

FAITH-BETHANY PARTNERSHIP ONE PARTNERSHIP, TWO CAMPUSES

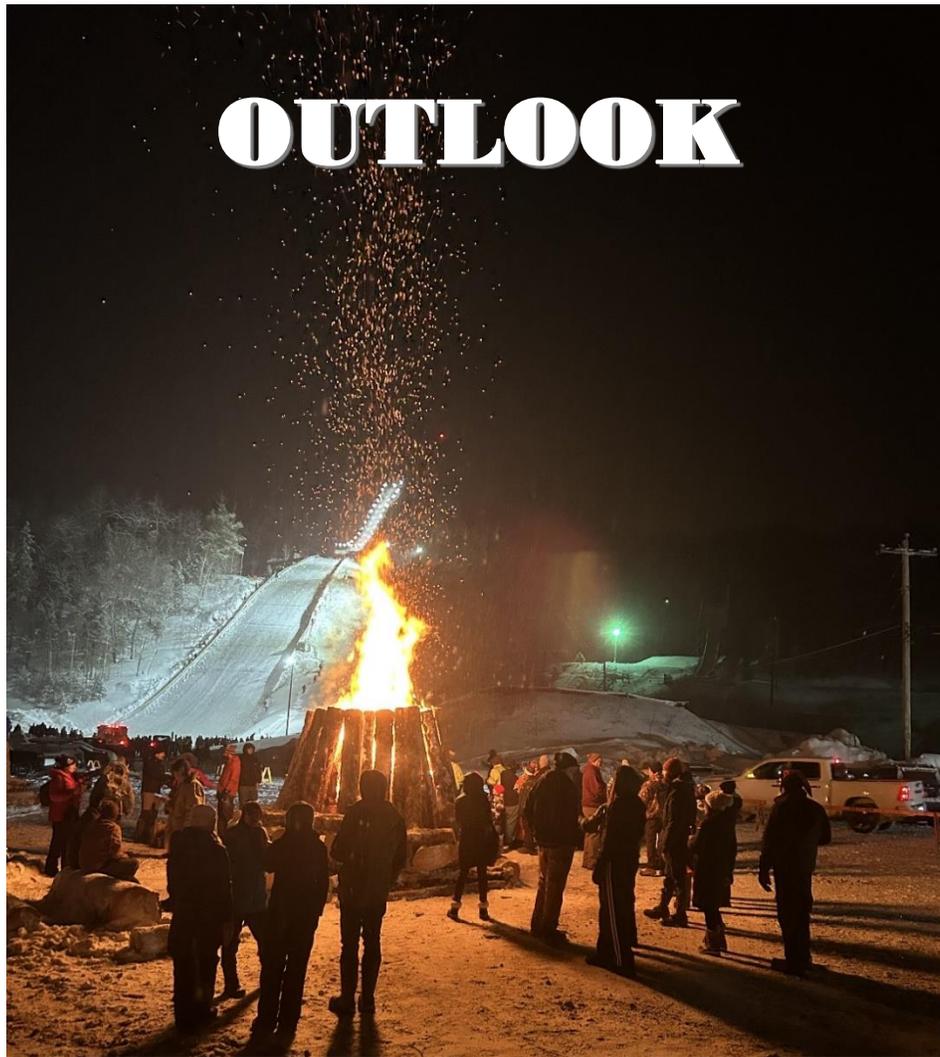


Photo courtesy of Bruce Bussone

²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts of the Apostles 2: 2-4 (NRSVue)

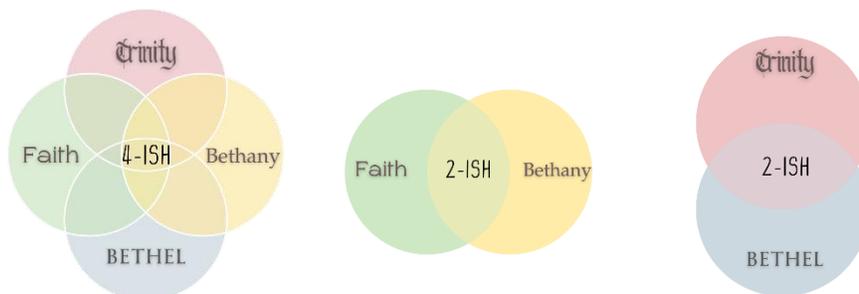
BUILDING BLOCKS OF PARTNERSHIP

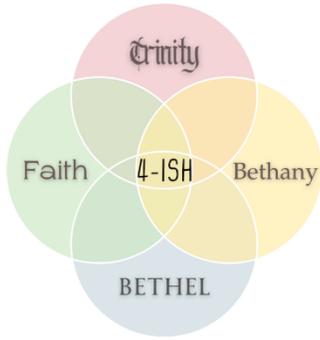
How we might play together, in faith

On January 7th, the Councils of Bethany, Faith, Bethel and Trinity gathered to discern where consent was possible in building a new system of partnership for each, and all the ELCA congregations in Ishpeming. We have shared with you, previously, the foundational statement of our intent and our vision statement, guiding our new exploration in the Spirit, together as new partners. Our priorities for this initial consent stage were centered around: Worship, Communication, Governance, and Efficiency.

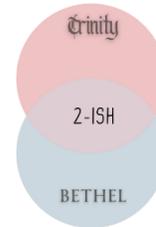
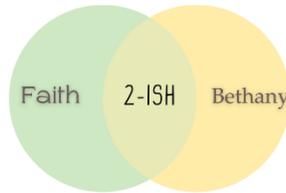
The path before us is intentionally framed as a developing partnership rather than a completed structure. We are building something new; never done before and reliant on the experiences of our pastoral leaders to uplift lessons of their experience and lean into what might be possible if we are willing to grow together. As four Ishpeming churches, we have named our shared intention to partner together while continuing to discern the details of that relationship. In partnership with the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we are receiving Rev. Tim Johnston to serve Bethel and Trinity, and Rev. J. Michael Mills serving Bethany and Faith as pastors within this emerging model. Their pastoral focus will be rooted in these specific communities and they will work to balance their partnership of leadership across the 4ISH. Beginning February 1, 2026, ministries and partnerships will partner together and grow in stages, allowing space for evaluation, learning, and faithful course-correction over time. The most important aspect of this for all of us is the worship schedule, which for each of the new partners, will alternate each Sunday between partnership locations, beginning with Bethany and Trinity on February 1st. February 8th, worship services will be held at Faith and Bethel. The Worship schedule will be available, completed through the end of May, next Sunday as we gather at Bethel, for Camp Sunday.

These covenants and agreements function as building blocks rather than final answers. Grounded in trust, transparency, and generosity, this approach recognizes that faithful discernment requires room to try, to assess what bears fruit, and to adjust together. Struggle and disagreement are understood not as failure, but as part of the formative work of partnership. Each congregation brings distinct gifts that strengthen the whole Body of Christ, and shared leadership structures are designed to support accountability, clarity, and unity once decisions are made. We move forward convinced that God is calling us not to erase difference, but to embody deeper partnership; trusting that the road ahead will continue to unfold as we walk it together.



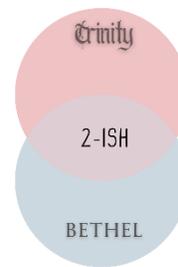
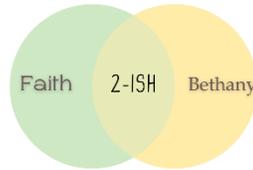
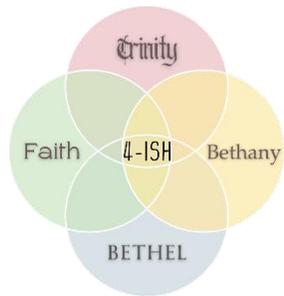


Beginning February 1, 2026: all worship services will begin at 10AM on Sundays, 6:30PM on non-Sunday expressions. Fellowship will follow worship. Each 2ISH partnership swaps Sundays in each building; 4ISH opportunities follow a unique rotation expressing equity. This schedule is through 31May2026.



Date and Time	2ISH Faith and Bethany	2ISH Trinity and Bethel
1-Feb, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
8-Feb, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
15-Feb, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
18-Feb, 6:30PM	4ISH Ash Wednesday Bethany	
22-Feb, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
25-Feb, 6:30PM	4ISH Lent Midweek Bethel	
1-Mar, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
4-Mar, 6:30PM	4ISH Lent Midweek Bethel	
8-Mar, 10AM	4ISH Bethel	
11-Mar, 6:30PM	4ISH Lent Midweek Bethel	

Date and Time	2ISH Faith and Bethany	2ISH Trinity and Bethel
15-Mar, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
18-Mar, 6:30PM	4ISH Lent Midweek Bethel	
22-Mar, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
25-Mar, 6:30PM	4ISH Lent Midweek Bethel	
29-Mar, 10AM	4ISH Bethany	
2-Apr, 6:30PM	4ISH Maundy Thursday Bethany	
3-Apr, 6:30PM	4ISH Good Friday Tenebrae Bethel	
4-Apr, 6:30PM	4ISH Easter Vigil Bethany	
5-Apr, 10AM	Faith (and 8:30AM)	Bethel
12-Apr, 10AM	4ISH Faith	
19-Apr, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
26-Apr, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
3-May, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
10-May, 10AM	Faith	Bethel
17-May, 10AM	4ISH Trinity	
24-May, 10AM	Bethany	Trinity
31-May, 10AM	4ISH Bethel	



4-ISH and 2-ISH Partnerships, Frequently Asked Questions

Follows are questions that have been repeated across our systems of partnership, and we thought might be helpful for all of us to see, in print. 😊

What's happening with the Choir?

An occasional 2ISH Bethel-Trinity Partnership choir will happen as members in our partnership volunteer to make that happen. Rose Larson (thank you Rose!) has volunteered to organize an Easter morning choir at Trinity-Bethel - more details to come closer to Easter.

Faith-Bethany will steward practices as we have, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, each week. As well, on Sunday mornings at 9AM, at whichever campus we are occupying on a given Sunday. In weeks before 4-ISH gatherings, or special services (Ash Wednesday), music for that service will be organized and practiced for those services the week leading up to the service. Of course, all are welcome anytime, whether planning to sing on the next Sunday, or not. We have a number of 4-ISH gatherings scheduled in this first quarter of our partnerships, so feel free to join whenever you can!

When is Choir practice?

The Bethany-Faith partnership choir practices weekly at 6:30PM at Bethany and will primarily sing at Bethany-Faith services. The Wednesday prior to any 4ISH service this practice will be for the 4ISH upcoming service AND the mornings of a 4ISH service at 9am there will be a choir practice wherever we are gathering for the 4ISH service. Feel free to join in either opportunity.

What about Bell Choir?

Starting in March, Trinity-Bethel Siblings are welcome to bell practice weekly at 5:15pm on Wednesdays at Bethany. This bell group will decide their schedule of playing (where and when).

What happened to the Good Friday Cantata?

Due to the many changes, challenges, and needs to move from where we are now to where we need to be for a performance at W.C. Peterson, we have cancelled this year's Good Friday Cantata. We will celebrate Good Friday with a 4ISH Tenebrae Service at Bethel, at 6:30PM (April 3). Perhaps you feel called to be a part of a logistics planning team for next year? Talk to one of your Pastors.

What's the plan for our music-resources across our 4-ISH expression?

Starting March 1, Marty Achatz will be playing for Sunday services at Bethel. Further, as of March 2026, we will have four capable and passionate musicians to celebrate and share among the four buildings, two services, and multiple expressions of music available in each service so there may be times where different musicians are playing in different spaces.

So, the pastor will be paid by the other partnership congregation when they preach there?

Not quite. In an old church system, one we called yoking (picture two oxen secured to a piece of wood and fighting one another to carry the load down the road, or through a field), there was an expression of simply "pastor sharing" where each worshipping body would pay for the services received by the pastor shared among two, or more, bodies. What we are embarking on is a partnership, where equity and mutuality are uplifted

across our systems: One Partnership, Two Campuses. We have built a cost-sharing investment plan that offers a better invitation for us to grow into one body across two campuses. Rather than paying a pastor twice, our leaders have agreed to invest in this partnership, stewarding the gifts we each bring into the partnership and agreeing to invest in one another with time, talent, and treasure.

Who has done what we're doing? And what was the final chapter of their work?

This is the most interesting thing about our story: it is unique. Never done before. Our leaders have been working together, growing into this chapter since 2024 (through the 4ISH Leadership Team). They came together in October 2025 to vision together for 2026 and then the Synod offered us an opportunity to explore something completely different. Out of that invitation, and through several gatherings of discernment, your elected leaders consented to explore this Partnership plan through a series of consents based on four priorities: Worship, Efficiency, Governance, and Communication.

I have mobility concerns in some of our partnership spaces; what do I do for myself or my family?

One of the celebrations our leaders have shared is the intention behind the 2-ISH schedule and that a fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant space is available, every Sunday. While we invite everyone to share in the journey of their partnership, we also recognize that part of hospitality is recognizing that not everyone is comfortable with chair lifts and stairs, or moving around the outside of a building to access the community. With all of those factors in mind, each of us is free to worship in a building that meets our needs as we express them.

What are we doing, exactly?

Well, we're growing something new. Our elected leaders have embarked on a journey exploring what it means to share stewardship across two campuses. We're working, together, to explore what it means to be one body of Christ, with all our time, talent, and treasure shared between two buildings where faithful "ownership" and "responsibility" (e.g. stewardship) is home no matter where we meet for worship, or activities we discern are helpful for our understanding of what our communities need from, and with, us. For instance: our Siblings, gathering at the Faith campus, prior to 1Feb26 did not have a Choir. Now we all do. Our Siblings, gathering at the Bethany campus, prior to 1Feb26, did not have a parsonage. Now we all do. And so it goes with all our ministries; Worship and Music and our Spiritual Education Teams have already begun work together. As we continue to explore this journey together, more opportunities will be identified to combine time, talent, and treasure for greater community support as we learn how God is Calling us in this new time.



FAITH-BETHANY
PARTNERSHIP

Beginning Thursday, February 12th, a new Women's Circle is forming in our Parish! Supporting our working population, we hope to gather femme voices together to learn, grow, and engage service projects that will partner resources and skills with our neighbor young adults, on Saturdays to be identified. Scriptural study will occur monthly, on second Thursdays, 6-8PM. Our study will be centered in Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney's Women's Lectionary, guiding us through the strength of our biblical femme ancestors that are often overlooked, or left out, of ordinary preaching and teaching in our institutions.

If you're interested in engaging this Circle of learning, growth and fellowship. please contact Terra Frustraglio or Denise Kaukola-Mason, hope_circle@bethanyishpeming.org

Thursday, February 12th, 2026, 6-8PM, Faith-Bethany Partnership at 715 Mather Ave. Campus, in Ishpeming

Ministry and Partnership Opportunities



2026 Congregational Annual Meeting

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 15th, 2026, beginning at 11:30AM (after worship), in the Fellowship Hall. We are inviting our Siblings to participate in whatever way works best for you, either in person or online. We will be voting on the 2026 Spending Plan, as well as lifting up those who may be interested in joining the Council in 2026, as we continue to live out our discernment of God's Call in this place and time.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 892 0029 4193 | Passcode: 1517

Our Last Outlook

This printing of our newsletter will be the final offering of news and events in this form. We give thanks for the many hands that have offered their gifts of communication to us through the years. We certainly lift up the work of Jan and Pastor J for the Outlook's manifestation in this last year-and-a-half. Each expression of the Outlook has been a unique and personal expression of who we, each, are and what we care about. As we move forward we invite you to get familiar with our website or current presence on Facebook. The latest information, calendars, events lists, and offerings of community partnership will be available there. AND. For those who prefer to maintain a small social media or internet presence (and in this economy, who can blame you? Not us, that's for sure), know that the bulletins will continue to invite you into the fullness of who we are together. We've chosen this model of communication for two reasons:

- **The bulletin is easily distributed to everyone, across our two campuses and at minimal stewardship cost (time, talent, and treasure).**
- **The information is always fresh. Timeliness is a hallmark of good communication, and we recognize that trying to compile a wholistic representation of who we are, from month to month, is unreasonable and unhelpful to many of us.**

So, while our outlook remains bright (see what we did there?), we won't be talking about it as passively as we have in the past. Engage our other communication nodes (website and Facebook [for the now] and bulletin boards and kiosks), and your leaders, and each other. Ignite the conversation!

Social Ministry Food Collection

We will continue supporting our local food banks, with new information available on the table to assist in your donating to our neighbors. We celebrate your support in all ministries and hope that you will continue to offer donations, even without these monthly reminders. 😊

WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE ABOUT FOOD BANKS

A lot of people have diabetes in this group. Consider low-sugar dietary restrictions. Cans and boxes are sturdier than bags. By the time families are receiving the food, it's been handled A LOT and packaging needs to be strong enough to hold up. One food bank said never bring anything in glass.

Pop-top cans are ideal; particularly for those living on the street

Kids who qualify for free lunches typically receive breakfast at school too and when schools are out for holidays or summer, these families need more support.

Thank you for your generosity!

2210 US Hwy 41 S, Ste. A, Marquette

*Located between Wolverine Door Service and
Michigan Made*



We provide clothing, bedding, hygiene, and cleaning supplies at no cost to people experiencing a financial burden.

The Free Store welcomes anyone in need, regardless of income, to shop for free in our store.

Hours of Operation

Drop off donations on **Tuesdays from 11-3**

Shop with us the first 3 Wednesdays of each month from 12-4 pm,
and the fourth Monday of each month from 5-7 pm.

We will continue to be a collection point for our Siblings at The Free Store; check the kiosk for updates on needs and offerings to support our neighbors.

IN GOD'S ECONOMY
There is Always Enough



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00A Choir 10:00A Partnership Worship at Bethany Campus	2	3 9:00A Quilters 2:00P Teal Lake Senior Center Worship with Pastor J.	4 9:30A WW Support Group 5:15P Partnership Bells practice 630P Partnership Choir practice	5	6	7
8 9:00A Choir 10:00A Partnership Worship at Faith Campus	9	10 9:00A Quilters 10:30A Social Ministry 6:00P 4-ISH Combined Council meeting	11 9:30A WW Support Group 5:15P Partnership Bells practice 630P Partnership Choir practice	12 6:00P Hope Circle meeting- Bethany	13	14
15 9:00A Choir 10:00A Partnership Worship at Bethany Campus 11:30A Bethany Congregational Annual Meeting	16	17 9:00A Quilters	18 9:30A WW Support Group 5:15P Partnership Bells practice 6:30P Partnership Choir practice 630P 4-ISH Ash Wednesday service-Bethany	19 1:30P Martha Joy Circle	20 5:00P Parents' Night Out	21
22 9:00A Choir 10:00A Partnership Worship at Faith Campus	23	24 9:00A Quilters	25 9:30A WW Support Group 5:15P Partnership Bells practice 630P Partnership Choir practice 6:30 4-ISH Lent Midweek	26 6:00P Negaunee Male Chorus rehearsal	27	28



2025 YTD Income: \$181,544.94

2025 YTD Expenses: \$188,736.27

Total: **-\$7,191.33**



Worship Options

Worship
with us
from
HOME

In person worship within our new Faith-Bethany Partnership begins at 10:00 AM, each Sunday. The worship service is live streamed and will be available on Facebook at either the Bethany Lutheran Church, Ishpeming or the Faith Lutheran Church Facebook page.



All on God's schedule – 11-5-2025

All of nature seems to know that change is coming, and there are rituals to be performed to prepare. Just as older people sense their humanity and frailties, the trees, grass and flowers seem to sense winter's approach. I wonder: Do they also know they will be renewed in time? Now at the end of my walk, I climb the steps of the porch to my rocking chair. Seeing the way things happen on God's schedule year after year renews me, too. I will try to recognize and act upon life accordingly. In all this beauty, I can see that God is faithful and good. God has set the timing for changes to occur for all things created, and I rejoice to see this play out in nature. New birth in spring, steady growth in summer, a slow closing down in fall, and dormancy and rest in winter. I rejoice as I enjoy my life each day and receive the benefits, all on God's schedule.

This message is excerpted from "On God's schedule" by Ruby Kelley in the November 2020 Gather magazine.
Copyright © 2025 Women of the ELCA Used with permission. Learn more about Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace

Third Fridays, through May 2026
Friday, February 20, 2026
5:00 – 8:00, ages 5 and up (any)
715 Mather Ave, Ishpeming

Come join the fun!



Prayer Chain Update: Bethany established an active prayer chain in 2013. A prayer chain is a way for people to gain assistance through the power of prayer. It is also a way for any person to act on God's commandment to love one another (John 13:34-35). Prayers have been offered for family, friends, non-church people; we pray for ALL. Please contact Pastor J. Mills (906) 486-4351 or pastor@jmichaelmills.org or Rae Elliot (906) 362-1908 if you would like to become a part of this ministry.

The prayer chain is activated when Pastor J. or Rae Elliot receives a request for prayers and contacts the first person on the prayer chain list and that person calls the next person. If no one answers, the caller continues until a person is reached. This keeps the process moving forward.

You may join the prayer chain at any time and since we are refreshing our ministry's membership list, we thought we'd let the congregation know.

Pray Unceasingly, with and for:

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Pat Liivoja

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Marilyn Ponti

Eastwood: Loreth Johnson, Louise Spickerman

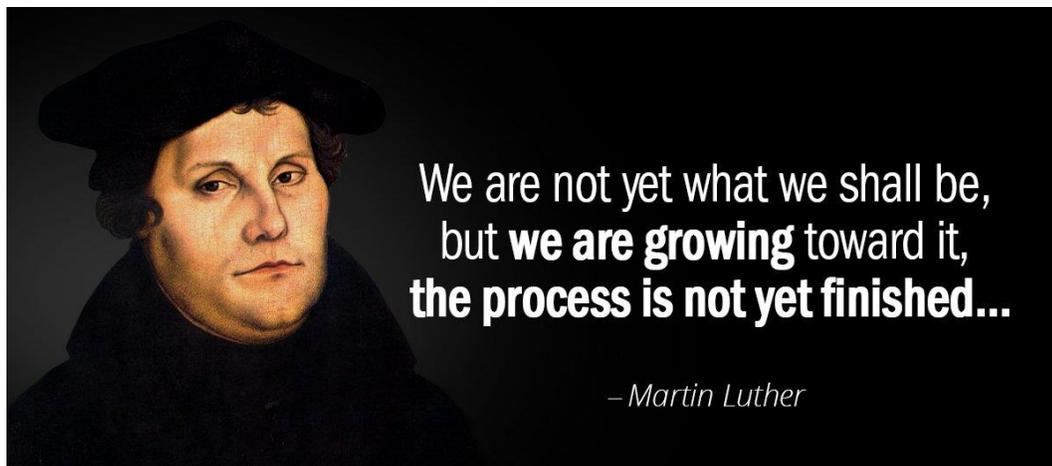
Brookridge Heights: Carol Holmgren

Jacobetti Veteran's Home: George Holmgren



- Jerry Plaisier
- Sandee Sundquist
- Cindy Warner
- The Slown Family
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Zander Atkins
- Angie Kempainen
- Those in the military

- Amanda and her family
- Karen Mattson
- Carol Holmgren
- Cooper Bjorn
- Betty Swift
- Victims of gun violence
- Kaye Frederickson
- Colleen Sundblad
- Mary Danny



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
715 Mather Ave
Ishpeming, MI 49849

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Phone: 906-4866-4351
E-mail: secretary@bethanyishpeming.org
Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod**

Congregation Council:

President: David Leverton
Vice-President: Bruce Bussone
Secretary: Jill Carter
Treasurer: Cheryl Sleeman
Christian Education: Diane Garrett
Property: Bruce Bussone
Social Ministry: Jill Carter
Stewardship: Addy Lemire
Worship & Music: Denise Kaukola Mason

