



RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHRIST CENTERED * BIBLE BASED * FAMILY FOCUSED * MISSION MINDED



WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sundays: 8 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service (Communion 1st
and 3rd Sundays); Home phones:
dial in for worship service.

Mondays: 5:30 p.m. Coffee House
Worship (Communion 1st and 3rd
Sundays)

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Root River Floral offering
Christmas Poinsettias as follows:

4.5" pot \$8
6.5" pot \$14
7.5" pot \$24
10" pot \$39



Orders can be placed by calling
507-864-2381 by December 7.
Please let the church office know
how you would like it listed in the
Christmas Eve bulletin in memory
or honor of your loved one.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

RLCW has Christmas cards for
sale for \$6 per box. Please drop
off your payment in the canister
provided on the table.

FILLMORE COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHILD REMINDER

The Giving Tree is tagless! A
reminder to those who took tags
to return gifts back to church by
December 8 unwrapped with
family number and age of child
on each gift.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from all of us at Rushford Lutheran Church.

Christine Anderson | Kristin Burdey | Pastor Steve Chellew

Shary Evavold | David Hinz | Linda Lea | Portia Lee

Church Council

Jim Bernier | Dean Hatlevig | Barb Johnson
Glen Kopperud | Amy Luhmann | Shari Michel
John Munter | Vicki Nelson | June Vitse

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM **NEW TIME**

Come listen to the students share the reason for the season, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Christmas program will be on **December 19 at 11 a.m.** under the direction of Kristin Burdey. Following the program, lunch, birthday cake for Jesus and refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. The congregation is invited. Come and share in this blessed celebration.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES **NEW TIMES**

3:30 p.m. | Family service with special music.

5:30 p.m. | Candlelit service with special music.

7:30 p.m. | Candlelight service with special music.

Each service will be broadcast live. Search YouTube.com for Rushford Lutheran Church. One service will be recorded and posted to RushfordLutheran.com.

As part of our Advent celebration this year, a new Advent Wreath has been purchased through Memorial Funds. Donations from many of our families over the past year were used for the wreath. The oil candles we have used in the past are actually designed to be used with this wreath. Thank you to our families who made this possible. The new wreath was dedicated and put into service on November 28, the first Sunday in Advent.





PASTOR'S CORNER

We are often afraid of the wrong thing. The noise under the hood we thought was the water pump turns out to be the transmission. The gentle cough we thought was Covid turns out to be cancer. The announcement at work isn't a promotion, it's the closing of the factory. When we are looking one way, life has a way of smacking us on the other side of the head.

There are five angel announcements as part of the Christmas narrative. On the Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Eve, we will be taking a closer look at them. This tendency to be afraid of the wrong thing happens a lot with angels. Indeed, at nearly every appearance of angels in the Bible the angel begins by saying, "Don't be afraid." Don't be afraid of the angel standing in front of you. They mean the person no harm, but it's only part of the story. Truly, the person should be more afraid of what the angel has to say than the angel itself. Don't be afraid of the messenger, but do fear the message.



Zechariah was serving in the temple and looking forward to retirement. Now entrusted with raising the first prophet in Israel in 400 years, John the Baptist. And what a wild boy he would turn out to be!

Mary was looking forward to a wedding, and life with her beloved fiancé Joseph. Now entrusted with the most unexpected pregnancy a woman could ever conceive of. Indeed, now entrusted with explaining to family and friends the miraculous, indeed, the unbelievable.

Joseph was looking forward to a wedding and life with his beloved fiancé Mary. And now explaining to friends and family that she isn't quite the "beloved" he thought her to be. And you are all invited to the shotgun wedding being thrown together just before we haul off to Bethlehem!

And of course, the shepherds, abiding in the fields by night. Explaining to their boss why they left their post (and sheep) that night. Well, to "give glory to God in the highest," of course. And to "wish peace on earth, good will to men." Yeah, I'm sure that one flew by well.

Life changed when each of these individuals met an angel, but not because of the angel. Not because they had seen something miraculous, but simply because of what the angel said. Unfortunately, we are like them and tend to focus too much on the angel, and not enough on the message. For you see, that is what the word angel means: messenger. Angels are simply messengers, messengers of God.

What are you afraid of as we head to the end of 2021? Hopefully the end of a pandemic, prayerfully the end of nearly two years of confusion, broken schedules and people sticking cotton swabs way too far up our noses. Many fear the financial free fall that is the anticipated adjustment to getting our lives back to "normal." But for some, indeed I suspect more than we think, getting back to normal is actually what they fear. The fact that going back to normal isn't what they thought it would be or really want it to be.

Then again, quite often we are afraid of the wrong thing. When looking this way, something totally unanticipated is happening over there. Maybe we should stop looking and simply start listening. Maybe the angel itself isn't the message. He is simply the messenger.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)

Even today fear itself isn't the message, it is simply the thing God quite often uses to help us see what he knows we really need to see about our world and about ourselves. Fear the wake-up call to help us hear clearly the message.

What a blessing! Claire Olstad keeps in such good contact with me through his regular calls, and when he told me a few weeks ago that they would like to bring us a load of wood, I could hardly believe such a generous thought. Today, when they came with a big dump truck loaded with oak and walnut, it really sank in how full of Christ's love are the men that sit around the round table at Rushford Lutheran Church on Wednesday mornings!

Claire, Mary, and Chuck delivered this awesome gift, using Denny Darr's truck. I know John Munter's wood splitter was used and Harlan helped out, but I'm not sure how many others were directly involved. Thanks to everyone!

I posted a couple photos on Facebook, and one of our neighbors commented: "Wow. What a wonderful reflection of Christ's love."

How true!

Thank you so much! I miss the fellowship and the service opportunities each week.

In Christ,

Mark Reisetter



Thank you to everyone who helped donate and worked on Operation Christmas Child Shoebox. What a great mission project! We packed 252 boxes!

Join us live and in person on Sunday mornings or Monday evenings at Rushford Lutheran. Don't let fear make you miss the message. This Advent, this Christmas: "Angels We Have Heard on High." Are you ready to listen to what they have to say to you?

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Steve

RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Ladies mission work is every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Coffee fellowship for December will be served by Martha, Adah, Priscilla and Miriam Circles.

RLCW Meeting will be Wednesday, December 1 at 1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle has the program. Lunch is potluck.

RLCW Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2021

President Bean opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She then turned the meeting over to the Hannah Circle. Corrine Hill opened with prayer. Rhonda LaFleur introduced Trace Erickson who is a deputy with the Houston County Sheriff's Dept. Trace introduced us to Roman, a 6 year-old Dutch Shepherd who is a member of the Houston Co. Canine patrol. Roman is trained in narcotic detection, is trained to find children, lost people and suspects. His #1 priority is to fight drugs. Trace gave several examples of his use in the area. Roman was named Best Dog in a national competition in 2019 and 20. He is insured for \$20,000. Lynn Munter then read a reading about Gabrielle the Lost Dog who was found, based on Matthew 18:11. Daisy Darr and Annika Bakkum-Ekern then favored us with two musical selections, accompanied by Beatty Darr on guitar.



President Bean called the business meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was given showing a balance on hand of \$4, 908.27.

Old Business: Baking for the bazaar has been completed. The ladies made 76 ½ dozen hard tack, 74 dozen stroll, 44 dozen flat bread and 91 ½ doz. rosettes. Thanks to everyone who helped. A reminder to circle treasurers to have their financial reports ready for the December meeting. Shoeboxes will be boxed on November 16. Help is needed.

New Business: The bazaar will be held Nov. 16. Bring baked goods and crafts for sale. There are boxes of Christmas card for sale on the cards table. The December meeting is potluck. Each circle is asked to have one person to work in the kitchen that day. New

dish cloths will be purchased for the kitchen. Linda Paulson gave a quilting report. So far donations have been given to 2 benefits, 8 to Grace Place, 12 to Ronald McDonald House plus donations to a Canton fire family and SEMCAC.

Announcements: This Sunday night there will be a movie night with a light supper here at the church. All are invited. Prayer requests were received and birthdays and anniversaries noted. The next meeting will be Dec. 1 at 1:30pm. Priscilla Circle has the program, lunch is potluck and Sunday morning coffee is by the Martha, Adah, Priscilla and Miriam Circles. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The Lord's Prayer was said and the Table Prayer was sung. Lunch was served by the Martha Circle.

Donna Boyum, secretary

FAMILY EDUCATION NEWS

The Christmas story has so much that happens at night. Notice how many things "shine" or "glow" in the story: Angel (I assume some sort of glow) appears to both Mary and Joseph announcing the birth. The angel that visited Joseph came at night. Mary and Joseph spent nights on the road traveling to Bethlehem. Shepherds watched their sheep at night. Angels appear to the shepherds at night. Wise men notice a unique star and follow it.

The Youth Choir sang "This Little Light of Mine" on November 28, the beginning of Advent. God's light shines in all of His creations, from the star of Bethlehem, to the angel proclaiming Christ's birth, to the Son of God Himself – the light of the world. Through this light, He illuminates darkness, gives us guidance, and shows us how to love one another. Let God's light bring you the happiness of hope this holiday season.

We are pleased to have the seventh grade involved with our advent services again this year. The Advent Schedule and readings for the **seventh graders** were sent home with them on November 21 and copies are in their classroom. This is a wonderful way to get students involved in our worship services!



First Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m. Nov. 28: Brady Stiever lights candle 1; Sadie Stiever reads.

Second Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m. Dec. 5: Cayden Lea lights candles 1-2; Madison Ingvalson reads.

Third Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m. Dec. 12: Aleksa Phillips lights candles 1-3; Claire Lone Shepard reads.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m. Dec. 19: Brady Stiever lights candles 1-4; Christian Zibrowski reads.

Parade of Lights is December 11 at 7 p.m. The **fifth grade** class (and any others that want to join) will be a part of the parade that will float through town singing Christmas carols. Please come and witness the excitement. A letter will be sent home explaining what time to report and where to pick up your children after the event. Thank you to all of those helping to make this year's involvement go smoothly!

CHRISTMAS PARADE



The 2021 Christmas program. Come listen to the students share the traditional Christmas story, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Christmas program will be on **December 19 at 11 a.m.**, under the direction of Kristin Burdey. Practices are held during Sunday school with potential extra times which will be communicated ahead of time. ***It is important that all***

students be present the next few Sundays and especially on December 19th as this is dress rehearsal. Following the program, lunch, birthday cake for Jesus and refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. Congregation is invited. Come and share in this blessed celebration.

The **third grade** class won't be decorating a Christmas tree at the Good Shepherd Home this year as they are not allowing visitors due to Covid. However, the **second and third graders** will still be making ornaments that will be taken to the Home and put on the tree.

Don't forget to keep collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house.

The **kindergarten** and **first grade** class will be coloring holiday pictures. These will be part of the Christmas card to the shut-in members of our congregation.

The **six and seventh graders** went shopping on November 28 for Fillmore County Christmas and purchased gifts for families in need. Thank you to all of the students and parents that donated towards this cause. Donations can still be given to the RLC Youth Group to help fund this activity.

**** Sunday school will break on December 26 and January 2. It resumes on January 9, 2022, at 10:15 a.m. Happy New Year! ****

The Family Education department wants to thank everyone who shares in the Family Education ministry at Rushford Lutheran for their support and participation.

~ Wishing you all the happiness of the Holiday Season, may the Lord's peace, His love and His joy be your gifts at Christmas and your blessings all year through!

Christine Anderson, Family Education Director
507-858-5968 or christineandersonmn@yahoo.com



RLC YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Cookie Walk December 12. You are invited to the Cookie Walk! This favorite annual event Sunday, December 12 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Narthex. For just \$5/ dozen, you can have all your Christmas baking done! All bakers in the congregation are invited to share their goodies. Drop off your cookies the day before or morning of. Proceeds go to support Family Education Youth Activities.



Harvest Party. The Harvest Party held October 31 was a great success! There were activities set up throughout the church grounds, including a coin search, pumpkin craft, football toss, cookie decorating, Polaroid pictures, hamster balls, and more! There were many prizes and lots of candy distributed to the 40 or so kids in attendance. This event was put together by the Family Education Youth Activities Committee with the help of many Confirmation students.



Concert Field Trip. The 7-12 Grade RLC Youth Group took a field trip to Rochester on a recent Sunday evening. Grammy-award-winning Christian artist For King & Country performed the last concert of their fall tour at the Mayo Civic Center on November 14. Since this date fell on a youth group Sunday, it seemed like it was meant to be. The band put on a spectacular stage show with great instrumentation, special effects and messages about Jesus. The 11 youth and 6 adults in attendance from RLC all thoroughly enjoyed the show. A number of well-known hits were played, such as "God Only Knows," "Amen," and "Joy" with a spectacular encore performance of "Little Drummer Boy," which came to prominence after their 2019 rendition on the Country Music



Awards. The students got to witness firsthand just how enjoyable Christian music can be, along with the fellowship of friends of faith, two very important things for teenagers to experience.

Upcoming Events. The youth group will spend their next couple of Sunday nights looking at the wonder and anticipation the season of advent brings, with meetings on November 28 and December 12 preparing our hearts for the coming Savior. The year will end with an Elf-themed Christmas party on December 26.

Watch for fliers and follow the RLC Youth Facebook page for further details and updates.

Save the Date for Youth Conferences.

- The “The Way • The Truth • The Life”, conference will be held in Des Moines **July 19-22, 2022**. RLC Youth will be fundraising in the months leading up to the event, so be ready for more information to come your way after the holiday season.
- Ignite is a yearly multi-state Youth Conference for student leaders, volunteers, and youth workers. The event partners with speakers and ministries with the goal of equipping and training students, youth workers, and volunteers with Biblical principles. Principles that will help each church or ministry accomplish the goal of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Last year a small group from RLC went to scope out the conference, joining over 2000 young people from all over the Midwest, and this year we hope to bring a larger group of students that are interested in stepping into leadership roles within the RLC youth ministry. This year’s conference “The Word” will take place **March 11-12** in Des Moines. Talk to Kristin Burdey with questions, and keep your eyes open after the holidays for more information.

Kristin Burdey
7th-12th Grade Youth Director



MUSIC NEWS



Praise Team. The Praise Team will be sharing music with the congregation on the third Sunday of the month, December 19, instead of the second Sunday. This is because they are helping lead some of the carols in the Children’s Christmas Program. In addition, the ladies choir, Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, and Karen Nelson will be contributing their musical talents to the program in order to make it even more wonderful this year. The Praise Team will also be leading the 7:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. There will be no practice December 26 or January 2.

Kristin Burdey
Director of Choirs

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Reminder to turn in meeting notes from each committee to church office (email: rlc@acegroup.cc)

PRESENT: John Munter, Jim Bernier, Dean Hatlevig, June Vitse, Shari Michel, Glen Kopperud, Vicki Nelson, Amy Luhmann, Barb Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Pastor Steve Chellew

1) DEVOTIONS & PRAYER CONCERNS

Devotions: Amy – “Forget about It”

Prayer Concerns: Paul Skalet, Jim Nelson

2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA- MA

3) SECRETARY’S REPORT- MA

a. October Minutes- *Correction* - 16 homebound visits

4) TREASURER’S REPORT- MA

a. October financials—Giving remains solid, expenses as usual

5) PASTORS REPORT

For the month of October:

4 hospital visits (3 in person, 1 by phone)

26 homebound visits (most face to face)

1 baptism

6) UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- a. Benevolence Giving- Revisions made to current distributions
- b. Roof Project – Properties Committee

Jerome is interested in working on 2 parapets; discussed addressing the tuck point. John will contact him and discuss timing.

7) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Finance Software
Looking at user-friendly software.
- b. New Members – MA
Chad and Robyn Steffens, Tori
Jordan and Anna Pelzel, Nova
- c. Set date for Annual Meeting –First Sunday of February – February 6, 2022
- d. Snow Removal – Atkinson
Atkinsons has lost some staffing. Decision pending.
- e. Worship Times – Sunday
Council had considerable discussion. Due to COVID, we will remain at 2 services on Sunday.
- f. Screens during Sermon –
Two recent episodes of difficulty live-streaming as well as projection issues, will consider upgrading in future.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance and Stewardship Committee - Attached
- b. Education Committee - Attached
- c. Youth Committee - None
- d. Membership Committee - Attached
- e. Worship Committee - Attached
- f. Human Resources Committee - None
- g. Endowment Committee - None
- h. Properties Committee - None
- j. Scholarship Committee - None

9) INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

10) ADJOURNMENT / CLOSING PRAYERS

Adjourned at 8:06 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Johnson

OCTOBER CASH SUMMARY REPORT

Balance brought forward 9/30/2021	\$6,252.93
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$46,757.42
DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$34,659.27</u>
TOTAL ON HAND 10/31/2021	\$18,351.08



Thank you to all the bakers, workers, contributors and shoppers for making this year's Fall Bazaar a great success. Without all of you we could not make this event a success.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Worship led by Pastor Steven Chellew
Altar Guild: June Vitse, Cindy Vitse, Lisa Chellew
Organist: Shary Evavold
Pianist : Portia Lee

Projectionists: Lisa Chellew, Sandy Rasmussen, Becky Stocker, Steve Burdey, Beatty Darr
Videographers: Dean Hatlevig, Barb Johnson, June Vitse, Jeremy Tesch
Choir Director: Kristin Burdey

8 a.m. Worship		9:15 a.m. Worship
12/5/2021	Scripture Reader: Glen Kopperud	Adalyn Hoel
Communion	Ushering: Marv Bestul and Claire Olstad	Louis Boehmke and John Campe
12/12/2021	Scripture Reader: Tesh Kopperud	Abigail Fenske
	Ushering: Dennie Darr and Gordy Elliott	Tom Kopperud and Jim Bernier
12/19/2021	Scripture Reader: Holly Johnson	Jace Dvorak
Communion	Ushering: Wayne Meyer and Kerry Heiden	John Peterson and Mike Messenger
12/24/2021	Scripture Reader: Samuel Schaus	
3:30 p.m.	Ushering: John Campe and Jack Martinka	
12/24/2021	Scripture Reader: Shari Michel	
5:30 p.m. candlelight	Ushering: Claire Olstad and Family	
12/24/2021	Scripture Reader: Dr. David Hinz	
7:30 p.m. candlelight	Ushering: Tom Kopperud and Family	
12/26/2021	Scripture Reader: Dr. David Hinz	Avree Connaughty
	Ushering: Brendon Honken and Dale Evavold	Dale Rasmussen and Lowell Rasmussen

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Work 1:30p RLCW Meeting 6p Confirmation Class 6p Grief Share 6p Family Education Meeting	2 10a RLCW Bible Study	3 Office Closed	4
5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a Worship w/Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 9:15a Worship w/Communion, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	6 10a Worship Posted Online 4:30p Worship Committee Meeting 5:30p Coffee House w/ Communion, Fellowship Hall 6:30p Women's Choir	7	8 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Work 6p Confirmation Class 6p Grief Share	9	10 Office Closed	11 3p 4th & 5th grade Christmas Program dress rehearsal until Parade of Lights at 7p
12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a Worship, New Members Welcome, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in basement 9:15a Worship, New Members Welcome, Baptism, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 6p Youth Group	13 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship, Fellowship Hall 6:30p Women's Choir 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting 7p Church Council Meeting	14	15 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Work 6p Confirmation class 6p Grief Share	16 9:30a Ruth's Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5p Martha Circle	17 Office Closed	18
19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a Worship w/Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 9:15a Worship, w/Communion, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11a Christmas Program	20 10a Worship Posted Online 1p Bremmer/GSLH Communion 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House w/ Communion, Fellowship Hall 6:30p Women's Choir	21	22 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Work	23	24 Office Closed CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES 3:30P 5:30P 7:30P	25 CHRISTMAS DAY
26 8a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 9:15a Worship, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Adult Bible Study 6p Youth Group	27 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship, Fellowship Hall 6:30p Women's Choir	28	29 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Work	30	31	

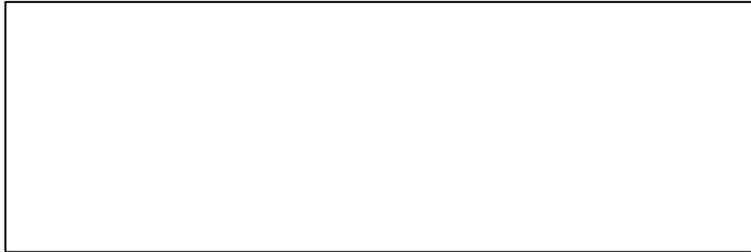
Rushford Lutheran Church

Physical Address: 101 S Mill Street, Rushford, MN

Mailing Address: PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

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RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 South Mill Street, PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971 (507) 864-7152

Church Office Open to the Public: M-Th 8 AM to Noon

Pastor Steven Chellew (Ext. 11) or cell 507-703-1221; email: stevechellew@gmail.com

Linda Lea, Church Secretary (Ext. 10)

Christine Anderson, Family Education Director; Kristin Burdey, Youth Ministries/Director of Choirs; David Hinz, Custodian

E-Mail Address: rlc@acegroup.cc ** Web Page: www.rushfordlutheran.com

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Dean Hatlevig, Council President, Youth, Membership	864-7001	dhatlevig65@gmail.com
Shari Michel, Council Vice-President, Education	875-2818	sharimichel@r-pschools.com
Barbara Johnson, Council Secretary, Scholarship.....	421-5472	johnson.barbara4@mayo.edu
June Vitse, Council Treasurer, Finance, Human Resources	864-7876	jvitse@mienergy.coop
Glen Kopperud, Human Resources, Properties	458-6894	glen@normanselectric.com
Vicki Nelson, Worship	864-2027	nelson@acegroup.cc
Amy Luhmann, Membership	864-3121	ageiwitz@acegroup.cc
John Munter, Properties	429-2969	johnmunter@yahoo.com
Jim Bernier, Endowment	261-4991	jrbernier@hotmail.com