



# MESSENGER

A community growing in Christ, living in grace and serving in love.

November 2021

Volume 24, No. 11

## In This Issue:

<b>All Saints Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Advent &amp; Christmas</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Children, Youth &amp; Family</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Lutefisk Update</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Wilder Gifts</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Updated Giving Portal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Christian's Toy Box</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Flea Market Update</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lutefisk Dinner History</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New in the Library</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>National Lutheran Choir</b>	<b>9</b>

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Finding Alleluia amid the saints

*We go down to the dust;  
yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*(from the funeral service, Book of Common Prayer)*

As the days get shorter and the temperatures get colder, after a brief blaze of glorious color, the earth slowly dies away into a long barren winter. It is in these days that our liturgy turns to the question, "How can we live in hope in a time of loss and endings?"

One answer comes on All Saints Sunday. In our liturgy, prayers and readings that day, we defiantly proclaim that there is no ending — even death — that is beyond God's power for life. We declare that God claims us, knows us, and loves us — and that no one is ever forgotten by God. We all belong to the great community of saints of all times and all places — the great company who gather together at the Holy Communion table and who will gather together around Christ at the end of all things. *(Revelation 7:9)*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has brought unstoppable life into this world. As we face endings: of a job, a relationship or life itself, we know we are held by Christ and surrounded by the saints. We trust that, even now, God is making all things new, and we will see it in this world and in the world to come.

Even in endings, even at the grave, our song is Alleluia!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Cindy

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Worship

We gather for worship with Holy Communion at **9:30 am** on Sunday mornings both in person and online. You can watch the livestream on our website, through YouTube or on Facebook.

### Fellowship

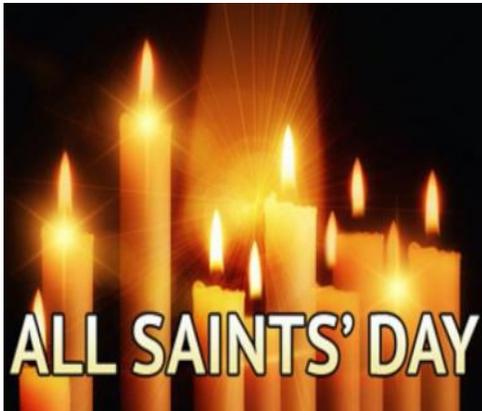
Coffee time will be held outside after Sunday worship.

### Faith Formation

Activities begin at **10:30 am**.

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## WORSHIP & MUSIC



### **We remember departed saints on Nov. 7**

Our service will begin with a time of prayer and the lighting of the candles for our members who have died this year followed by the beloved hymn “For All the Saints.”

Harry Grounds

Ken Fick

William “Bill” Reidell

Roger Robey

Roger Needles

Rachel Husom

Sandy Taylor

Other beloved souls will be remembered in worship.

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### **We are Remembering the Children**

From as early as 1640 until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Native American children were regularly removed from their homes and taken to boarding schools, with the intent of assimilating them into European culture. Most of the schools were established by churches, including the Lutheran Church. Immanuel, with the best intentions, supported one student in 1942.

Unfortunately, the children lost their families, culture, language and religion. There was often abuse and neglect. 255 children died at these schools and were buried far from home.

In conjunction with the Saint Paul Area Synod, we are “Remembering the Children” for 255 days, beginning on All Saints Sunday. There will be an area for learning and prayer set up in the back of the sanctuary. Please stop by and offer your prayers as we begin a journey of learning and rebuilding relationship with our Native brothers and sisters.

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### **Giving thanks, giving love and comfort to our neighbors on Nov. 21**

**Bringing food to worship:** Our Thanksgiving worship service will be at **9:30 am Sunday, Nov. 21**. Please bring canned goods or a cash donation for Keystone food shelves. Feel free to drop donations at the church during the week if you are unable to attend the service. You can also give online through Immanuel’s website.

**Delivering care packages:** We are partnering with Jewish Family Service of St. Paul to create Cards of Kindness and deliver care packages to their clients in the MacGroveland neighborhood. According to their flier, “*B’Yachad* [together in Hebrew] offers opportunities to feel connected to our larger community. The program extends gifts of essentials, treats and greetings to those in need who can use a boost.”

On **Sunday, Nov. 21**, Emily will pick up our allotment of care packages and the addresses and distribute them at our faith formation gathering at Mattocks Park. Thank you to all who have volunteered to participate in this program.

# Advent and Christmas 2021

Get ready to update your calendars because many of our traditions are back!

## Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is **Nov. 28**. We will explore traditional themes of hope, peace, joy and love in worship and at-home practices.

## Virtual Carol Sing with David Stark

Dave Stark will give us the gift of a Virtual Carol Sing on **Thursday, Dec. 2, from 1–2 pm**. Look for a link in the News & Notes or go to our website to log into this hour of Christmas delight!

## Christmas Caroling

Join us in Christmas caroling! Many of our home-bound members look forward to this each year. Children and teens, invite your friends! We will meet in the Music Room after worship on **Sunday, Dec. 12**. Please sign up in the Gathering Space or with Chris Cherwien ([email her](#) or leave a message).

## Hanging of the Greens

Please help prepare our worship space for the coming of our Lord on **Wednesday, Dec. 22, 6:30 pm**. We will decorate our tress and hang the

greens! This is an event for all ages. Children, we need your energy and creativity! The Middle Cs, Choristers and Cantorei will rehearse at their normal times that evening.

## Christmas Eve Services

We are planning to offer several in person worship services on Christmas Eve. The services will also be livestreamed. Please look for times and details in the December Messenger and News & Notes.

## Pick-up Christmas Pageant (With a Twist)

The last few in-person Christmas seasons, we put on a non-rehearsed, all-ages, “pickup” Christmas pageant on the Sunday before Christmas. This year, we’re asking you to “pick up” a copy of a script and costumes to film your own scene of the story. Video magicians will put them together for a video premiere after worship on **Dec. 19**. We’ll have opportunities for households, individuals and small groups to add their talents to this project. Some scenes are best shot outside, so it’s not too early to start thinking about it! Please contact Emily King to get on the list, but don’t be surprised if she contacts YOU first.



## Christmas Poinsettia Order | Deadline: Monday, Nov. 22

Poinsettias add wonderful color to the altar for our Christmas Eve services. You can also add a dedication or memorial note to the Christmas Eve bulletin. Cost is \$14.50 per plant, and you may take plants home. Choose from red, white or pink. Use the order form in the bulletin or at the ushers’ stand or call the church office at 651-699-5560. You can also order online here: <https://bit.ly/3CpKCUx>. Please make checks payable to Immanuel or pay online.

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## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

### Children's faith formation schedule: looking ahead

We will gather at **Mattocks Park on Sunday, Nov. 21**, during our normal faith formation time (roughly **10:45-11:45 am**, allowing for a treat break and driving). We'll have a little content and a lot of play/social time. We hope this will feel safe for many families.

**Nov. 28** (Sunday after Thanksgiving) and Dec. 5, we'll focus on the Advent season.

**Dec. 12**, we encourage families to participate in caroling after the service; we will not meet.

**Dec. 19**, join us after worship for the video premiere of our Christmas Pageant.

**Dec. 26** (Sunday after Christmas), we will not meet.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-graders will get Bibles in outdoor event

It's Immanuel's tradition to give our 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students a Bible during the fall and offer an introduction to using it. This year, we'll fit in 2 years' worth of presentations at an outdoor family event on **Sunday, Nov. 7, at 3 pm**. Caregivers for 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-graders, you should have received an email about this already; please [contact Emily King](#) if you did not.

This is one of the ways we fulfill our promise to children when they're baptized. Even with the many electronic ways to access the Bible, a physical book that can be marked up is a special gift that we hope will empower our kids to dig into their faith.

If you have a favorite verse/passage to share — and the story of why that verse/passage is special — please contact Emily.

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## MEN'S CLUB

### Lefse and herring sale replaces dinner this year

With no Lutefisk Dinner this year, the Immanuel Men's Club could not let our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year pass without offering some Scandinavian delicacies. We are selling the popular Countryside lefse and gourmet herring from Day Fish. These are the same products that have been a part of our Lutefisk Dinner menu for so many years. The sale starts now and will run until **Nov. 15**. Proceeds from the sale will enable the Men's Club to continue its giving to such organizations as Common Hope, Bega Kwa Bega and Keystone Food Shelf.

Prices: Lefse \$5.00 per package of 6 slices

Herring \$9.00 per 32 oz. container

All sales will be on a pre-order basis. Orders can be picked up at Immanuel on **Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 am–noon, or Sunday, Nov. 21 from 10:30 am–noon**. Place your order with Russ Edlund at 651-698-1260 or by [email](#).

*Tack sa mycket* (Thanks much)!



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## SOCIAL ACTION

### Wilder preschool gift program returning

Immanuel will be continuing our tradition of preparing holiday gift baskets for families at the Wilder Child Development Center. Wilder CDC is a childcare center and preschool located in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. The program, which has received the highest Parent Aware rating for childcare, focuses on developing children's academic, social, and emotional skills to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. Most Wilder families receive financial assistance, and many face continual income and job pressures.

A key aspect of Wilder's approach to childcare is family involvement, both in and out of the classroom. They offer classes on various parenting topics, help families navigate community resources, and host monthly family fun nights. Overall, they strive to meet the unique needs, abilities, interests, and cultures of the children and families at the center.

As in past years, Wilder families will submit ideas for themes or items they would particularly like or need this season. Those ideas will be listed on gift tags hanging from the bulletin board outside the church office area starting **Sunday, Nov. 21**. There will also be tags available for online sign-up (watch News & Notes for the link). Purchase items from your family's wish list — we suggest a limit of \$75 — and wrap your gift. Gifts should be returned to Immanuel no later than **Sunday, Dec. 12**. If you have questions or need your gift picked up, contact Kelley Wells ([contact info in the directory](#)). Many thanks in advance!

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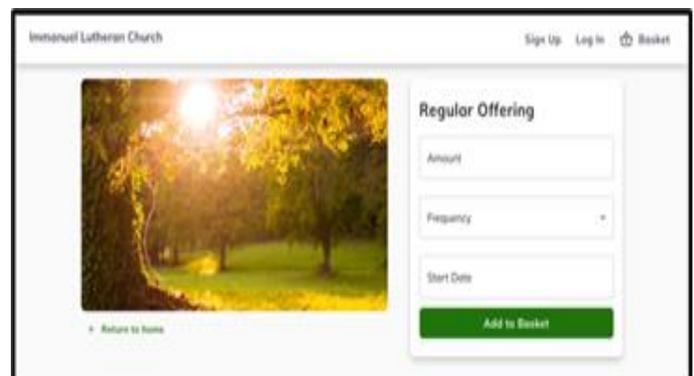
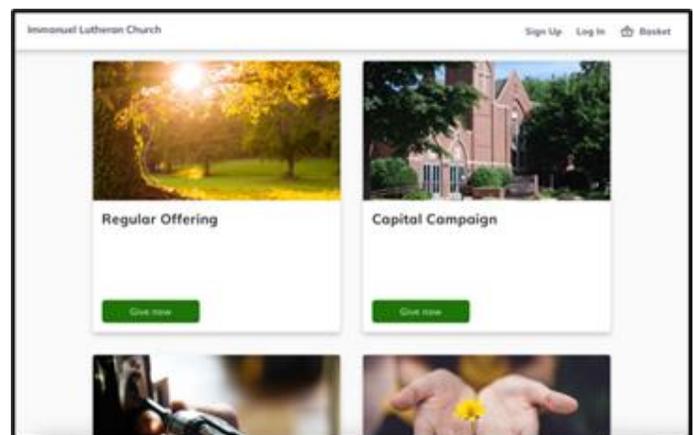
## FROM THE OFFICE

### A new look for online giving

The next time you visit our online giving site, you'll notice some updates! The site has a new format that is simpler to use. Just choose the area you would like to give to (regular offering, Capital Campaign, building maintenance or other) and click on "Give now."

You will be asked for amount, frequency (once, weekly, monthly or annually) and start date. Then add the donation to your basket. You can give to several funds at once if you wish.

If you have given online in the past and created an account, your login is still good with the new site. Check out the site using the QR code below or at [ilcsp.org/give/](http://ilcsp.org/give/).



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## CHRISTIAN'S TOY BOX

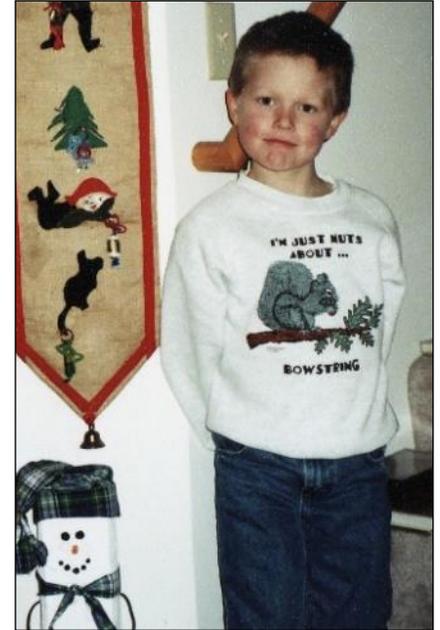
### Toy box will be open for donations

For many years, Immanuel members have supported Child and Family Services at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota by donating to Christian's Toy Box, named after a young Immanuel member who fought cancer, Christian Osen.

When children are experiencing medical challenges, their outcomes improve with not only excellent medical care, but also emotional, social and spiritual support, which is entirely supported by philanthropy at Children's MN.

Again this year, your contributions of new, unwrapped gifts, toys, games, art supplies, books other creative activities and gift cards will be welcomed! The Osen family will deliver all donations, including monetary, to the Child Life Associates on Christian's birthday anniversary, Dec. 14.

Put donations into the toy box at Immanuel or drop off checks or gift cards at the office (mailing them is fine too!). Checks should be made out to Children's Hospitals & Clinics, MN, with "**Christian's Toy Box**" written on the memo line. To give online, please follow this link: <https://www.givemn.org/story/Christian-S-Toy-Box>



Christian at age 7

This annual donation is always anticipated and welcomed by the associates, some of whom worked directly with Christian during nearly four years of treatment for Leukemia. And then the smiles and joy provided to patients of ages birth–18 is something we wish we could witness. The reactions by children and parents alike, relayed to us later, warms our hearts and fill us with pride in what you, our Immanuel friends, have offered during the holidays!

Thank you for your past support and in advance for this year's support!

— The Osen Family

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## FLEA MARKET

### It's almost time to distribute proceeds

The tents have been put away, many post-event tasks have been completed, and we're getting close to writing checks to our community partners. We are giving the proceeds to LSS Metro Youth Homelessness Services, Interfaith Action and ISIAH, sticking with our mission to support community partners who are doing something about homelessness, hunger and housing issues.

Upwards of \$9,750 will be distributed this year as a result of many hours of dedicated hard work and generous donations of lush plants, delicious fair food, product and financial contributions.

Volunteers even practiced their tent-pole-holding patience, for which we are very grateful. We are grateful for every contribution, big and small.

## MOMENT IN HISTORY: LUTEFISK DINNERS

### Trivia and Tidbits

*The sole purpose of the Lutefisk Dinner is benevolence.*

The notes we found said the first Lutefisk Dinner was started in 1935 by the church women's Ladies Aid with the profits designated for benevolence. The Men's Group took over in 1952 and served 350 people. The success of our Lutefisk Dinner would not be possible without the hundreds of ILC volunteers who work so hard and create a fun and welcoming spirit at the dinner.

In the early years, the first few dinners run by the Men's Club the lutefisk was boiled in cheese cloth. That created a rather distinctive and unpleasant aroma. Wiser lutefisk cooks convinced the men to **bake** the lutefisk. Ever since we have been known to serve "the best fish in town."



The behind-the-scenes work begins with ordering the food: lutefisk and hamburger/pork mixture and lefse. Ordering the food must coordinate with the number of tickets. There is a great story about Roger Foreman's father, Allan, selling tickets. He had 1,200 tickets printed AND sold all those tickets! However, Roger ordered enough food to feed 900 people! Do the math! Roger looked around. The pews in the Sanctuary were filled with people. Chairs in the Narthex were filled with people. The Sunday School rooms were filled with people. Roger had to come up with enough food to feed 300 ticket-carrying people! He sent men out to the neighboring grocery stores to buy as much meat as possible. If they could get lutefisk, great! Otherwise, any other meat would be fine! In the spirit of the Lutefisk Dinner, people were fed and satisfied. Hmm. Didn't we read a story like that in the Scriptures? After that, ticket sales were limited to 900 with 3 serving times: 5, 6 and 7 pm.

#### Menu

*Lutefisk and  
Butter or Cream Sauce  
Meatballs and Gravy  
Boiled Potatoes and Butter  
Peas  
Cranberries  
Lefse  
Fruit Soup  
Cookies*

The Lutefisk Dinner is a labor of love! Hundreds of volunteers contribute to the success of the dinner. From rolling meatballs and peeling potatoes to making baked goods for the bake sale to setting up to serving to cleaning up, our people create a place of welcome and fellowship.

This is a list of the chairs: Arnold Jorgensen, Gunner Korsmo, David Lindgren, Jim Forchner, Dean Thorson, Allan Forman, Gene Evans, Walter Harris, Roger Forman, Russ Edhlund

Here are some amazing statistics on the dinner from 2007 to 2019:

- 8,332 Lutefisk Dinner tickets sold
- \$72,722 net profit
- \$69,764 disbursed to various charitable organizations as well as groups and needs within Immanuel

Looking forward to November 2022's Lutefisk Dinner!

— Russ Edhlund, Roger Forman and Judie Prayfrock

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

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394.2

Gra **1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving** by Catherine O'Neill Grace. © 2001

In the fall of 1621, English settlers and Wampanoag native people feasted together for three days, a harvest gathering that eventually became the American holiday: Thanksgiving. However, many of our stories about that first gathering are based on fiction rather than fact. New research at Plimoth Plantation Museum has worked to include more sources, such as the Wampanoag people themselves, which has corrected and advanced our understanding of what actually occurred.

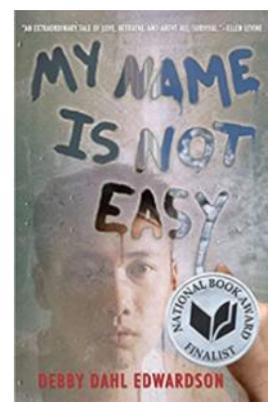


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Edw **My Name Is Not Easy** by Debby Dahl-Edwardson. © 2011

Luke, Chickie, Sonny, Donna and Amiq tell about their experiences in the early 1960s when they are forced to attend a boarding school far from their Alaskan families, but despite their many differences and difficulties, they somehow come to befriend one another and make a sort of family and home.

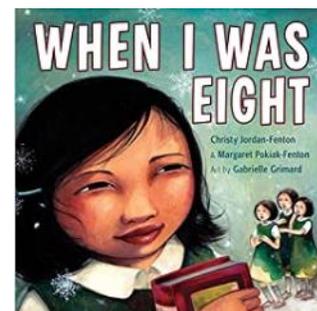


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371.8

Jor **When I Was Eight** by Christy Jordan-Fenton. © 2013

This book is the true story of Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, an Alaskan Inuit woman, and what happened when she was a child. Olemaun is only eight, but she wants to learn how to read, even if it means leaving her family and her Artic home to go to a far-away boarding school for Native children. At the school they cut her hair, take away her Inuit name, Olemaun, and call her Margaret. They make her work hard scrubbing floors and doing many other difficult chores. In spite of the harsh treatment and almost no help learning to read, her unbreakable spirit helps her succeed.

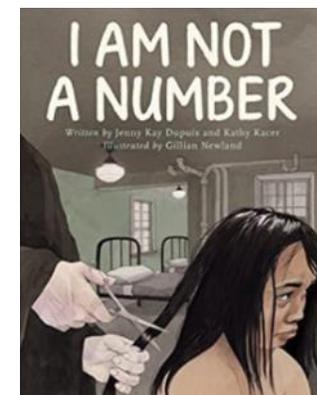


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Fic

Dup **I Am Not a Number** by Jenny Kay Dupuis. © 2019

This book is based on a true story of the author's grandmother, Irene Couchie Dupuis, an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) who was born in Northern Ontario, Canada. She was one of the many Native children who were taken from their families and sent to boarding schools in the government's believe that they were "uncivilized" and needed to be "saved" by harshly wiping out their languages and all their native traditions.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NLC presenting 2 ways to honor saints

After so many months of distance and turmoil, the National Lutheran Choir is returning to live performances with their annual program of remembrance. Join them in November for **All Saints: We Remember**, a live concert, and **Requiem Aeternam**, a virtual program, to honor loved ones we have lost this past year through sacred choral music.

Audience-submitted names of those who are no longer with us will be shared during these programs as we each mourn and heal from the loss of important people in our lives. To submit a name, go to [NLCA.com/all-saints-2021](http://NLCA.com/all-saints-2021). For tickets and more information, visit

### All Saints: We Remember

Friday, Nov. 5, 7 pm at Central

Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Sunday, Nov. 7, 4 pm at St. Andrew's

Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Adults and seniors: \$30; students: pay what you can; 18 and under: free

### Requiem Aeternam

Available for streaming Nov. 6–8

Pay what you can; suggested donation of \$5 per household

## COUNCIL UPDATE

### October 2021 meeting summary

The council met via Zoom. The opening prayer and devotion was led by Pastor Cindy. There was discussion about how the congregational vision is being met. There was a deep dive into the Worship & Music Ministry Team led by Dave Alstead. Financial reports were presented by Mark Thompson. The next council meeting will be Nov. 16 at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining any of our teams, or have ideas you would like to bring to ILC, please reach out. We are a congregation rich in resources and generosity. Thank you for all your continued support.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Ahlquist, Council President, or any Church Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact any Church Council member.

Church Council/Team Chairs		
<b>Deb Ahlquist</b> , Council President	<b>Ross Robey</b> , Financial Secretary	<b>David Alstead</b> , Worship & Music
<b>Paul Mattessich</b> , Past President	<b>David Alstead</b> , Asst. Financial Secretary	<b>Gay Bartholic</b> , Stewardship
<b>Jeff Schmidt</b> , Vice President	<b>Nick Consoer</b> , Member at Large	<b>Mary Gwen Thompson</b> , Children, Youth & Family
<b>Martha Hansen</b> , Secretary	<b>Sue Klevan</b> , Member at Large	<b>Harvey Jaeger</b> , Property
<b>Mark Thompson</b> , Treasurer	<b>John Toso</b> , Member at Large	<b>David Hansen</b> , Membership
<b>Jackie Hippen</b> , Asst. Treasurer	<b>Lee Bjerke</b> , Finance	<b>Christine Danielson</b> , Social Action

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