

Ghost Town Gazette

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
William Penn, Texas

Vol. 3, No. 9, September 2025

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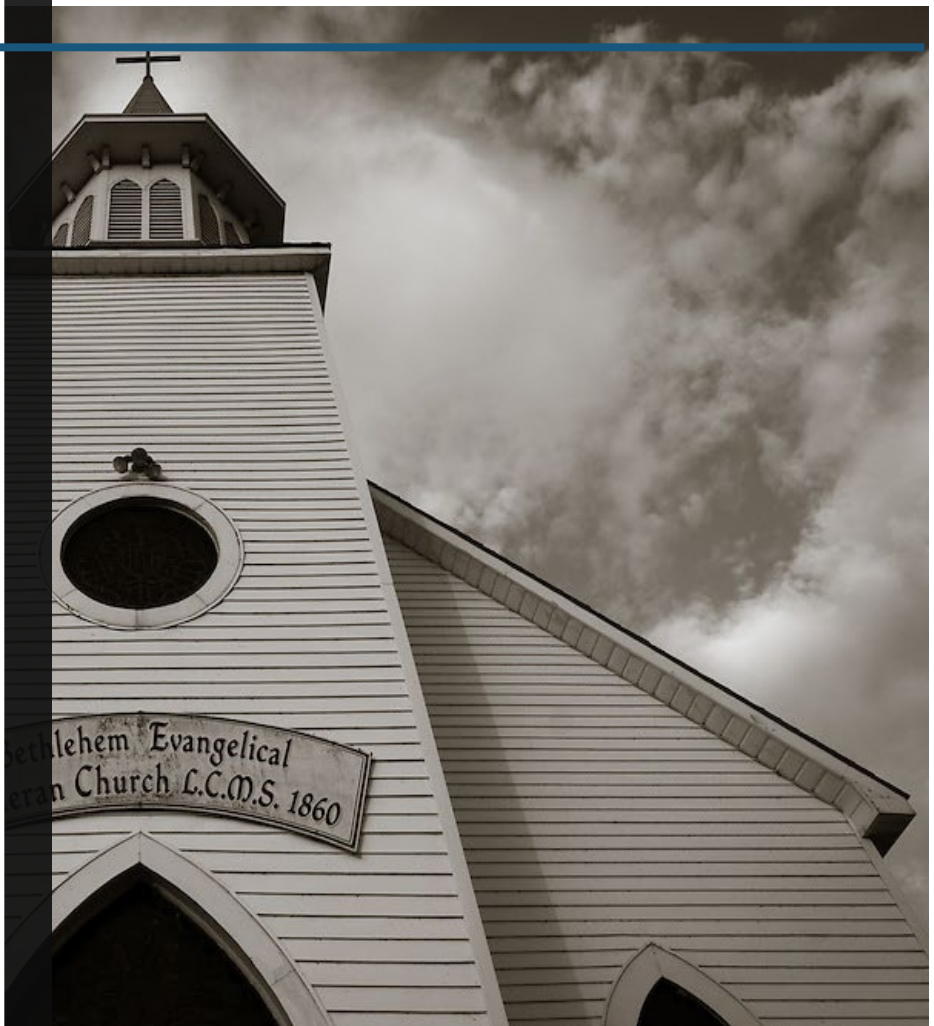
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**"We need to hear
the Gospel every
day because we
forget it every day."**

- Martin Luther



STANDING FIRM IN CHRIST AS SEASONS CHANGE

As September arrives, the heat of summer hopefully will begin to give way to cooler days, and the changing seasons remind us of how quickly life moves. For many, this month brings new routines, school begins, work schedules shift, and fall activities crowd our calendars. In the midst of these changes, we can be tempted to drift from what anchors us: God's Word and the promises given in Christ.

Hebrews 13:8 assures us, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" While our days change, our Lord does not. The same Christ who went to the cross for our salvation continues to come to us today in His Word and Sacraments. His forgiveness and grace remain constant, even when our lives feel anything but.

This month, as schedules fill and routines shift, make time for God's Word and worship. Here we are reminded that Christ's victory is sure, His promises endure, and His mercy is new every morning. Seasons change, but Christ, our Redeemer, remains unshaken.

In Christ's Service and Yours,
Pastor Krieg

**"Jesus Christ
is the same
yesterday
and today
and forever."**

Hebrews 13:8

LET US *pray*

THROUGH THE LITURGY: PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

What is the "Prayer of the Church"?

The Prayer of the Church is the part in the service where the pastor leads the congregation through a series of petitions, or requests. Each prayer is introduced by a "bid."

Why do we use "bids" in the Divine Service?

A "bid" is an invitation to the congregation to join in each of these prayers to our Lord. A bid is not part of the prayer. Rather, it is the part where the pastor first tells us what we are going to pray for, a great way of gathering the congregation's thoughts together and directing them toward the specific petitions and thanksgivings that we are about to pray.

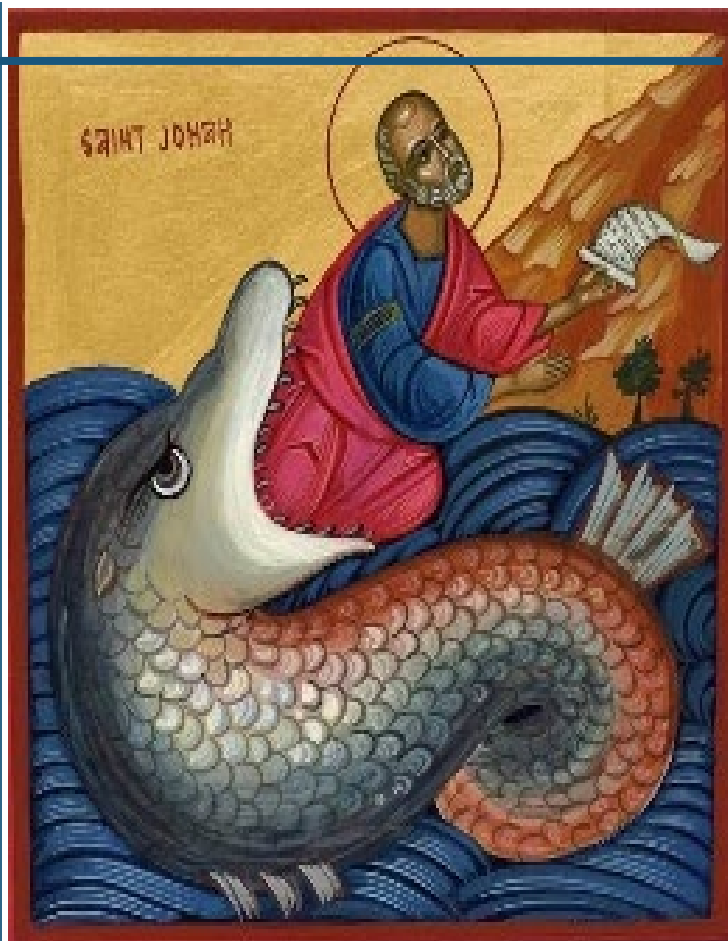
Why is praying together so important?

Do you know anyone who needs God's care? Wouldn't you like to have the rest of the congregation focused on praying for that person too? If so, then this is a good time to do it! During the Prayers, we pray for all of the people of our congregation, particularly those who are sick and shut-in. We also pray for our government, for all believers, and many others.



“ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Matthew 12:39-40



HEROES OF FAITH SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we will highlight one of the many heroes of the Christian faith who have stood firm in the truth of Holy Scripture. We will look at the apostles who knew our Lord Jesus Christ personally, his friends who were witnesses to His miracles, the faithful ancestor of the Old Testament who patiently awaited His first Advent, as well as the many other Godly men and women who have been bold witnesses throughout the years, to the one true faith. We look to them not as people to be worshiped or prayed to but as ordinary sinners, like us, to whom the Holy Spirit gave faith to be extraordinary. They are holy because the blood of Christ forgave their sins. They are holy because the Holy Spirit gave them a living faith in which the love of Christ shone through.

On September 22, the Church remembers and thanks God for His servant and prophet Jonah.

Jonah was a reluctant messenger of God. When tasked with traveling to the Assyrian capital of Nineveh to preach repentance to the people there, Jonah famously sailed in the opposite direction. Not wanting to risk his life in a foreign land preaching repentance to a people he thought did not deserve God's mercy, Jonah defied God. Yet God caused the seas to storm, and eventually Jonah was thrown overboard, and a great fish swallowed him and placed him safely on the beaches on the way to Nineveh. Fulfilling God's command, Jonah preached repentance to the people, and they did, receiving God's mercy and forgiveness. Jesus speaks of the sign of Jonah as he foreshadows His time in the tomb as He calls us to repentance. And because of Christ's mercy and forgiveness, we are given new life, as was Jonah.



HIGHER THINGS



The theme and venue for next year's Higher Things conference have been announced!

The conference will be based on Romans 6:11: "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." Youth League is excited to attend next year's conference in June at Washington University in St. Louis, MO! As more information becomes available, we will let you know.

NEXT MEETING



On Sunday, September 14, the Youth League will meet for its monthly meeting. We will be discussing the fundraiser and upcoming events.

YOUTH LEAGUE UPDATE

YOUTH LEAGUE BBQ POTATO FUNDRAISER

Hate cooking lunch after church? Let the Youth League of Bethlehem do the cooking. Purchase a to go BBQ Potato after church on Sunday, September 14th for \$10. Fixings include: Potato, BBQ, sauce, butter, sour cream and cheese.



Meet Your New Youth League Officers

At our last meeting, new officers were selected for the 2025-26 year. Congratulations to the following members of the Youth League for their willingness to serve and their commitment to their church.

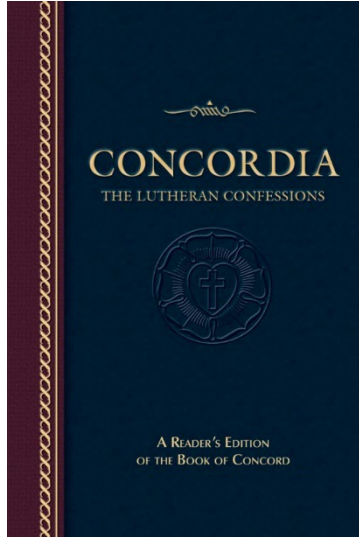
President – Giuliana Krieg

Vice President – Caleb Klussmann

Secretary – Maddison Molitor

Treasurer – Connor Gresham

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XIV – CHURCH ORDER



Every Christian, by virtue of faith in Christ, has a call (Romans 8:28-30). Because of this calling, every Christian is a priest before God and possesses the office of the ministry (1 Peter 2:9). Every Christian should exercise this priesthood in their homes, with neighbors, and in the world as witnesses of Christ. We can and should confess Christ, teach, admonish, comfort, forgive, pray, and even baptize (in case of emergencies).

However, there is also a distinction between the actions of an individual Christian and those of a called minister of a congregation. One is done privately (not on behalf of the church) and the other is done publicly (in the name of the church). The public ministry has been established by God for the purpose of proclaiming the Word of God for the salvation of souls. It also serves to keep order within the church. And this is precisely what Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession tells us. It states: *Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.*

The public ministry is not an invention of man but was established by God for the building up of His Church here on earth. Paul writes in Ephesians that it is the exalted Christ who “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12). When he spoke to the pastors of the churches in Ephesus, Paul said, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Notice how Paul reveals this call to lead the flock comes from God, the Holy Spirit!

At the same time, this divine call comes through a group of believers, which is the congregation. One may not assume the position of pastor for oneself; instead, one must receive a call to do so through that congregation. Consider the practice of the early church as described in the Book of Acts. In Acts 1, the congregation in Jerusalem “cast lots” to determine the replacement for Judas; in Acts 6, the congregation in Jerusalem “appointed” seven men as deacons to help the apostles; and in Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas “appointed” elders in the congregations that started up on their first missionary journey.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XIV – CHURCH ORDER

While a congregation has the authority to call pastors and teachers to fill its specific need, it will want to be mindful of the qualifications given by God for those in the public ministry. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 - see also 2 Timothy 2:24-25 and Titus 1:5-9).

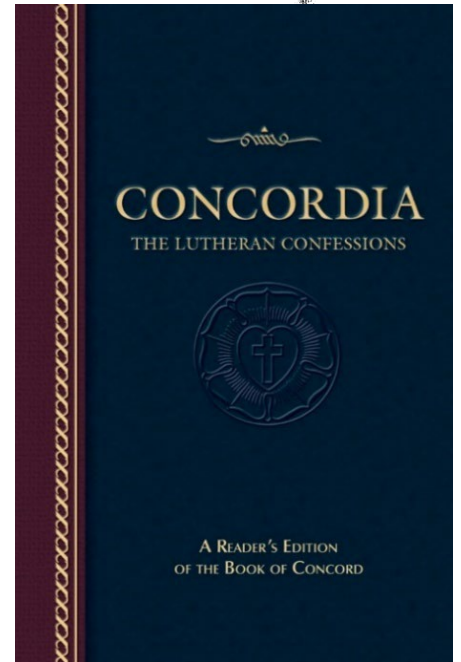
It should be noted that women are not to serve in the office of the public ministry. Scripture states that the reason for this is because of God's established order at creation (1 Timothy 2:11-14 - see also 1 Corinthians 14:34-35). This is not a culturally conditioned custom of a specific time, but rather a continuing standard God set for the sake of order from the very beginning.

This does not mean that women cannot serve in other capacities within the church. There are many ways in which women can and should use their gifts in the church that do not contradict this Scriptural principle.

The offices of the Roman Catholic Church were, from the very beginning, about power. For them, the congregation was at the bottom, above them were the priests, bishops, archbishops, and finally the pope. With the teaching of the Priesthood of all believers, Luther turned all this upside down. The office of the ministry (the keys) comes from God, through the church. Pastors and teachers are not superior to the members of the church; rather, they hold their positions by the authority of the church members. The ministry is not a difference of level or power, but of office. When called ministers deal with us by Christ's command, that is, when they teach, admonish, and comfort us with the Word of God, then we should receive their instruction, admonition, and comfort as though God spoke to us Himself.

The purpose of the office of the ministry is for the public administration of the means of grace for the purpose of saving souls. We have been given the Gospel (which is to be preached) and the sacraments (which are to be administered) in order to make disciples of Christ and teach them to observe what He has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20); to edify the church of God (Ephesians 4:12); and to save lost souls (1 Timothy 4:16).

The authority of the public ministry comes from God, and the power is found in His holy Word alone, not in those who minister the Word!



JOIN US FOR OUR 165TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

*Come
celebrate
with us*

This year marks a wonderful milestone in the life of our congregation—165 years of God's faithfulness! We invite you and your family to join us as we give thanks to the Lord for all He has done through His Word and Sacraments in this place.

On Sunday, September 7th, we will gather for a special anniversary service to celebrate God's blessings over the generations. Following the service, everyone is invited to a catered meal in the parish hall. We are also asking members to bring their favorite dessert to share, so we can enjoy a variety of sweet treats together as we continue the celebration.

Come and give thanks with us for 165 years of God's grace and join in praying for His blessings in the years to come!

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Early Childhood - 2 years to Pre-K

Teachers Amy Schroeder and Dorcas Schroeder

Emersyn Schroeder, Ruth Schroeder

Lower Elementary - K to 2nd Grade

Teacher Collin Schroeder and Kristen Berglund

Tessa Medve, Tate Crabb, Henery Schroeder, Amara Torres, Teddy Kettler, Chaylea Choyce

Upper Elementary - 3rd to 5th Grade

Teachers: Ann Smitherman and Lori Schramme

Eli Kettler, Lucas Searle, Whitley Crabb, Tanner Haferkamp, Lily Kettler, Tanner Schroeder, Tucker Crabb

Confirmation Class - 6th to 8th Grade

Teachers: Vickie Ashorn

Kinsley Haferkamp, Michael Hinze, Taylor Nowicki, Norman Krieg, Rose Kettler, Wyatt Schramme, Taylor Hinze, Winston Krieg, Dillon Nowicki

Youth Bible Class (High School)

Teachers: Terie Gresham and Jennifer Krieg

Harlee Duckett, Connor Gresham, Lyla Kettler, Hannah Nowicki, Giuliana Krieg, Maddison Molitor, Marc Maya, Kaisen Ashorn, Michael Kettler, Colin Schomburg, Caleb Kettler, Caleb Klussmann, Haleigh Seifert

**PROMOTION
SUNDAY**

**“If any of you lacks
wisdom, let him ask
God, who gives
generously to all
without reproach,
and it will be given
him.”**

James 1:5

**“Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.”**

Psalm 25:4

LEARN WITH OUR CONFIRMANDS

As you know, Confirmation is kicking off once again here at Bethlehem. This means our kids will be diving headfirst into the Small Catechism and God's holy Word. Memorization is a key component to Confirmation and of being a lifelong learner of Scripture. I ask that you keep our confirmands in your prayers and encourage them in their studies. To that end, I have placed all the memory work they will be learning this month below, and I challenge you to dust off your Small Catechism and relearn alongside them the treasures that we hold so dear. The Small Catechism is not just for the young or those going through Confirmation; it is for us all. When you see them, recite the memory with them, encourage them in their studies, and let them know you support them and are praying for them.

Date	Catechism Memorization	Scripture Memorization (recited on Sundays)
3-Sept	1 st Commandment w/ Meaning	Matthew 4:10
11-Sept	2 nd & 3 rd Commandments w/ Meanings	Psalm 150:2
18-Sept	Books of the OT & NT by Oct 15 th	Hebrews 10:25
25-Sept	Session 4 – 4 th & 5 th Commandments	Proverbs 23:22



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Erik Berglund, Chris Smitherman	2 Pastor Krieg 7:00 – 7:30 PM LWML Social 7:30 – 8:30 PM LWML Meeting	3 6 – 7:30 PM Life with God—New Member Class	4 6 – 7 PM Elders' Meeting	5 Shirley Klussmann	6 7:30 – 8:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast
7 Chris Landeck 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	8 Andrea Holle, Mildred Holle	9 Elijah Kettler, Bradley Schomburg	10 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sonshine 6:00 – 7:30 PM Life with God—New Member Class	11	12 Karlton Klussmann	13
14 Tricia Boggan 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion Bake Potato Sale After Church 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Shekel Store 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Youth League Mtg & Bible Study	15 Heidi Nowicki	16 Artie Klussmann, Tricia Molitor	17 Hunter Choyce	18 Amara Torrez	19	20 Brad Molitor, 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sisters in Christ
21 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	22	23 Lathel Norris	24	25 Kaisen Ashorn, Doug Schroeder, Tanner Schroeder	26 Craig Kankel	27
28 8 – 9 AM Outdoor Amphitheater Worship 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	29	30 Sheryl Schroeder				

If you would like information posted in the monthly newsletter, please email the office by the 15th of the month. Thank you.

September 2025

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Erik Berglund
Chris Smitherman

2 Kelly Krieg

5 Shirley Klusmann

7 Chris Landeck

8 Andrea Holle
Mildred Holle

9 Elijah Kettler
Bradley Schomburg

12 Karlton Klusmann

14 Tricia Boggan

15 Heidi Nowicki

16 Artie Klusmann
Tricia Molitor

17 Hunter Choyce

18 Amara Torrez

20 Brad Molitor

23 Lathel Norris

25 Kaisen Ashorn
Doug Schroeder
Tanner Schroeder

26 Craig Kankel

30 Sheryl Schroeder

2 Blane Ashorn
Amber Molitor

3 Linda Hinze

4 Diana Kohring

5 Edith Erwin

7 Cheri Janner

8 Destiny Interiano

12 Benson Rodriguez
Emily Searle

19 Ruth Schroeder
Jeffery Schwartz

21 Coby Boggan

22 Parker Adams
Cindy Schomburg

23 Rowdy Borgstedt

25 Lily Kettler

26 Lyla Kettler
Ian Schroeder

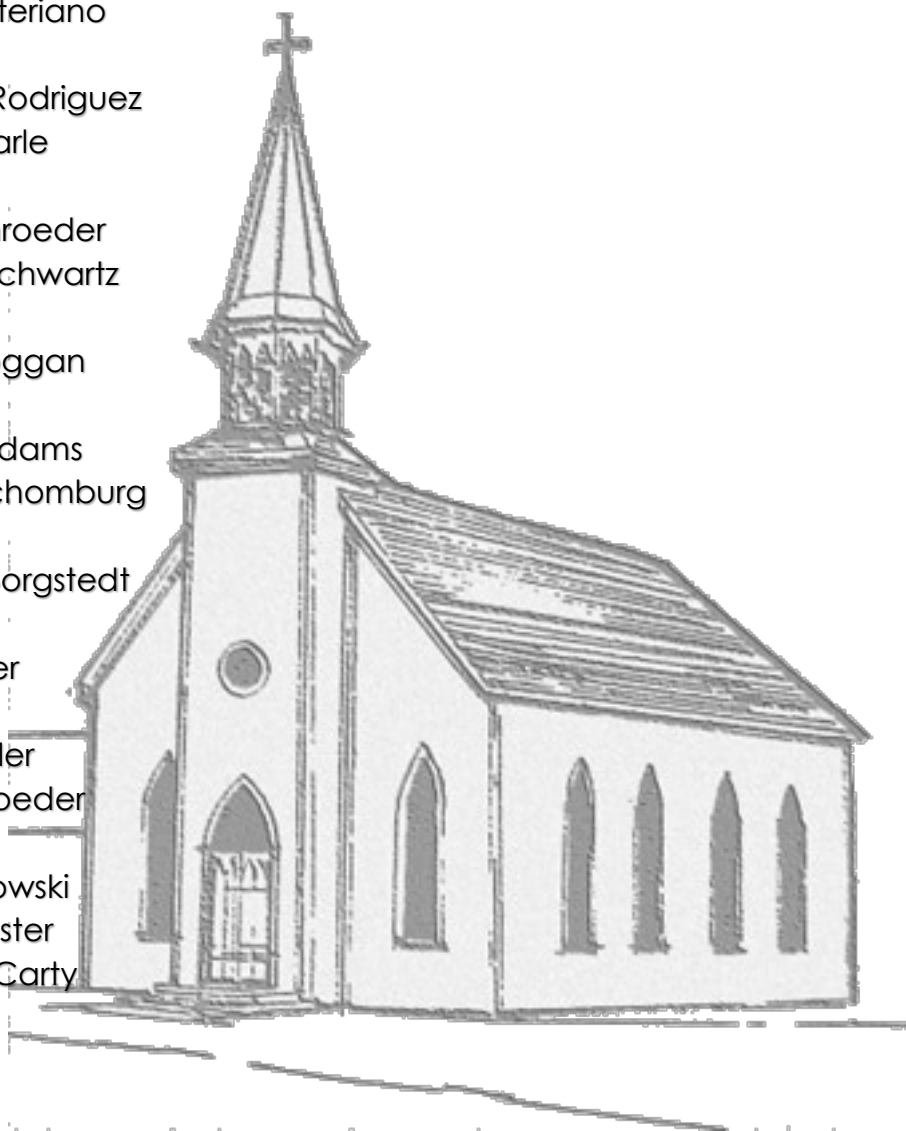
30 Kelly Flisowski
Ann Koester
Briar McCarty

Albin & Brenda Flisowski
Sep 20, 1980

Mike & Renee Brinkmann
Sep 4, 1982

Craig & Jackie Kankel
Sep 29, 1984

Andy & Shelby Adams
Sep 4, 2010



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