

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 4, 2022

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 - pastorparsh@gmail.com
2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 - ahadministrator@hotmail.com
814.868.8685 - www.abidinghopeerie.org - FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE ~ Violin Solo: *Andante* from Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor -G.F. Handel

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ This morning we welcome Ed Whitbred as Lay Minister

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

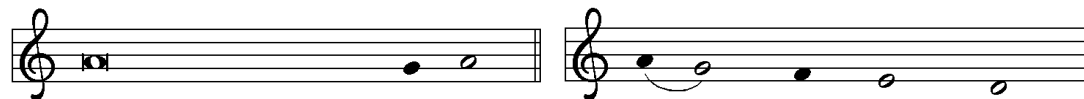
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



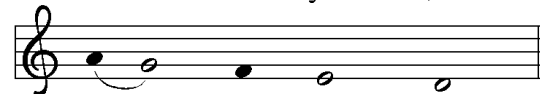
Lord, have mer - cy.



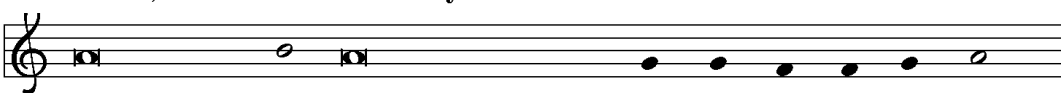
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT READING and CANDLE LIGHTING

SECOND ADVENT ~ PEACE

LECTOR: "A Very Matthew Christmas: Finding Fulfillment"

LECTOR: In a world where so many experience violence, God lights a candle of peace in our hearts. We Wait together for a Savior, who will be Immanuel, Christ he Lord. Hear the word of the Lord:

ALL: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give Light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of deaths, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78,79

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE ~ ELW 240 Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah v.2



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

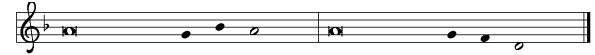
cont'd

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7, 18-19 8:30a Spoken Responsively

10:30a Sung Responsively Tone 9



¹Give the king your jus-¹ tice, O God,
and your righteousness to¹ the king's son;
²that he may rule your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy a-¹ mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush¹ the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and¹ moon endure,
from one generation¹ to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ ter the earth.
⁷In his time may the¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall¹ be no more.
¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the¹ God of Israel;
you alone do¹ wondrous deeds!
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious¹ name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A-¹ men. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 3. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. cont'd

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW249 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear, especially: Dave P, Judy, Donna, Sandy, Trudy & Christian, Jo, Karen, Ed T, Sally & Matt, Sharron, Esther, John, Christine, Emily, Dick & Diana, Lew & Jane, Don & June, Norma, the Gresh Family, Nicole, Sam & Dorothy, Judi, Karen, Ruth, Don F, Carrie, Evelyn, Joyce, Jack & Marjorie, Roger & Irene. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING ~ Violin Solo: Adagio from Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor -G.F. Handel

OFFERTORY ~ Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is
called Em - man - u - el: God with us,
re - vealed in us! His name is
called Em - man - u - el.

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB of GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION of ELEMENTS ~ Lay Distributor,

At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council and received instructions. They serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
W&P 2 *A Story for All People* pg. 9

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING HYMNS ~ 8:30a ELW 266 *All Earth is Hopeful*

10:30a

Ready the Way v.2

pg. 10

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ~ *Violin Solo: Allegro* from Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor -G.F. Handel

GOSPEL MESSAGE ~ An Impossible Vision?

Today's image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, "Eat or be eaten" is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

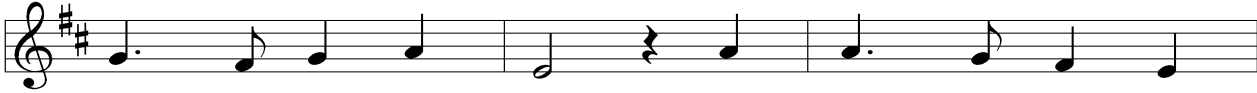
Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!

COMMUNION HYMN - A Story for All People



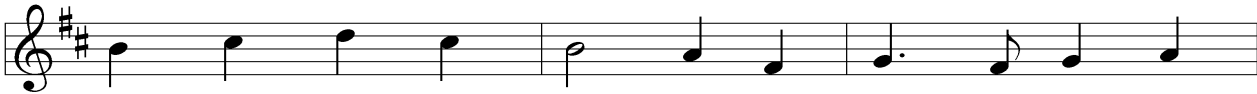
1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in
 2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in
 3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the
 4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to
 5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of
 hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we
 guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es
 turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly
 go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -



com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The
 lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We
 crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -
 Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We
 va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,
 watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er
 pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and
 won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal
 ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful



poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that



mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.
 God who is, and was, and is to come.
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - jice!
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

Refrain



A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -



day. A song of love and heal - ing, a



light to show the way.

SENDING HYMN ~ 10:30a Ready the Way v.2

Refrain



Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way



1 of the Lord. 2 of the Lord.

Verse 1



1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and



1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole,



1. and read-y the way of the Lord. to Refrain

Verses 2, 3



2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk
3. Let us see your face; in our hearts we pre-



2. in your truth, so we may love more like you
3. - pare a place. Come bring this world your mer - cy and grace



2. and } read-y the way for you, Lord.
3. as we }

PARISH NOTES ~ December 4, 2022

Coffee Hour this morning, following each service.

Confirmation Class Today 11:30a at Abiding Hope

Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,
In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, from Carol Wunch

Please pray for: Dave Parsh, Judy Johnston, Donna Klakamp, Sandy Pacileo, Trudy & Christian Mueller, Jo Critchfield, Karen Penna, Ed Tropper, Sally & Matt Zill, Sharron Sontheimer, Esther Klakamp, John Litzel, Don & June Morey, Diana & Dick Stoker, Christine & Emily Stoker, Lew & Jane Penna, Roger & Irene Owens, Norma Squire, the Gresh family, Nicole Woomer, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Karen Shick, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Judi Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30p

Candlelight Service, 9:00p.

No Christmas Day service.

Sunday, January 1 ~ Lessons & Carols, 9:30a

Sunday, December 4: New Hope Presbyterian, on Washington St., invites Abiding Hope to a **Blue Christmas Service at 4:00p.** This service is one of remembrance to honor loved ones who have passed. Provide an angel ornament in memory of your loved one and, if desired, a photo. Ornaments will be placed on the "Angel Tree" in the entrance. Contact Kristin Woodring † 814-572-5463 for additional information.

Wednesday, December 7: **Senior get-together @ 12noon.** Pizza & Salad will be served along with beverages and cookies. Enjoy the Three Kings play and then stay and help put together little gift bags of "Christmas Joy" for the residents of Fairview Manor.

Wednesday's get-togethers will **continue in January** with the **new LUNCH & LISTEN SPEAKER SERIES.** Brown Bag Lunch @ 12:00n, the speaker @ 12:30p-1:30p. You're welcome to arrive at 12:30p for just the speaker. **January 11 is Abiding Hope's Ed Whitbred. Ed will have an entertaining talk about the history of "Lower Parade Street - Erie's Ellis Island"**

Sunday, December 9: **Last day to bring** in gift(s) for the Bethesda Christmas Wish Tree. Gift list suggestions and other information on the Wish Tree table in narthex. Please put your gift(s), **unwrapped**, in a gift bag and return by deadline date.

Sunday, December 11: This is the last Sunday to have your **form/donations for KAFP** in the **offering plate**, or to the **office by December 13.** Forms on the table in the narthex.

Monday, December 12: **Ladies Night Out** this month is a Ugly Sweater Christmas Party/Ham Dinner at **Abiding Hope, 5:30p.** Bring your favorite holiday side dish to share, a pair of new socks to donate and a \$10.00 gift for an exchange with a twist. RSVP by Wednesday, December 7th to Carolyn Hayes at 814-464-3625 or Jacques Holmberg @ 814-864-3797. **Don't forget to wear your Ugly Sweater!**

Sunday, December 18: A special **Christmas Play** will be presented as part of the **10:30a service.** Kids from the congregation in costume, a carol sing-along and live animals! Plan to attend for an early Christmas celebration.

Ruth Hinkson would love to continue **attending Abiding Hope** for worship, but **she needs a ride**. If any members of the congregation are willing to pick up Ruth at the Regency @ South Shore for either service and take her home, she would be so grateful. If you were not able to take her home, I'm sure some else would step-up. To check with Ruth to see if she is able to attend a service and make arrangements, she can be reached 814-866-1528. Blessings, Pastor Karen.

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00p: Please consider joining. You'll find rehearsals go by quickly, and there are a lot of laughs! Ability to READ MUSIC not NECESSARY!

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Offering two weekly Holy Communion services @ 8:30a & 10:30a. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then post to the **AHLC** web page. Please **check parish notes** or our **web site** for any **changes to times for worship or bible study**. **No bible study on December 11 or 18.**

KAFP Project Dignity: Items for Dec.-Dental products. There is a basket in the "cry room".

Bethany Outreach: Remember your gently used clothing, shoes, household items, toys, children's items can be donated. All items are given out without charge. **Donations to Heritage Room.** Thank you for your continued support. Analee Cree -814-397-6168.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-\$**20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9:30a-3:30p, Wed 9:30a-12:30p. If the office is not staffed, leave a message, your call will be returned. For **immediate pastoral assistance**, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266. Pastor is in the office on Tuesdays @ 10:00a or by appointment.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

November Income: \$5,401.00 Year to Date Income: \$100,849.26
 November Expenses: \$10,778.76 Year to Date Expenses: \$114,627.83
 November Difference: \$-5,377.76 Year to date Difference: \$-13,778.57
 Year to Date Budget: \$114.007

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ DECEMBER 4, 2022

	8:30a	10:30a
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Lon Jenkins	Judi Pacileo
LD/ wafers	Damian Santabene	Carol Whitbred
LD/ wine	Analee Cree	Nancy Cunning
Comm. Tray glasses/juice	Mary Randall	Carol Korn
Empty communion tray	volunteer	Lois Kuhns
Usher	Mike Paris	Andy Saska
Usher	Lon Jenkins	Volunteer
Counters		Penny Gresh & Lois Kuhns

