



September 2025 Newsletter

Last month I took a moment to step back and collect all my thoughts and ideas. This month, let the action and fun begin! My heart is refueled, and my brain is overloaded with options. I added improving the newsletter to the list and hopefully you will find this month's newsletter to be a little bit more exciting. A few fun things have been added. Look for the new "In the Spotlight: Our Very Own" article about someone in our church or community. Don't be surprised if you might be the next person asked to answer some questions. 😊

Our Rally Sunday will kick off a new school year with Messy Church on Sunday, September 7th beginning at 9:45am. We will have some fun interactive ways of doing church and some traditional too. We will follow up this worship time with a potluck meal. Thrivent has shared funds to allow us to include some hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and condiments to the menu. Please come with something to share or an empty stomach for sure!

Gathered by Grace is another new idea coming to life. Every third Wednesday of the month, we will have a free community meal served at our church from 5-6pm while supplies last. Stay tuned for more information. Our first meal is planned for September 17th!

You will also see some upcoming events in October. We are going to start the month with "Fill Your Cup." We are bringing coffee and fellowship time before church back to life! Starting at around 10:00am. You parents dropping off kids for Sunday School, come inside and stick around. Have a coffee, treat, and visit a while. We are hoping that this is something that will be continued on a regular basis and have others volunteering to take care of the coffee and treats. Our Mission Fest is scheduled for October 12th with a very special speaker, our very own Eastern ND Synod Bishop, Tessa Moon Leiseth. We are so very excited to have her share time with us and also stay around for a fabulous potluck meal after worship service. We will end this busy month with a special service and recognition to our Confirmation students. A potluck meal will also be held on that Sunday.

So much more to come! Stay tuned and get involved! Or even better yet, do you have some ideas to add to Emmanuel? Don't be shy, let's see if we can make them come to life. Or maybe you just want to see where you can help out? Catch me, call me, text me, we will connect.

I am always working to continue the power of prayer. Please remember those that could use a visit, a card, or a phone call. Take some time to brighten their day. We have many names on our prayer list and in our local nursing homes. Please share a moment with them. If you have any additions to our prayer list, let any council member know. Our next council meeting will be September 10th. We are here to serve.

The Joy of Discipleship – Part 2

Last month, I wrote an article talking about discipleship which was based on a book written by Michael Foss entitled “The Disciple’s Joy”. In this book, Foss talks about discipleship being our relationship with God; a relationship that should be a priority in our lives. Foss writes that we simply cannot grow in our relationship with God if we do not tend to that relationship and if we do not allow God to send us out into the world. This inward-outward movement of faith continues throughout our lives. (pg 61). When Foss talks about inward movement, his focus was on three personal disciplines that help us grow deeper in faith: daily prayer, weekly worship, and daily bible readings. This month, I would like to concentrate on the three outward movements of discipleship: Serving others, relating to others for spiritual growth, and giving generously.

We have been created in the image of God and God gives us wonderful examples of service; everything from God’s creating of the earth to Christ’s washing the disciples’ feet before his ultimate sacrifice of dying on the cross for us. When we serve, we see others differently, but we also see ourselves differently as well. Serving others opens us to the self-giving love of God in Christ Jesus; it’s no wonder we are changed.

Service can take on many different forms. It can be as simple as working in the church kitchen to something more challenging like teaching Sunday school or serving on the council. Service within the church opens our hearts to the wonder of our congregation’s ministry and mission. However, service shouldn’t stop at our church doors. When we serve within our community, we are extending God’s love to the world. We are not just ‘talking the talk’ of ministry but are ‘walking the walk.’ Others can see and feel Christ’s love through us. The apostle Paul talked about service as “faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6).

The second outward movement is relating to others for spiritual growth. This is often the focus of small groups within the church but also addresses the importance of worshipping together. When we join others for worship, bible study, or service projects, we experience the power of relationships; we learn about ourselves and how we impact those around us. In a research project published in 2020, it was shown that religious-service attendance potentially relates to greater longevity, healthier behaviors, better mental health and greater psychosocial well-being (Int J Epidemiol. 2020 Aug 13;49(6):2030–2040.). In other words, worshipping together improves your health! And not just your spiritual health!

The final outward movement is giving generously. “Generosity springs from the heart of gratitude.” Foss states that generosity is not a natural characteristic of human beings; it must be taught. We naturally cling to what we have. Sharing is a learned behavior (pg 89). In other words, if we want our children to learn to be generous, we need to teach by our own examples of generosity. Generosity is giving back from what we have been given by God who loves us. The haunting question, however, is asking ourselves if we truly believe that God provides. It’s easy to say ‘yes’ but harder to live our lives reflecting that belief. Don’t worry...be happy! It’s more than lyrics to a song. There is real joy in giving generously. There is real joy in discipleship!

Your sister in Christ,
Shar



September Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

September 3rd- Confirmation Parent meeting 7 :00pm

September 5th- Coffee with kids- 9am at the school

September 7th- Rally Sunday! Join us for a very Special Messy Church! Beginning at 9:45am
Worship service with communion- Potluck after service

September 8th- Gackle Market in the City Park 5-7pm

September 10th- Confirmation classes begin 7pm, Church Council Meeting 8pm

September 14th- Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School/Younger Youth 9:45am
Noisy offering

September 17th- Gathered by Grace- free community meal- 5-6pm while supplies last

September 21st- Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School/Younger Youth 9:45am
First Sunday in Season of Creation

September 25th- Elementary Girls Basketball Game at the school beginning at 4:30pm

September 28th- Worship Service 10:30am, Sunday School/Younger Youth 9:45am
Second Sunday in Season of Creation

October 4th- Fill My Cup- Join us at 10:00am for special coffee and fellowship

October 6th- Fall Music Concert at the school beginning at 6:30pm

October 12th- Misson Fest with Special guest- Bishop Tessa Moon-Leiseth and potluck!

October 15th- Gathered by Grace- free community meal- 5-6pm while supplies last

October 26th-Confirmation Sunday with potluck

Those in need of continued Prayer:

Gackle Care Center: Helen Elhard, Wilbert Denning, Arlys Mertz

Edgewood: Quentin Mertz

Wishek Living Center: Violet Diede

New Salem: Karen Miller

Also in need of prayer: Dawn Veil-Stein, JD Dahl, Haleigh Hermanson, The Family of Rory Metz, Perry Mertz, Ruth Staber, and Donna Freestone (Cousin of Ardell Schmidt and MaryAnn Widmer)

September Worship Support

Ushers	Warren Zenker Family
Greeters	Katy Ruff
Altar Guild	Linda Zenker
Steward/Acolyte	Denise Wittmier

October Worship Support

Ushers	Archie Koenig
Greeters	Denise Wittmier
Altar Guild	Patty Moos
Steward/Acolyte	Lisa Zenker



Younger Youth Group Schedule

Sunday School should follow the same schedule with different lessons

September 14 – Noah's Ark
September 21- Abram's Call
September 28 – Abraham and Sarah
October 5 – Isaac's Blessing
October 12– Free From Slavery
October 19 – No Sunday School
October 26 – Red Sea
November 2 – Ten Commandments
November 9– No Sunday School
November 16 – Naomi and Ruth
November 23 – David and Goliath
November 30 – No Sunday School
December 7 – Elijah and the Widow
December 14 – Jonah and the Big Fish
December 21 – Jesus is Born
December 28 and January 4– No Sunday School
January 11 – Wise Men
January 18 – Jesus' Baptism
January 25 - The Disciples
February 1– The Lord's Prayer
February 8 – Woman at the Well
February 15 – A Storm
February 22 – No Sunday School
March 1- Centurian's Servant
March 8 – Jesus Blesses Children
March 15– The Greatest Commandments
March 22 – No Sunday School
March 29 – Holy Week
April 5– Easter Sunday - No Sunday School
April 12 – Easter and the Great Commission
April 19 – Doubting Thomas
April 26– The Ascension
May 3 – Holy Spirit
May 10 – Philip and the Ethiopian
May 17 – Saul to Paul

“DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, AT THE
START OF A NEW MONTH, WE
LOOK AHEAD WITH HAPPY NEW
MONTH WISHES AND LONGINGS
FOR JOY TO FILL OUR HEARTS.
PLEASE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES
TO SHARE YOUR LOVE AND YOUR
GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS. HELP
US EMBRACE THE FULFILLMENT
YOU OFFER WHEN OUR LIVES ARE
DEDICATED TO YOUR SERVICE AND
SURRENDERED TO YOU. PREPARE
OUR HEARTS FOR THE AUTUMN
MONTHS AHEAD AND SURROUND
US WITH YOUR PRESENCE. AMEN.”

PRAY FOR EVERYTHING



WORSHIP SUPPORT LIST FOR 2025

As always the list will remain the same from year to year unless there's a request to change it. If you need a sub please refer to the list posted in the sacristy or contact stewards Lisa Zenker or Denise Wittmier.

Lisa- 701-368-9291 or lisamzenker@gmail.com

Denise- 701-269-1475 or denwitt@daktel.com

Visitations and Personal Communion

We are committed to looking into new options and the best ways to serve our congregation. Are you not able to make it to communion and wish to receive? We want you to know that we can serve you communion anytime. Would you like a personal visit? Let us know and we will schedule a time to get together. Know of anyone that hasn't been able to come to church that could use a visit? Let us know and we will give them a call and check in. We are still looking for people that would like to help with visits too. All you need is the ability to talk, we can help with the rest.

Offering Envelopes:

If anyone does not have or is in need of offering envelopes, please let Bonnie Denning know. She will get them to you!! Thanks.

New Members

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church and we haven't asked you yet, please let a pastoral leader know or any council member. We are looking to plan a new member Sunday in the near future.



Our synod website has so much information to share with us about events happening in our area, training courses that we can attend or participate over Zoom, and so many more resources. They also have a newsletter that you can subscribe to through email. Please take a look!

www.eandsynod.org



Online Donations

Forget to bring your offering to church, haven't made it in for a while, or just want an easier way to donate to our church? You are able to donate online. Just a few clicks and you can share funds with us. Go to the address listed below, click on the donate button on the top. Select contribute under select support a specific congregation, click on another partner congregation, and then you can select Emmanuel Lutheran from the listed congregations.

www.ndchristiansact.org

Memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for **Nedina Denning & George Koenig**

Alan and Julie Meyer
Clifford and Delores Klundt
Mary Konrad
Oneil and Peggy Kauk
Pat and Sandi Rivinius

This is to show our appreciation and eliminate the need for the church to send individual thank you cards. We apologize if anyone is inadvertently missed.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Financial Report

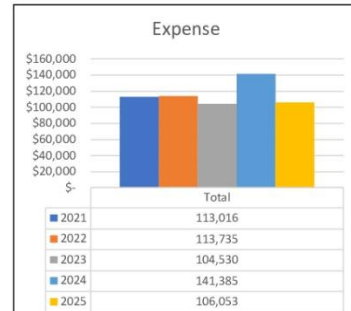
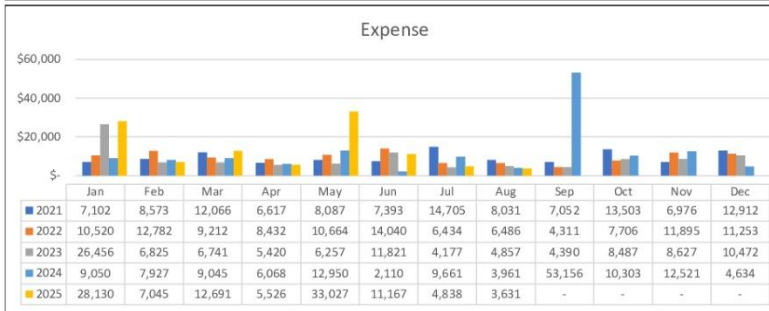
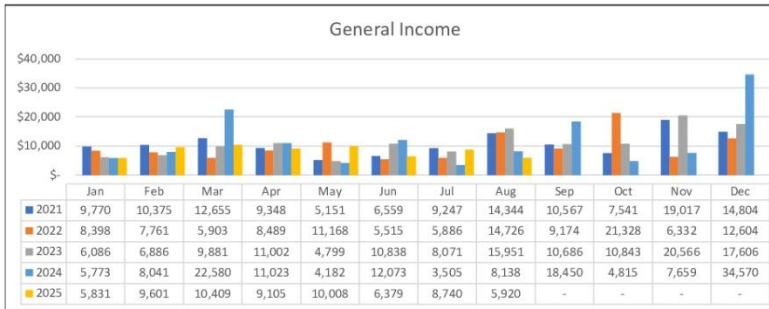
As of 08/26/2025

2025 Year to Date

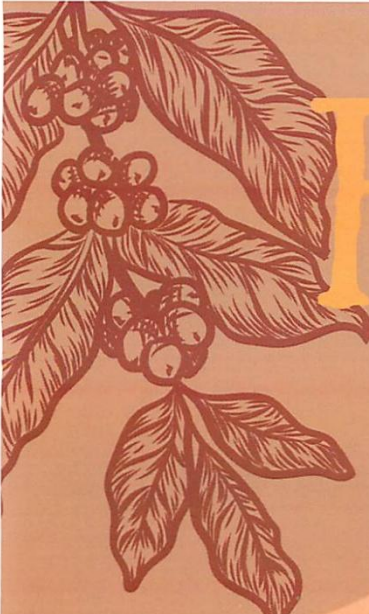
Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Regular Offerings	\$5,831	\$9,601	\$10,409	\$9,105	\$10,008	\$6,379	\$8,740	\$5,920	-	-	-	-	\$65,992
Actual Expenses	\$28,130	\$7,045	\$12,691	\$5,526	\$33,027	\$11,167	\$4,838	\$3,631	-	-	-	-	\$106,053
Balance	(\$22,299)	\$2,556	(\$2,282)	\$3,579	(\$23,018)	(\$4,789)	\$3,902	\$2,289	-	-	-	-	(\$40,061)



Year over Year



If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Marella Sebring.
marellasebring@msn.com
763-228-0599



FILL MY CUP



**JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER
5TH STARTING AT 10:00AM
FOR SOME COFFEE AND
TREATS**





MISSION FEST

Sunday

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

OCTOBER 12, 2025
WORSHIP SERVICE
BEGINS AT 10:30 AM

**SPECIAL GUEST: EASTERN ND
SYNOD BISHOP
TESSA MOON LEISETH**

Potluck meal to follow

Join us for:



RALLY SUNDAY MESSY CHURCH

**POTLUCK TO
FOLLOW**

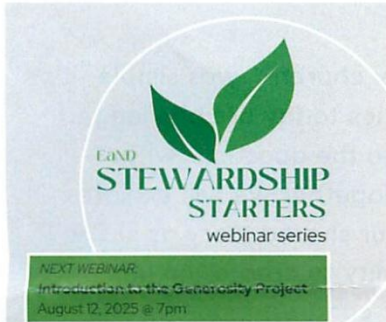
Where:
Emmanuel Lutheran
Church

When: Sunday,
September 7th
starting at 9:45 am

**All are welcome. Come explore...
See what the mess is all about.**



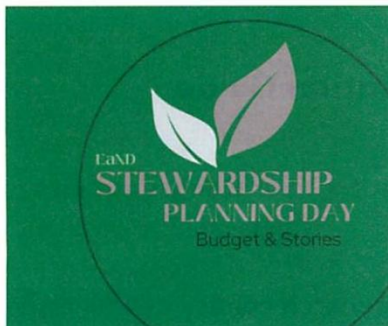
Congregational Vitality Events & Resources



Stewardship Webinar

August 12th, 7:00pm (ZOOM)

The Generosity Project is an inter-generational, interactive series for congregations to explore and build a culture of generosity. Join us August 12 for an introduction to this series.



Stewardship Planning Days

Thursday, August 14, 10am-3pm (In-person, TBD)

Sunday, August 17, 1-4pm (ZOOM)

For lay leaders and rostered ministers, of congregations of all sizes! The full day gathering will include developing a framework for talking generosity as cultivating stories that are behind our budgets. Participants will leave with the beginnings of a narrative budget. The half-day will be a condensed version of the same content!

Suggested pre-reading:

Embracing Stewardship (Chick Lane & Grace Duddy Pomroy)

Unlacing the Heart (Henry Freeman)



Small Church Saturdays

4th Saturday of the Month, 9:00am (ZOOM)

Small churches have both amazing gifts and unique challenges! Join with other small church leaders to explore, celebrate, and learn together.

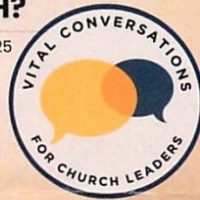
September Reading:

Small Church Advantage, parts 1 & 2

VITAL CONVERSATIONS:

WHY LUTHERAN? WHY CHURCH?

Saturday, October 18, 2025



Vital Church Conversations

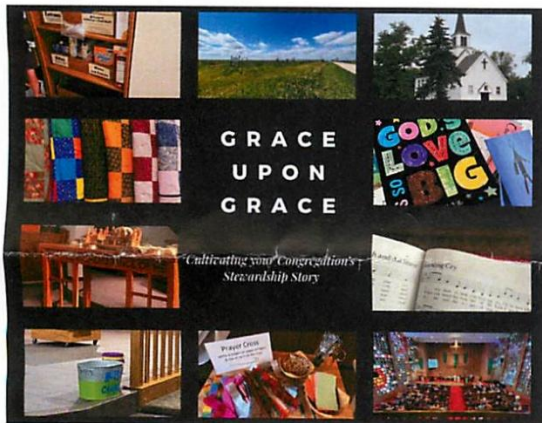
Saturday, October 18th 10:00am-4:00pm

In-person (TBD) & ZOOM

75 years ago, the answer to "why church?" was simple- it's just what we did! Faith communities today are challenged to create a more robust answer to the question "why church?" and "why Lutheran?" Together we will explore the unique and specific why of our shared story as ELCA Christians and have the opportunity to create the unique and specific why of your specific congregation- for the sake of sharing your story with new people!

COMING THIS SUMMER!

Church Council Devotions & Congregational Conversation Guide



Grace upon Grace: Cultivating Your Congregation's Stewardship Story

This resource can be used for church council devotions, weekly Bible studies, or congregational conversations during worship or fellowship. Each entry is a conversation prompt to explore your individual and shared stories of stewardship and generosity. The final product will be a completed story of how your congregation lives generously and stewards resources for mission.

Available Mid-August

For more information:

www.eandsynod.org

deaconerin@eandsynod.org



Eastern North Dakota
Synod, ELCA



Please join us in celebrating

Confirmation Sunday

October 26, 2025 at 10:30 am
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Gackle, ND

POTLUCK LUNCH TO FOLLOW

In the Spotlight: Our Very Own:

Meet our new Custodian- Julia Friez

Tell us a little about yourself. Where were you born and raised? Family (Siblings?)? Pets? Etc.

Hello, it's been an honor to clean for Emmanuel Lutheran Church. I am happy to provide this service to your congregation. I am originally from Southern Utah. I grew up in St. George. I attended Southern Utah University (Go Tbirds) and majored in Dance Education. I am a member of the International Sorority Alpha Phi. I have no siblings, being an only child of a criminal defense state attorney and a relator. I am member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I love soda mix-ins, groovy music, ice cream, and anything that has to do with dessert. I am the wife to Deputy Kyle Friez. He is also Logan Co. K9 Drug Dog handler to Tora. We have no children but hope to have some one day.

What is your favorite past time?

It's NO shock that my favorite past time is dancing. I was blessed to be a part of several teams. From my hometown dance studio from age 8 to 18, to my high school dance team all 3 years of high school. I was on 2 professional teams. One semi-pro football team and an adult hiphop team directed by the famous influencer Tia Bee Stokes. After my marriage to Kyle, I taught at 2 studios in North Carolina where my team was 1st overall in their age division for nationals. Now I am humble to be called Head Coach of the Jamestown High School Sophistix Dance Team. This is my 5th year with the team. I have been teaching/coaching for 15 years.

Where is the coolest place you have traveled? Where would you like to travel next?

The coolest place I have traveled to is the Philippines. My mother is full Filipino. My mother's side all resides there. We spend about 1 month time frame when we visit. I have been there 3 times. As I would like to go more to visit family now that I am older. I don't get back as much as I have in the past

What is your favorite holiday and what makes it so special?

Valentine's Day. I know it sounds cheesy. But I love "love". It all stemmed from my dad and his warm heart towards others no matter what. His soul was gentle and always shared the phrase "Love One Another". My dad read this book to me as a child, The Shoemaker's Splendid Lamp by Tuula Pere. It is a heartwarming children's story about love, sacrifice, and hope. 3 things my dad installed in me.

What is the last TV show you binged watched? Do you recommend it?

My guilty pleasure is TV. It's the best way I wind down. So, it's very hard to say. I have watched everything from reality TV to comedy, from medical drama to mystery. So, if it's on streaming devices, I've most likely seen it.

For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

I have a top 3. First, I am most grateful for my husband, Kyle. I truly appreciate him and all he does for us as well as this community. He's my better half. 2nd, I am grateful for the body I have. The ability to move, be active, and be healthy. Lastly, but equally as important to my other 2. I am grateful for Jesus Christ. I don't always express my religion, but I will never let a moment pass where I show gratitude to my heavenly father.

Where is your happy place?

Physically: my hometown, St. George UT. There are several places in my hometown that just ground you and make you smile. From landmarks to restaurants. It's my favorite place in the world. Mentally: My happy place is in the car with a killer playlist and just listening to music.

What are some things that you enjoy about living in Gackle, ND?

The people of course!!!! It's great how everyone waves to each other. How others are willing to lend a hand and work as one. I love seeing the crops grow, the hay cut, and the millions of stars above us. I tell friends and family who come to visit us that you will get the best sleep of your life here because it's so dark and quiet. I enjoy talking to Willie Janke, being on community boards, and getting to know the history of this cute little town we call Gackle.

Thank you Julia for sharing with us! Thank you for being a part of Emmanuel Lutheran and our community!



Church Records

We Need Everyone Please Fill Out!

Have you filled out and submitted your information yet?
Bonnie has been working very hard to collect information.
She still has some more work to do.

It has been on our "To Do List" for quite some time to review our Church records and make updates and corrections. Bonnie has begun the process and needs our help. We specifically need all information updated from 2014 to present. Any Marriages, Births, Baptisms, Confirmations, and Deaths we need to know so that we can make sure that it has been properly documented. Any transfers into our church or out of our church would be helpful too. Please take a look at the following form, fill out, and return to Bonnie in person, her mailbox by office, or by emailing her at sports@daktel.com. We very much appreciate your help!

We are updating our Church records. Lots of information is missing.
Please fill out a sheet for each family member with the following information to assist with the records.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: Home _____ Cell: _____

Birth: _____

Date: _____ Where: _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Brothers: _____

Sisters: _____ Baptism:

Date: _____ Where: _____

Pastor: _____

Sponsors: _____

Confirmation:

Date: _____ Where: _____

Pastor: _____

Marriage:

Date: _____ Where: _____ To Whom:

_____ Pastor: _____

Children: _____

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Duties of the Ushers

(reviewed on 3/2022)

1. Arrive at church 30 minutes prior to service.
2. Turn Sanctuary lights on and off before and after service.
3. Raise and lower shades on windows before and after service.
4. Put up hymn numbers (numbers are in room to left of altar in cupboard).
5. Turn on the Cross at altar (switch is labeled in room to the right of altar).
6. Turn lamps on for the Lectern and Pulpit. Turn off after service.
7. Fill ceramic pitcher with water and place on baptismal font along with silver bowl that goes in the baptismal font (pitcher and bowl are located in room to the left of altar on the counter by sink).
8. Hand out bulletins, newsletters, etc.
9. Ring church bell at least 3 times just before beginning of the service.
10. Count the number of people attending the service (easily done from the balcony sometime after service has begun) (number in attendance is to be written in the book which is in the fellowship hall).
11. Receive offering plates, gathering offering, and bring offering forward when pastor signals.
12. Usher people forward for Holy Communion (one usher stands towards the front to allow worshipers to advance to front).
13. Usher people out when church service has concluded.

2025 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office 701-485-3368
SAM-Shar Gumke 701-320-1920
SAM- Joel Zenker 701-997-9047

Council Members:

Sandra Rivinius, President <i>sraderma@hotmail.com</i>	701-269-0706 (cell)
Marella Sebring, Council Treasurer <i>marellasebring@msn.com</i>	701-485-3543 (home) 763-228-0599 (cell)
Tina Nitschke, Council Secretary	701- 830-1957 (cell)
Bonnie Denning, Financial Secretary sports@daktel.com	701-485-3798 (home) 701-320-5864 (cell)
Lisa Zenker, Steward <i>lisamzenker@gmail.com</i>	701-368-9291 (cell)
Denise Wittmier, Steward <i>denwitt@daktel.com</i>	701-269-1485 (cell)
Steve Moos, Trustee Smoos59@msn.com	701-320-3597 (cell)
Taylor Lund, Trustee <i>bubbalund@gmail.com</i>	701-307-0056 (cell)

Other Contacts:

Haleigh Zenker, Church Office Secretary <i>haleighjlewis@gmail.com</i>	952-270-1747 (cell)
Bonnie Denning, Organist Church Work Groups <i>sports@daktel.com</i>	701-485-3798 (home) 701-320-5864 (cell)
Julia Friez, Custodian	435-256-5631 (cell)



School is back in session and Fundraisers have started. Looking for some delicious Burritos??? Contact the school or any Band/Choir member to get your name on their list. Orders due by September 10th! Stay tuned for more Local fundraisers and activities.