or that we don't meet the minimum requirement. The world does that enough in our lives, through media telling us how we are to look, to employers that expect more and more, to coaches that say we have to practice to play. We come to worship, to hear the Good News of God, and to partake in a meal of forgiveness! YES, the church is about grace. While God wants us to be active in our lives of faith, to come to worship, to give of ourselves; we know that God is a God of grace. That's the passion that God has called us to—in sharing that grace, in telling, sharing and feeding those who are hungry for mercy! In the end, God loves everyone and even died on a cross to forgive us from all of our imperfections. Excommunication is still very real, but with grace, it is obsolete! So we come to worship to hear the Good News of God, and go into the world, sharing, giving, and feeding the world with grace. Because the church is about grace!

Peace, Pastor Chris

BETHANY COLLEGE OUT REACH

Bethany College Opening Worship took place on Saturday, August 24 at Bethany Church. Dozens of college Freshman, faculty, staff and alumni came to worship together. It was a wonderful sight to see the sanctuary full of eager minds.

On Sunday, August 25, the annual Block Party took place in South Park. Bethany Church, Peoples Bank and Lindsborg Community Hospital served 275 students, and many faculty members. We give thanks to all who smoked the meat, baked the cookies and served the food!

Some of our favorite BC Alumni provided the students with a surprise Chapel break on Sunday, Sept. 1. Pastor Chris Deines, '07; Pastor Melissa Woepfel, '15 and Pastor Mandy Todd, '05 served up pizza and fresh limeades.



JULY FINANCIALS FOR BETHANY CHURCH

Financial Review for the Last Month Ending 7/31/24

	July <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Difference</u>
Contributions, general	\$ 23,399	\$ 189,935	\$ 222,327	\$ (32,392)
Other Inflows	\$ 440	\$ 6,855	\$ 5,835	\$ 1,020
Gross Inflows	\$ 23,838	\$ 196,789	\$ 228,162	\$ (31,373)
Human Resources	\$ 19,442	\$ 144,319	\$ 149,837	\$ 5,518
Property	\$ 5,399	\$ 41,931	\$ 45,961	\$ 4,030
Other Expenses	\$ 3,451	\$ 26,454	\$ 34,529	\$ 8,075
Total Expenses	\$ 28,292	\$ 212,704	\$ 230,327	\$ 17,623
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (4,454)	\$ (15,915)	\$ (2,165)	\$ (13,750)

July Comments: Average weekly offering is down slightly from June, but better than March-May. General offering is up slightly compared to this time last year, but still under budget by approx \$32,000. Spending is favorable YTD by 17,623. .

Operating Funds Report:

	2024 <u>Apr</u>	2024 <u>May</u>	2024 <u>June</u>	2024 <u>July</u>
Checking Account at Peoples Bank & Trust	\$ 177,156.99	\$ 294,046.55	\$ 110,475.49	\$ 121,410.59
CD at Peoples Bank & Trust	\$ 150,380.17	\$ 152,611.07	\$ 154,676.13	\$ 154,676.13
Peoples Bank & Trust MM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,285.50	\$ 502,171.24
Peoples Bank & Trust NYG account	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,044.83
Mission Investment Fund, Money Market	\$ 265,124.34	\$ 265,680.97	\$ 266,220.78	\$ 266,779.71
Petty Cash - Laundry Love	\$ 244.75	\$ 379.00	\$ 288.25	\$ 146.50
Petty Cash	\$ 38.03	\$ 38.03	\$ 38.03	\$ 38.03
Prepaid Insurance	\$ 2,638.87	\$ 8,096.25	\$ 5,397.50	\$ 2,698.75
Liabilities - Current Credit Card	\$ (1,977.38)	\$ (1,696.86)	\$ (1,348.85)	\$ (2,910.72)
Liabilities - Payroll	\$ (3,240.89)	\$ (3,776.76)	\$ (1,923.69)	\$ (1,924.20)
Less Designated Funds	\$ (4,112.97)	\$ (5,012.32)	\$ (7,745.36)	\$ (2,783.11)
Less Memorials	\$ (3,050.00)	\$ (13,050.00)	\$ (12,920.00)	\$ (15,575.00)
Less Project Funds	\$ (559,770.40)	\$ (681,858.55)	\$ (1,001,489.83)	\$ (1,014,520.55)
General Funds Available	\$ 23,431.51	\$ 15,457.38	\$ 17,953.95	\$ 13,252.20

*Available Funds 12/31/23: \$29,135.07



Our noisy September offering will go to help with the Rides 4 Health ministry. This particular ministry coordinates members with rides to their Dr. Appointments. Your offering helps pay for the mileage to do so. We give thanks to Jan Michael for leading this Ministry.

CHURCH COUNCIL TID BITS FOR BETHANY CHURCH

Property Committee: New cabinets in the Parsonage Kitchen will be installed soon. Measurements were taken in the first part of August.

The Ideatek cable that is attached to the church is interfering with the MASWU trucks when they dump the dumpster. They are too low. We will look at moving this or the dumpster to an other locale.

Weis Tree service to be contacted to remove the rest of the tree that split in two on the south side of the education building. We'll contact him asap to follow up with the total removal.



Personnel Committee: Britney English resigned from Bell Choir effective the end of May 2024. Chelsea Deines resigned from KICK effective June 1, 2024. Lori McKinney resigned from directing Children's Choir effective June 30, 2024.

Britney English accepted the Children's Choir position effective Aug. 1, 2024 . Brittney will direct both Chancel and Children's Choir (s).

Elena Northcutt has accepted the KICK Director position effect July 31, 2024.

Butch Gibson, Property Manager has put in his notice of retirement , effective by the end of the year. Advertising has begun to fill his position.

The Bell Choir position will be not be filled at this time.



Pastor's Report; Pastor Chris reported that he has been busy planning the Bethany College Block Party, and Confirmation. He has been providing visitation a couple of times a week. He expressed his sincere thanks for all the support of the National Youth Gathering. All of the kids seemed to have a wonderful experience.



The 2024 Nominating Committee has been activated. This committee will begin to meet and plan for next years council elections. Members are Ron Rolander, Beth Olson, Merle Nelson, Joy Everhart, Karna Peterson and Rose Marie Wallen, Committee Chair.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - SEPTEMBER 2024

Rally Day, God's Work, Our Hands will be Sunday, Sept. 8. Join us as we kick off another year of Sunday School. Breakfast will be served. Come play and pack school kits.

Thanks to these Amazing Sunday School Teachers:

Pre K/K	Ceeley Friesen, Olivia Peterson, Taytum Reed
1st/2nd	Chelsea Deines, Susan Johnson
3 rd -6 th	Kim Hett, Joyce Peterson
Jr. High	Pastor Chris
Sr. High	Ericka Lysell

God's Work, Our Hands Challenge. You're invited to pick up a "Live Generously" T-shirt in the upstairs foyer of the Education Building. Please keep the shirts sorted by size. Think of one act of service to do during September. Email or text Joyce a photo in a Thrivent or church T shirt of your service. (Some ideas – use sidewalk chalk to write encouraging messages in your neighborhood, make a card for a friend or relative, bake cookies to share, or purchase food for the Dala Pantry. You get the idea, use your hands and heart to do God's work.)



KICK Update:

My name is Elena Northcutt. I am very excited to be taking on the role of KICK director this year. I love working with children and am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to a program such as this. I recently finished working as the Site Director for Lindsborg's Summer Lunch Program and am ready to take on a new adventure. That said, KICK does not happen without your help. Helping out for one or two weeks this fall will make a world of difference. If you are able to lead a class or donate a snack, it would be much appreciated. We are also looking for a few dedicated volunteers to be what we are calling "shepherds." These volunteers will be at KICK every week to lead a group from class to class.

We are thankful to all who contribute to this program. If you would like to help this year, please reach out to lindsborgkick@gmail.com to be added to the calendar. KICK begins on September 18, 2024, from 3:45 pm-5:45 pm.

Joyce Peterson, Christian Ed Director, 785.820.0034, joycepeterson@sbcglobal.net

PRAYER LIST

LET US ALIGN OUR HEARTS AND PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED.

MEMBERS

Darlene Handlin
Jim Runberg
Marsha Rolander
Mary Swenson
Betty Nelson
Elly Ostlind
Isaiah Ruble
Mim Johnson
Toni Haukom
Lloyd Haukom
Lan Nelson

Mija Stockman
John Bengtson
Betty Finney
Dolores Pelz
Walter Pelz
Jim Parker
Heath Harris
Linda Lungstrom
Verneda Bowman
Ervalene Johnson
Daryl Shields

Carol Pearson
Dale Swenson
Clarice Eckstrom
Vance Eckstrom
Phyllis Newson
Allyn Gillberg
Dave Crouse
Joyce Brunsell
Allison Koerner-Smith
Robert Phillips
Genevieve Bishop

LOVED ONES

Russ Grant
William P Lundblad
Mary McConniel
Shiela Turner
Penny Waterman
Joel & Jeri Wimer
Penny Waterman
Vanessa Reyes
David Munro
Marilyn Wilson
Gloria Wilson
Craig Liljegren

Ed & Marjory Scheufler
Sandy Kott
Darrell Bacon
Ann Peterson
Allen & Kathy Cummings
Andy Reimer
Kelly Ann Speckman
Hayden Ballou
Ruth Bogart
Terri Bogart
Ruth Lewis
Suzie Wilson

Mike & Heather Engberg
Vi Hartzell
Jerry Lee Waite
Whitney Harvey
Rachel Fainter
Keith Smith
Brent Kuehl
Jim Mears
Cindy Audino
Pr. Eric & Deb Meissner
Jeanine Rishel
Cheryl Train

IN THE MILITARY

Spencer Preston
Bruster Bengtson
Justin Hammond
Austin Rice

Brooke Wiley
Jessica Kelling
Sven Johnson

Tim Lindshield
Colby Fordham
Wyatt Jury

Bethany Lutheran Church
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
of America.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Thursday, September 5 at 2:00 p.m.



Leader Elly Ostlind

Hostess Rebecca Circle

Program LCH Dietician, Lisa Quested

Bath towels are needed to help complete our Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Bath Towels should be light weight, dark in color and between 20"X 40" & 52" X 27". Walmart has a Mainstay (brand) bath towel for around \$3 each and this type of towel is what is needed. A donation bucket is by the Elevator.

Central States Cluster Retreat

October 18 & 19 - Lindsborg, KS

Oct. 19, 8:30-12 pm at Bethany Church



Piece Artists - 9 am

September 12

October 10

Thursday, October 3 at 2:00 p.m.



Leader Sharon Palmquist

Hostess Miriam Circle

Program "A meeting with Katie Luther"

By Marcia MacLennan

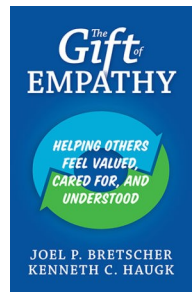
Special Offering Salina Rescue Mission "Shower"

Bring Toothbrush

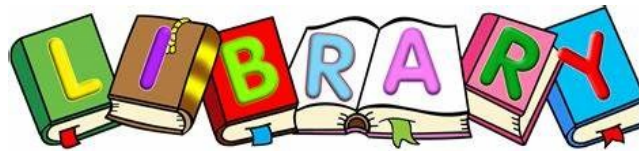
LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee has recently processed several new additions to our collection. One of them is particularly outstanding. *The Gift of Empathy* by Joel P. Bretscher, a publication of Stephen Ministries, recently won three medals at the 34th annual Midwest Book Awards hosted by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association.

It received a silver medal in three categories: Business, Education, and Inspiration. This is no small honor. *The Gift of Empathy* was one of over 300 entries under consideration by a panel of expert judges including booksellers, university staff, and librarians.



We highly recommend *The Gift of Empathy*. Its subtitle is *Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood*. It is easy to read and has a compelling message. Check it out!



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Greetings, Bethany Church!

I hope that this note finds you well. I've been away for a couple of weeks at an intensive German class; that was really important both for my daily life here and for my ministry. Now I am back in the office, though, and am "Schritt für Schritt" (step by step) returning to a normal schedule.



I'm very glad to hear that the **September 29th Zoom** meeting is "on." I'll look forward to seeing all of my Bethany Church friends again. By that time a partners meeting between Russian Lutheran representatives and representatives from ELCA partner synods (including the Central States Synod) will have taken place in Serbia; I think that folks at Bethany might find that interesting...as well as a regular update on the situation in Russia/Ukraine, particularly for the churches there.

While I suspect it is very warm in Kansas, I hope everyone is finding ways to find some shade and enjoy all the summer has to offer. Wishing you good health and high spirits!

In Christ, Bradn

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ken Cummings	9/2	Hannah Nelson	9/20
Doug Malm	9/2	Paul Hanson	9/21
Carrie Nelson	9/3	Mike Dreier	9/22
Alexa Reed	9/4	Carol Pearson	9/22
Dixie Mattas	9/4	Linda Anderson	9/26
Larry VanDerWege	9/4	Sharon Palmquist	9/26
Judy Murphy	9/5	Toren Miller	9/27
Daryl Patrick	9/6	Debra Myers	9/28
Denise Peterson	9/6	Cooper Nelson	9/30
Signe Howe	9/7	Ayla Smith-Bolin	9/30
Marsha Rolander	9/8		
David Norlin	9/9		
James W Nelson	9/10		
Alan Leaf	9/12		
Nancy Lundblad	9/14		
Daniel McKinney	9/14		
Rex Morris	9/15		
Scott Brunsell	9/16		
Sharon Barber	9/17		
Clarice Eckstrom	9/17		
Mark Lysell	9/17		
Reilly Mader	9/17		
Clara Peterson	9/17		
Luther Peterson	9/17		
Caleb Gustus	9/18		
Danielle Greene	9/19		
Joseph Johnson	9/19		
Ty Miller	9/19		
Miriam Strasen	9/19		
Mark Barber	9/20		
Don Bengtson	9/20		
Leland Erickson	9/20		



Don't see your name on the list?
Contact the church office.

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Bethany Church is seeking to hire a part-time Property Manager. Please visit with the church office for a job description and application.

RAMPING UP

As we begin our fall session, the focus will be on our goal to recruit a new class of Stephen Ministers for a training class to begin in January, 2025. To maintain this important program at Bethany Church, it is vital to add more trained caregivers to our ranks. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming weeks through Temple Talks, a Forum on September 22, information in weekly Friday Notes, and personal contacts.

There is truly no better way to live out our calling to "Bear one another's burdens." We trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us and ask for your support and prayers.

Sharon Palmquist



Oaks Indian Mission at Bethany Church

Dan Cooper, Executive Director of Oaks Indian Mission and his wife Ashley arrived the morning of August 11, 2024. He presented a video and discussion for the members of Bethany Church as a forum at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall basement. Dan proceeded to talk about the Indian Children that receive residential care and schooling. As this is their original mission.

He also talked about the Humanitarian Aid they are providing as short-term assistance to refugees or those in need of immediate housing.

Their program isn't about giving a handout, but rather a hand up.

The Oaks provides temporary housing, and nutritious meals. Since this program has started they have supported families from over nine different countries, including multigenerational families, single parents, and others facing difficult circumstances.



Dan Cooper and his wife Ashley attended our 10:30 a.m. worship service and he gave a Temple Talk addressing those who might not have attended the forum. Afterwards, Dan and Ashley were able to pick up the wonderful items gathered by Bethany Church to help support their mission. They were thrilled to receive so many items

and were grateful for the kindness shown by Bethany Church. We look forward to serving their missions again next year.

Sincerely, Nancy Lundblad, Global Missions member

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Concordia University Chicago

Music department receives donated pipe organ of Walter L. Pelz

Over the summer, Concordia University Chicago was honored to receive the gift of a pipe organ from renowned composer, choral director, organist and educator Dr. Walter L. Pelz BA '48. The organ was built by the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company of St. Louis, MO, in 1984 for the Pelz home in Lindsborg, KS.

Several years ago, Pelz and his family decided that they would like to donate the instrument to the University. The organ has three manuals (keyboards) and five stops (registers of pipes).* Pelz composed many of his organ pieces on this instrument.

Dr. Walter L. Pelz's organ now resides in Kretzmann Hall, Room 214

Pelz has composed several hundred compositions including verses and offertories, anthems, solos, cantatas, hymns, choral symphonies and organ works—many with instruments. His compositions have been performed in churches, colleges, and on radio and television in the United States and Europe. Pelz studied organ at the American Conservatory of Music while attending Concordia Teachers College (now CUC). He earned his master's degree in organ and church music from Northwestern University, and his doctorate in theory and composition from the University of Minnesota. His full, impressive biography can be found on the [Center for Church Music website](#).

The transporting of the organ to Concordia-Chicago was accomplished by Richard and Luanne Murphy, Murphy Music Service, of Highland, IL. Richard was on the staff of the Ott company and was one of the builders of the organ 40 years ago. The organ is now located in Kretzmann Hall, Room 214, which was designed for the inclusion of a pipe organ during its 1990 renovation.

“Music students will be encouraged to practice on this new organ,” says Dr. Steve Wenthe, distinguished professor emeritus of music. “We plan to use it for lessons and studio classes—where the students play for each other—as well as some small performances.”



Originally posted Aug 29, 2023

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

The Social Ministry Committee has had a busy year reviewing requests for **Grant's Grace** through the Smoky Valley community foundation. We have helped with medical bills, laptop fees, bedding, class fees and tutoring costs for students, to name a few.

Our next big event will be the Community favorite, **Fall Festival!** Volunteers, plastic containers with screw on lids, cakes, cookies and bags of candy are needed for this one day event on Sunday, October 27, from 4-6 p.m.

Volunteers could decorate their car trunk for our Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, Bethany Church provides the candy! Volunteers could help serve the hotdog meal, served in the Fellowship Center. Consider running a carnival game on the church lawn. We have duck pond, ring toss, axe throwing, and so much more.

Bakers are needed to provide cool cakes, or plates of cookies for the Sweets Stroll, which is very similar to an old fashioned cake walk. This event was a huge success last year and we ran out of baked good early!

If you would like to volunteer contact the church office and Melanie will get you in touch with the right people. Or reach out to committee chairs, Ericka Lysell and Chelsea Deines.



YOUTH GROUP

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support to help get us safely to New Orleans!

We had an amazing trip worshipping with 16,000 other Lutherans. Nightly worship was a favorite, hearing amazing speakers and enjoying top notch performers.

As part of the gathering we had 4 worship services, one included communing all 16,000 of us. We also had a day of service working at an oyster recycling program, a day with our synod in worship and a city wide scavenger hunt, and a day at the interaction center learning about Lutheran colleges and organizations, playing games and doing more small service projects.

Other fun things we did were touring Mardi Gras world, enjoying live jazz music and street performers on Bourbon Street, touring St. Louis cemetery #1, going on a 'gator tour, eating lots of good food, and making lots of good memories spending 30 plus hours in a van together.

Youth Group Leader, Ericka Lysell



Opening worship in the Smoothie King Arena



Bethany College booth in the interaction center



Service Day at the Oyster Recycling Plant

Events

FALL FESTIVAL



Hotdog Meal



Trunk or Treat



Bags of Candy Needed!

JOIN US ON THE LAWN FOR A SPOOKTACULAR TIME.

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27
4-6 PM
FREE ADMISSION

*CAKES OR COOKIES
NEEDED FOR THE
SWEETS STROLL
(CAKE WALK)*



Carnival Games





Candy Count!
Plastic Jars needed

Join us for an evening of family fun!
320 N Main, Lindsborg, KS
3:30 pm set up - for Trunks!



Sept. 9 - Bethany College
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sept. 23 - Covenant Church
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sept. 24 - Assaria Church
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church is pleased to work with ICT SOS to host this informative community meeting

Learn about human trafficking

About ICT SOS

ICT SOS is a non-profit organization that not only provides education to communities about trafficking, but also helps human trafficking survivors get a fresh start.

 www.ictsos.org

The Details

Thursday September 26
7pm
Bethany Lutheran Fellowship Hall
320 N. Main St
Lindsborg



DATES TO REMEMBER:

2nd Sat. 12-2 p.m.

September 8

October 13

November 9

4th Tues. 5-7 p.m.

September 24

October 22

November 26

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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September 2024

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2024 Bethany Church Staff

Pastor Christopher Deines

Organist, Genevieve Bishop

Office Manager, Melanie Rishel

Property Manager, Butch Gibson

Christian Education, Joyce Peterson

Youth Group, Ericka Lysell

KICK Coordinator, Elena Northcutt

Men's Choir, Leah Ann Anderson

Chancel Choir, Britney English

2024 Bethany Church Council

Trampas Miller Pres. Karen Carlson

LeAnna Dewitt, VP Elly Ostlind

Natalie Nelson, recording secretary

Doug Malm Jayne Norlin

Monte Couchman Gail Gustafson

Arlone Grimes Mark Lindley

Pastor Chris Deines

**Sonja Taylor, Susan Lundstrom,
Treasurer Financial Secretary**