Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 19, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 215 N. Warren St. Orwigsburg, PA 570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

L. Larson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXHORTATION

Trusting in God's mercy, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love, as together we are strengthened and renewed by God's Word and Sacraments.

(Silence for self-reflection)

CONFESSION

Let us now make confession:

Almighty God, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

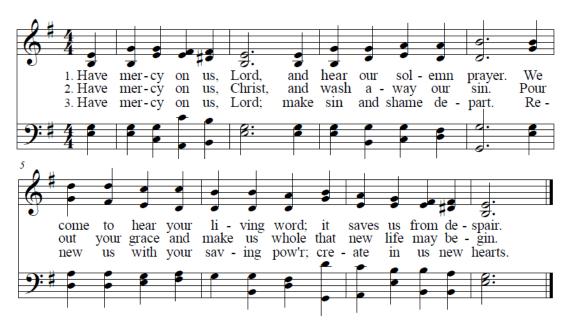
God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate" [See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your life and death, bring light into the darkness of our hearts and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM FIRST SAMUEL

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 KJV (Read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

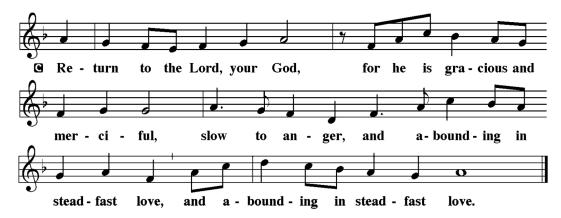
"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

(Ephesians 5:8-14)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" [See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (read in unison)

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things good. Teach us to appreciate the beauty of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Empower them to lead with justice and to seek the wellbeing of all. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend to all who are sick or wounded, and comfort those who grieve. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

Gracious God, you give us more than we could ever ask. Strengthen the feeding ministries of this community. Show us how we can feed not only the hungry in our community, but those who hunger around the world. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith. We praise you for the ways that they have blessed the church and how they continue to inspire us. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

(The Pastor concludes): We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00)

"Amazing Grace"

J. Linker

ANTHEM (10:30) "Let Us Gather in the Shadow of the Cross"*

Martin/Nix



OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us with these gifts which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



BLESSING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (read in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

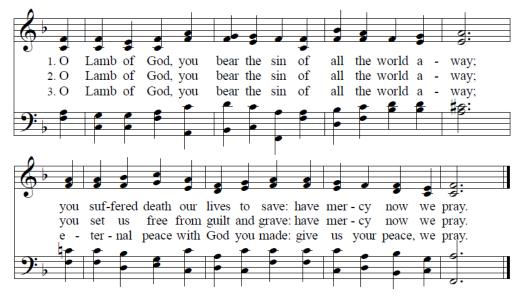
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

O Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and as a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in F Minor"

C. Burney

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Introduction to the Day: The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Altar flowers are presented in memory of G. Roger Lengel and Jack A. Lengel by brother, Jim W. Lengel and family.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of Walter Bilger by Mary Ellen Hering.

Bulletins are presented in memory of my husband, Dave, by Barb Sterner.

*Anthem: "Let Us Gather in the Shadow of the Cross" was presented in memory of Gloria Stone by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/19/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Elinda Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/26/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Barb Sterner; LECTOR: Mike Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Madelyn Knecht ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
Sunday, March 19	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, March 20	The First D 6:30 PM	Pay of Spring Finance
Tuesday, March 21	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Wednesday, March 22	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Bell Choir Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir
Friday, March 24	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, March 25	3:00 PM 5:30 PM	Crafters' Guild at Durkee Home Worship
Sunday, March 26	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion Girl Scout Troop #31129

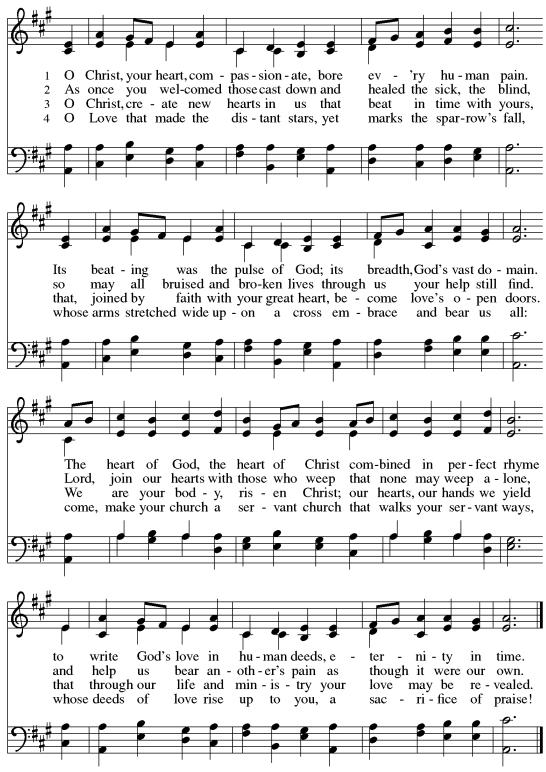
WELCA

WELCA will next meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at church. As a member of St. Paul's, you are automatically a member of WELCA and are encouraged to attend. The next In-Gathering offering will be received in May and has been designated for Red Creek Wildlife Center.

Our group has offered to host the WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Details about this exciting event will be in the April newsletter.

If you plan to attend, it would be appreciated if you sign the registration form available at the WELCA bulletin board as soon as possible. You have until April 22 to pay. An envelope is on the table for your check made payable to St. Paul's WELCA. The cost is \$11. (This includes \$1 for registration and \$10 for lunch which is optional.)

GATHERING HYMN "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"



"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us Sunday, April 2, (not the second Sunday of the month because of Easter) for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. You can also call, text, or email me with questions or to volunteer. Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike is continuing a series of five (5) midweek Lenten services entitled, "Gathered Around the Cross" at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the month of March. Please ask you family and friends to join you for these services.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNED

Volunteers are needed for STiC's up-coming Earth Day event scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. A description of events and sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

COMMUNION HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

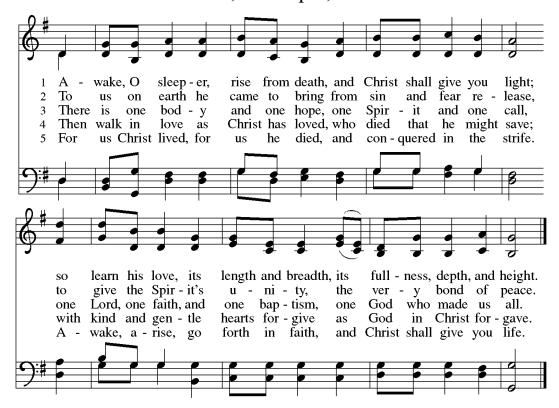


- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-366-2316 - Ext 11 Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director 570-573-4076 justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152 Karen Travor, Treasurer 570-366-8757 karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org 570-617-9617 Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary cwlutsey@gmail.com Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

SENDING HYMN

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our second annual Easter Egg-stravaganza is slated for Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please join us in the church gathering room any time during the event to participate in crafts and games and to have a snack. The Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship.

If you would like to help or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522 (cell) or via email at swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST COUNCIL MEMBER

We welcome Bill Smoot of Orwigsburg, PA, as our newest Council member. He was selected by our Council to fill an open position for which there were no nominations at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023.

Our Council now consists of President - Greg Sklar, Vice President - Evan Davis, Secretary - Deb Bolinsky, Treasurer (and non-voting member) - Karen Travor, as well as Tina Butler, Sarah Eger, Krista Harding, Carl Heintzelman, Jill Krewson, Wayne Lutsey, Cindy Ritschel, Bill Smoot, and Doug Travor.