

September 2024

# First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

*Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve*



## Church Without Walls 2024

### Registration Form

Registration can also be complete on-line!

Check out our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org) and click on the link!

### Sunday, September 8

8:30am: Breakfast served at First Lutheran Church

9:30am-9:45am: Kickoff Worship Service

9:45am-11:45am: Service Project Work



**Overview:** God's mission has a Church. God's mission is life, life-giving.

**Goals:**

1. Learn from the community of Morris and the world
2. Respond with gifts of service, resources, talents.

**Specifications:** We all have a network of work, friendship and family relationships. Within your network of relationships, how might the people, and resources, of First Lutheran Church best utilize their energies in service? Where can work for justice be done? Where can kindness and love be shown? Where can service be accomplished?

**Efforts:** You are being asked to organize into individual or group work.

**Please fill out for each participant, or if choosing a project for an entire family.**

1. I'm registering for:

☐ Myself/1 person

☐ My family/ Multiple People - Same Project

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. If registering for family/multiple people, list the number of people in group: \_\_\_\_\_

4. If registering for family/multiple people, list first and last names of each participant:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Cell Phone Number (for day of event): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Service Activities Selection:

Please select one morning service project. You will go to your project following the morning worship at 9:30am.

### Choose your Service Project: (mark only one)

- ☐ LWR & Health Mission Kits Assembly (on site project) Sunday school children and adults needed
- ☐ Cookies for hospitality (on site project)
- ☐ Someplace Safe Store: clean-up and sorting (off site project)
- ☐ City Park Baseball Fields: (off site project) This project is shared with Faith Lutheran
- ☐ Courage Cottage: Music, Chalk Art, Games with residents & Window washing. (off site project) Bring your own things.
- ☐ Food Preparations for Breakfast at 8:30am (on site project): prepare, serve, clean up

Is there anything else you would like event organizers to know about? i.e. You may state: I/We will work ANY PROJECT. Please describe any special needs or accommodations necessary. Call or text Emilie at 719-440-8575 with any questions.

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*Liability Release Agreement: I/We understand that there are inherent risks involved in any service project, and I/we hereby release First Lutheran Church, its staff and volunteers from any and all liability due to any injury, loss, or damage to person or property that may occur during the course of my/our involvement with Church Without Walls. I understand that I/we may be photographed or videotaped by First Lutheran or Faith Lutheran Churches while participating in Church Without Walls, and authorize the use of those photos in any church advertising/website use. By signing below, you agree to the above release.*

Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration can also be completed on-line! Check out our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org) and click on the link!**

Friends in Christ,

We've spent a good bit of July and August feasting on, and digesting, John 6 "the Bread of Life" and the Letter to the Ephesians which reminds us how amazing and abundant God's love is and how we can live out our faith in love and peace with fellow believers and in the world.

We are looking forward to a full and fruitful fall here at First Lutheran. September 8<sup>th</sup> we'll be having "Church Without Walls", going out to serve our neighbors and joining together for fellowship at the end. Then we'll have Rally Sunday on the 15<sup>th</sup> to mark the beginning of Sunday School, Element and our program year.

In September and October, we will be taking some time in worship for some conversations. Yes, talking with each other in worship! Sharing stories of the past, and envisioning what God is calling us to in the future. We'll keep it relatively simple and safe.

**"Coming to Terms with History"** is one of the steps to get ready for a new pastor and a new season in the life of the church. Every congregation has stories. When anniversaries are celebrated the stories focus on success and joy. That's good and appropriate. But we know there are shortcomings, grief and maybe even some lingering hurt. We don't want to get stuck there, but we can gain vital wisdom from those difficult moments or seasons.

**"Discovering a New Identity"** can be energizing and life-giving. One the one hand, both Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8 declare that *God* is the *same* always and never ever changes. Is God then, and the church, stale and stagnant? Hardly! When we look at the Bible as a whole, we see that God keeps starting over. Noah and his family is a new beginning. In Abraham and Sarah establishes a covenant. With Moses, Miriam and Aaron God starts over with another covenant. In King David God makes another new start that is ultimately fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. And in between God promises a new covenant through Jeremiah and Ezekiel—to bring them out of captivity. God IS the same... and that sameness is about always doing something new!

**"Renewing Connections"** beyond the congregation, is vital and important in moving forward. Sometimes we take our associations with others for granted. This congregation has done ministry and made a difference in this local community. First Lutheran's influence goes across the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Our reach and support touch lives across this country. The love and generosity of this local church is felt around the world. That may sound like an overstatement. However, we need to keep reminding ourselves of the stories and relationships that we have far and wide, as well as near and dear.

**"Commitment to a New Direction"** is challenging, but it's necessary and essential. I love to go sailing. Over the years I've learned that when the wind changes direction, you need to change the set of your sails. And when you are facing a headwind to get to your desired destination, you must keep "tacking", going back and forth facing part way into the breeze but still moving forward. I don't know for sure where God what new compass heading or direction God is calling us to. However, I do know that if we will venture out God will provide a way to get there.

Certainly all that will make for some joyful and energizing times here at First.

See you in church,  
Pr. Rich Fitzer

- ☐ **Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall before the worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The **KINDNESS Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hour during the month of September. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. Those in this month's Service Group are:
 

Ryan & Laura Anderson	Kyle & Amy Dougherty	Sheila & Leroy Fahje
Jay & Joleen Hanson	Allan & Elizabeth Harris	Bruce & Laura McCormack
Allen & Julie Monroe	Jason & Selena Reed	Jon & Shana Ulrich
Ward & Carol Voorhees		
- ☐ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wed., Sept 4th at 11:30am at Buddies in Hancock. All are welcome to join us!
- ☐ **Newsletter Deadline** for the October newsletter is noon on Monday, September 23.
- ☐ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, September 19 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall.
- ☐ **Pastoral Visit** If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church office and a pastor will be contacted to visit you. Even though you may be asked your religious affiliation during check-in, the hospital staff can not share that information without you specifically requesting they contact your church.
- ☐ **Daily Grace** Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Just go to the Women of the ELCA website ([www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)) and sign up for the "Daily Grace." Reflect, pray, and prepare for the day.
- ☐ **Glacial Ridge Conference Women of the ELCA** will be held on Monday, September 16th at Glenwood Lutheran Church, 206 Minnewaska Ave E., Glenwood. Make plans now to attend and join your sisters in Christ for the theme "Gather Us In to Send Us Out."
- ☐ **Social Hour at Legacy Living** is held each Wednesday at 2:30pm for residents and friends. On the third Wednesday of each month, friends from First Lutheran supply the treats/goodies. Help may be needed occasionally....a batch of cookies or a cake; just something simple. All are welcome to join us anytime. If interested in helping out, contact Cheryl at 314-570-0700 or Marlene at 320-589-3879.
- ☐ **Donate with Venmo!** You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe and easy way to transfer money) Check out and download the app on your smart phone (available for Android and Apple) or check out their website at [www.venmo.com](http://www.venmo.com).

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## *Mission & Evangelism News*

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**WELCOME PICNIC** the Mission & Evangelism Committee seeks volunteers to be the face of First Lutheran Church by volunteering at our table for the Welcome Picnic organized by the Chamber. This year it will be held on September 4th from 4:30-7:30pm at East Side Park. Come out to enjoy all UMM students this year, as it is being held during Homecoming Week, instead of Orientation Week. Sign up link on our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org)

**OLIVEWOOD PROJECT** Michael and Carmen Zoughbi will be visiting Morris in September and the Olivewood inventory will be on display and for sale on Sunday, September 22.

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## *Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day*

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Aug 5	Happy Birthday Wade Ehlers from mom and dad
Aug 11	In loving memory of Brian Van Horn from his mother LaVonne Watson
Aug 15	In memory of Sybil Klasson from Jim & Marian Thraen
Aug 16	In memory of Victor Youle from Jim & Marian Thraen
Aug 17	In memory of Vernon Henkelman from Emilie Brustuen
Aug 18	In memory of Jim Quackenbush from Jo Solvie

You can sponsor the missionaries of the ELCA for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor of someone. Contact Rita in the church office if you need more information.

Aug 25    ELCA Lutheran Worship radio broadcast given in memory of Sylvia Yarger from Kay Werpy

## September Worship Servants

### Sunday, September 1: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion      10:00am Coffee Hour

**Ushers:** Dick Smith, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

**Lector:** Emilie Brustuen

**Communion:** Sharon & Doug Ehlers, Judy Buro

**Communion Prep:** Vicki Dalager (*bread*)

**Nursery:** Michelle Just

**Acolyte:** Brenna Jergenson & Sawyer Fynboh

**Video:** Mike Odello

**TV slides:** Skott Anderson

### Sunday, September 8: Church without Walls 9:30am Kick-off service

**Ushers:** Steve & Michelle Just Family

**Video:** Kyle Dougherty

**TV Slides:** Jaxon Hilbrands

### Rally Sunday, September 15: 11:00am Worship      10:00am Sunday school and Coffee Hour

**Ushers:** Al Harris, Michael Bjorklund, Dennis Feuchtenberger

**Lector:** Ward Voorhees

**Nursery:** Pam Wiese

**Acolyte:** Abram Suess & Lilly Nesvig

**Video:** Tony Feuchtenberger

**TV slides:** Owen Nesvig

### Sunday, September 22: 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion      10:00am Sunday school and Coffee Hour

**Ushers:** Bob Heck, Steve Just

**Lector:** Amy Dougherty

**Nursery:** Michelle Just

**Acolyte:** Maddy Schneider & Mackenzie Just

**Communion:** Linda Holland (*wafers*)

**Comm Servers:** Laurie F., Millie Tschetter, Emilie Brustuen

**Video:** Kyle Dougherty

**TV slides:** Micah Ulrich

### Sunday, September 29: 11:00am Worship      10:00am Coffee Hour

**Ushers:** Kent Swenson, Mike & Wes Odello

**Lector:** Dorwin Tschetter

**Nursery:** Erica Swenson

**Acolyte:** Aubrey Williamson & Connor Siegel

**Video:** Dave Jungst

**TV slides:** Chance Buro



Sept 1    Brayden Carlson  
Sept 2    Allyn Plattner  
Sept 4    Linda Holland  
Sept 5    Jaelyn Flower, Elizabeth Harrison  
Sept 6    Vincent Feuchtenberger, Kahla Gillespie,  
             Steve Jungst, Michelle Just  
Sept 8    Jason Christians  
Sept 9    Gary Knochenmus  
Sept 12   Benjamin Ehlers, Emily Nelson,  
             Sarah Schultz  
Sept 13   Don Ritter, Kevin Wevley  
Sept 14   Jacob Hanson, Leo Nesvig  
Sept 17   Rochelle Anderson  
Sept 18   Cari Burnett  
Sept 19   Laura McCormack  
Sept 20   Matt Mortenson, Anita Neisius  
Sept 22   Riley (Decker) Nohl, Mackenze Grunig,  
             Mitchell Grunig  
Sept 23   John Dossdall  
Sept 24   Curtis Quisberg, Wyatt Schultz

Sept 25   Dale Jacobson, Jim Hills  
Sept 27   Chance Buro  
Sept 28   Robin McCulloch, Lori Wevley  
Sept 29   Bess Boever  
Sept 30   Crystal Nesvig, Kye Suess



Sept 2    Deb & Dick Mahoney  
Sept 5    Allan & Elizabeth Harris  
Sept 8    David Jungst & Lindy Ekola  
Sept 10   Dale & Lois Peterson  
Sept 12   Neil & Pam Wiese  
Sept 14   Dale & Zona Jacobson  
Sept 15   Jean & John Schultz  
Sept 17   Heidi & Neil Suess  
Sept 21   Robert & Janis Waller  
             Dorwin & Millie Tschetter  
             Dennis & Natalie Ketterling  
Sept 24   Jared & Makayla Flower  
Sept 25   Doyle & Jone Anderson  
Sept 28   Jim & Jacqui Hills

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship HC	<b>2</b> <i>Church office closed for Labor Day</i>	<b>3</b> 11am Pastors' Text Study	<b>4</b> 11:30am Lunch Bunch: Buddie's in Hancock 4:30-7:30pm UMM Welcome Picnic at Eastside Park 6pm Adult leader training for Element	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>8</b> <i>Church without Walls</i> 8:30am Breakfast 9:30am Kick-off service 9:45 - 11:45am Service Projects 6-8pm Fusion Youth @ First	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Gatherings for Widows/ Widowers at Old #1 4:15pm Worship & Music Mtg	<b>11</b>  6:30pm Element Parent/Student Mtg	<b>12</b> 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>15</b> 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 10am Sunday school 11am Worship 2:30 - 4pm Girl Scouts 7-8pm Fusion Youth @ TBA	<b>16</b> 4pm Glacial Ridge Women of the ELCA Conference at Glenwood Lutheran	<b>17</b> 11am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b>  6:30-8pm Element @ First 6:30-8pm Fusion Youth @ RFC	<b>18</b> 2pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>22</b> 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 10am Sunday school 11am Worship HC 12pm Seniors on the Move Trip 6-8pm Fusion Youth @ Heather's	<b>23</b> 12pm Newsletter Articles Due	<b>24</b> 11am Pastors' Text Study	<b>25</b>  6:30-8pm Element @ First 6:30-8pm Fusion Youth @ RFC	<b>26</b> 9am Share & Care (quilting group)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
<b>29</b> 10am Coffee/ Fellowship 11am Worship 2:30 - 4pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm Fusion Youth @ Heather's	<b>30</b>					

*All worship services are streamed live via Facebook (Morris-First Lutheran Church) and YouTube (First Lutheran Church - Morris MN). Recorded services available on our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org)*

*Rita is in the church office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm by phone call or text (320-287-2384) or email ([office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org))*



## We are excited for a great year of Sunday School at First Lutheran!

Sunday School will be held *twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month (with the exception of September) from 10:00am to 10:45am*. On the Sundays when classes do not meet, we encourage children to worship with their families.

A registration form is attached, but they are also available in the church Narthex and on our website at [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org) under the EDUCATION tab.

There will be 3 classrooms this year: PreK & Kindergarten | 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade | 4th & 5th Grade

### Classes held from 10:00 - 10:45am on the following Sundays:

September 15 & 22 *\*see note below about Sept 8th!*

October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17

December 1, 8 & 15 *(Christmas Program on the 15th during worship, with practice on the 8th)*

January 5 & 19

February 2 & 16

March 2 & 16

April 6 & 20

May 4

**\*SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th** is Church without Walls. A service project has been lined up for the students to assemble Lutheran World Relief Kits at the church. We will not have Sunday school that morning but rather the kids are encouraged to gather at worship with their family.

**RALLY SUNDAY** will be on Sunday, September 15th. Classes will meet from 10:00 - 10:45am and Bibles will be given to new Preschool students, 3rd Graders, and the 6th grade Confirmation Students during the 11:00am worship service.

**THANK YOU** to our wonderful teachers! We look forward to a great year! **PARENTS, we are looking for volunteers to be on a sub list. Even if you are only able to sub one time or have limited availability it would be GREATLY appreciated.** If you can help please contact Cari Burnett ([Cari.burnett@hotmail.com](mailto:Cari.burnett@hotmail.com)).

Peace,  
First Lutheran Education Committee

# ELEMENT: 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Info and Important dates to remember!

Hi Parents, Grandparents & Caregivers of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders!

We are excited to start up a new year of Element. We have been prepping and praying for this new season! I know that the start of the new school year has lots of new dates to schedule so here are a few key dates to write down in your planner!

- **Sept 11: 6:30pm:** Element Parent/Student Information Meeting at First Lutheran Church. We want to meet you if you are new to Element, re-connect with you if you have attended before and have you meet us as a leadership team! ***At least one parent/caregiver and the youth involved must attend!***
- **Sept 18: 6:30-8:00pm:** Element Student Kickoff at First Lutheran Church
- **Sept 25: 6:30-8:00pm:** Element meeting at First Lutheran Church

Thanks so much for your time!! You will be receiving a letter in the mail as well as an email with forms to fill out for the meeting on Sept 11th. Please reach out to me if you haven't received the mailing or haven't gotten the email! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email or give me a call/text: [heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com](mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com) or 320.349.0103. Check out our website [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com). Have a great rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Heather Black (Fusion Youth Ministry Director)



## Element's Schedule: (Grades 6 - 8)

- **Wed, Sept 4: 6:00-7:30pm** Adult leadership training @First Lutheran Church (NO Students)
- **Wed, Sept 11: 6:30pm** Element Parent/Student Information Meeting at First Lutheran Church. We want to meet you if you are new to Element, re-connect with you if you have attended before and have you meet us as a leadership team! ***At least one parent/caregiver and the youth involved must attend!***
- **Wed, Sept 18: 6:30-8pm** Element @First Lutheran Church
- **Wed, Sept 25: 6:30-8pm** Element @First Lutheran Church

## Sr. High Fusion's Schedule: (Grades 9 - 12)

- **Sunday, Sept 8: 6:00-8:00pm** – Sr. High Fusion Kickoff @First Lutheran Church
- **Sunday, Sept 15: 6:00-7:00pm** – Worship Night, Location TBA

## Fridays, Sept 13, 20 & 27 – Fusion Friday Breakfast

- Morris Group @Faith Lutheran Church **7:15-8:00am**
- Hancock Group @Albertson's in Hancock **7:15-8:00am**

## Life Groups: This year we are offering two Sr High Fusion life group opportunities:

- The Creative group will be baking, crafting, painting & learning about God. This is open to both girls and guys!  
Creative: **Sunday, Sept 22 & 29 @Heather's House 6:00-8:00pm** (Leaders Heather & Katie)
- The Squad is for those who love to be active, are on a sports team or have been on a sports team. Time to hang and play some games and then spend some time learning about God! This is open to both girls and guys!  
Squad: **Wednesday, Sept 18 & 25 @RFC 6:30-8:00pm** (Leaders David, Tony & Amy)



Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information. [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267



## Seniors on the Move

# Barefoot in the Park

We have a fun day planned!  
Church...dinner...and theatre!

**Sunday, September 22**

**Cost is \$30** (includes van ride, meal & ticket)

We will leave the church parking lot immediately following the morning worship service, travelling to the Barrett Inn for a Tator Tot hotdish meal, which includes dessert, and then to the Prairie Wind Theatre for the play. Then it's back to Morris to rest and reflect on the day. Anyone with special dietary needs should contact Jo Solvie. This trip is open to all adults that wish to join us, not just seniors!

# FUSION youth Corn & Coffee

## For Christ Challenge

- Do you grow corn? Consider donating a row of corn (or more).
- Do you drink coffee? Consider donating the amount you spend on coffee in a week, month, or year.

The Corn & Coffee for Christ Challenge helps to fund the "extra" parts of our ministry, such as retreats, special events, service projects, and more. Your dollars will make a lasting impact on our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth.

Donations can be made through your church and earmarked for "Fusion Ministry" or pick up a brochure at your church to learn more.

Fusion Youth Ministry is a multi-congregation ministry reaching out to 6th-12th Grade Youth in the Morris area.

The Fusion Ministry Board is challenging you to support this ministry above & beyond our congregation's financial commitment to this ministry.

## First Lutheran Church Council Highlights: Aug 15, 2024

### Committee Reports:

- **Education:** Currently working on a substitute list for Sunday School teachers.
- **Property:** Some holes were patched on the flat portion of the roof. Working on estimates for automatic doors. Talked about checking in to possible grants to help fund this. Mortar and brick around the exterior of the building are in need of attention. The old boiler has been removed and will be back to install the new one.
- **Mission and Evangelism:** Discussed Church Without Walls and Olive Wood.
- **Worship and Music:** copies of the last meeting minutes were handed out to everyone.

### Old Business:

- Giana Feuchtenberger and Allyn Plattner were added to the transition team. The next meeting will be held the last Sunday in August.
- Council retreat update was tabled until the full council is present.

### New Business:

- Cari said Federated Church is going to move forward with their young adult get-togethers.
- Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00pm with devotions given by Denise.

## JULY'S GIVING and EXPENSE

\$16,072.50 July Income

\$20,059.23 July Expense

\$130,651.13 Year-to-Date Giving

\$131,173.24 Year-to-Date Expenses

## First Lutheran Church

200 East 5th St

Morris, MN 56267

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

Permit #83  
Morris, MN

### First Lutheran Church, ELCA

200 East 5th Street

Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-3242

website: [www.flcmorris.org](http://www.flcmorris.org)

email: [office@flcmorris.org](mailto:office@flcmorris.org)

Facebook:

Morris-First Lutheran Church

### Worship Schedule

Sundays: 11:00am

Broadcasted live via Facebook  
and YouTube; recorded services  
available on our website.

### Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 1:30pm

MediaCom: Channel 8

### STAFF

Interim Pastor Rich Fitzer	<a href="mailto:rich_fitzer@yahoo.com">rich_fitzer@yahoo.com</a>
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director	<a href="mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com">heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com</a>
Rita Bye, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:office@flcmorris.org">office@flcmorris.org</a>
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian	
Deb Mahoney, Accompanist	

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Cari Burnett	President
Bob Heck	Vice-President
Denise Odello	Treasurer
Matt Hilbrands	Secretary
Bob Dalager	
LeAnn Dean	
J. Mark Nesvig	