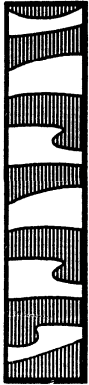
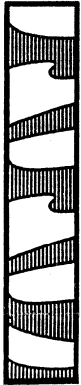


CROSS CURRENTS



Calvary Lutheran Church

108 Eastman Street · Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone 908-276-2418 • Fax 908-276-2419

www.calvarycranford.com

March 2010

The Reverend Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor

Email: pastor@calvarycranford.com

Home office phone: 908-755-1964

Jeanne Elmuccio, Music Director

Rick Merino, Youth Music Leader

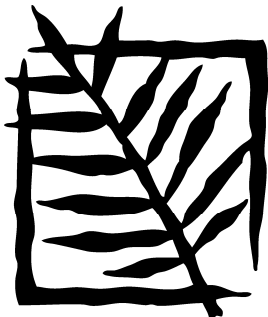
Stacy Nick-Casey, Calvary Nursery School
& Child Care Director

Barbara Binder, Administrative Assistant

Christine Newport, Administrative Assistant

Email: office@calvarycranford.com

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



Palm Sunday

March 28

8:30am & 10:15am Worship



For how you can help, please see page 11.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 1

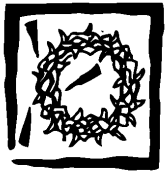
1:15pm & 7:30pm Worship

Good Friday, April 2

12:00pm Community Service at Calvary
7:30pm Worship

Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30am & 10:15am Worship





The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay,
Pastor

Norm Bauer, President
Kim Koch, Vice-President
Ed Sullivan, Treasurer
George Bird, Financial
Secretary
Ellen Mulligan, Secretary
Nancy Bebel
Jim Damm
Glenda Huff
Liz McCarthy
Laurie Peebles
Lynn Rhodes
Chuck Sherrick
Stephen Vath
Ernie Vaupel
Brian Willem

Cross Currents is published by the first day of months September through June. Its mission is to share news, events and other information about our congregation and community of faith.

All articles/news for future issues should contain the name of the contributor and should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue either in writing to the office, or emailed to calvarycranford@yahoo.com.

Circulation includes Calvary's members, friends and visitors through bulk rate mailing. Extra copies are available in the narthex. Since Cross Currents is mailed bulk rate, Calvary is not notified of address changes by the post office. Please promptly notify the church office if you move. To help save postage and to hasten delivery of your issue, you are invited to pick up your issue in the church narthex in a specially marked "pick-up" basket. If you wish to either add or remove your name from the list, please call the church office.

Choose an Acceptable Fast this Lent

I'd like to encourage you to fast during this important season of Lent. Fasting is something that's actually in vogue right now for physical reasons. Most of the major religions of the world encourage fasting for spiritual purposes. Fasting is one of the disciplines of the Lenten season which help us to "wage our spiritual warfare," our liturgy says. It's a spiritual practice that was done by people like Moses and King David. Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights during his temptation in the desert. The Apostle Paul even fasted during various times of his ministry. Traditionally, fasting is all about abstaining from food and drink in order to devote one's attention to repentance, prayer and works of charity. However, this Lent, I'd like to encourage folks at Calvary to consider another type of fasting. It is a fast that is very acceptable to the Lord our God, as scriptures tell us. The fast that I am speaking about is a call to a simpler, more just lifestyle.

When Jesus talks about fasting in Matthew chapter six he follows his words with some verses of scripture that are pure economics from a spiritual perspective. You will remember some of the verses that I'm referring to. Jesus warns against storing up treasures on earth where thieves can break in and steal and where moth and rust can consume and destroy. Instead, Jesus suggests, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven – which nothing can steal or destroy – "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Jesus isn't against possessions in this passage. He's against stockpiling and hoarding stuff. He's teaching us that when we focus on material things our devotion to God is drained and our ability to help others is diminished. From Jesus' perspective, fasting is a much broader thing than just going without food and drink for a short period of time.

An acceptable fast involves our whole relationship to material things and our ability to respond to the needs of our global neighbors.

The prophet Isaiah in his 58th chapter is crystal clear about what an acceptable fast is in God's sight. The people in that day and time were covered in sackcloth and ashes. They were dutifully abstaining from food and drink. They were impressed with their spiritual efforts and they were wondering why they were not getting God's attention with all of their spiritual exercises. God responded strongly and forcefully to their questions. An acceptable fast in God's sight involves works of justice and letting the oppressed go free. The people in Isaiah's time were focused on their own lives, God said. They were focused on their own interests and they were mistreating their employees and other neighbors in need. God says to them and to us, the fast that I choose involves "sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering those who need clothing and not hiding yourself from your own kin." God promises that when we faithfully participate in a fast such as that, goodness and healing and light and blessing will come our way.

I want to encourage you – I want to encourage us as a congregation – to find a fast that is truly acceptable in God's sight during Lent this year. The fast that God accepts is a call to simpler, more just

lifestyle. It is a fast that exposes much of the sin that we need repentance for:

Our self indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people, our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice. Christ died for all of those sins and more. In this Lenten season our Lord gives us the opportunity to turn from those hurtful paths. He gives us an invitation to turn in life giving directions – life giving directions that can help others in our world.

I encourage you to find a fast that is a hunger for justice during the month of March, as Holy Week approaches. Figure out your own ways of doing this as individuals and families. Would it be possible for you to skip some regular meals out at restaurants and donate that money to world hunger? Would you and your family like to experience some volunteer hours at the Food Bank in Hillside? Can you find some ways to give more substantially to those in need in Haiti right now? Are there ways that you could simplify your meals or other issues in your lifestyle and might that free up some finances to offer your global neighbors? The ideas and the possibilities are limitless. I will be talking to our young people about these ideas and more during our Lenten Children's Sermons. Let's all take this on as our Lenten challenge and devotion this

year. How can we truly find a fast that is a hunger for justice??

I'm walking this path of repentance and challenge with you,

Pastor Carol



Coffee Time bakers & helpers & enjoyers needed!!!

Please remember to take a few minutes to enjoy the coffee and goodies during Coffee Time each week. Going to 8:30 service? Grab something and chat on the way out. Dropping off your kids for Sunday School? Come on over and socialize with other parents. Going to 10:15 service? Come a little early and enjoy a few minutes of fellowship before the service begins. You never know the stories you'll hear...

We need bakers and helpers to keep this going though. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for opportunities to donate baked goods. Or give just 5 to 10 minutes of your time about once a month to set up or clean up.

For more information, please call or email Tracy Willem at 908-931-1385 / tracy_willem@hotmail.com.



February 21 was New Member Sunday. The following persons and their families were received into membership through the Affirmation of Baptism:

Arlene Blaumeiser

Brian & Mary Bohall & children, Kelly & Max

Rosemarie & Ed Campbell & children Layla & Matthew

Carla Flint

Hannelore & Bob Joback

Richelle & Peter Konian and children Ani & Peter

Beth & Matt Mason & daughter Sarah Adalade Otto

Brenda Richardson

Gary & Linda Ruesch & daughter Laura Elisa Ruiz

Mike & Renee Vogler & daughters Emily, Olivia and Sophia

We extend a warm welcome to all of you!!

Altar Clean Up

Volunteers Are Needed.....

Volunteers are needed to assist the Altar Clean-up Team after the 10:15 a.m. service. Please consider staying for a few minutes to assist with this important task. If you're interested please contact Sue Bird or the church office at 908-276-2418.



Worship Highlights

Worship services are held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning, Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Every service includes Holy Communion.

Sunday, March 7 **Lent 3**

Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9

Liturgical color: Purple

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Sunday, March 14 **Lent 4**

Joshua 5:9-122 Corinthians 5:16-21
Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Liturgical color: Purple

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom

the forgiveness of God has "rolled away ... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

Sunday, March 21 **Lent 5**

Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14
Psalm 126 John 12:1-8

Liturgical color: Purple

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Sunday, March 28 **Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11
Psalm 31:9-16 Luke 22:14--23:56

Liturgical color: Purple

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah's words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus' passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

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Helping and Planning



The Youth Group had another eventful month. A few of us Youth Group members went to the Lutheran senior high retreat in LBI, where we learned more about some events going on in the world, like the crisis in Bosnia. The ELCA will be meeting with about 2,000 children in Bosnia this summer, so we painted tote bags and made mini hug pillows as gifts to bring to them. To continue our support, we have brought some bags and pillows back with us so that we can make more with the help of the Sunday School and Youth Group. We also had a great time meeting new people, including a youth group from Grace Lutheran Church in River Edge that will be coming to our game night this March.

As this is being written, the Youth Group along with the Sunday School are planning a bake sale with all proceeds going to Haiti. We hope we can make a lot of money from the bake sale. Also, the Valentine Care Packages, our first fundraiser, was a huge success and we thank everyone for their support. We packaged 28 boxes, with more than half of them from our fundraiser. Lastly, hold the date for our Easter Brunch on March 27th, where we will have an Easter egg hunt and crafts for the children. Additional details will follow.

Alyssa Gautieri
Calvary Youth Group Secretary

Easter Egg Hunt Donations - Please help by contributing plastic eggs and bite size chocolates. Donation box is in the Narthex.



Did You Know?

Lutheran World Relief works with Equal Exchange in supporting small-scale farmers across the world through fair trade of coffee, tea, and chocolate, to name a few.

Calvary Lutheran Church will soon be participating in these efforts as well. Coming soon, these coffee, tea, and chocolate products will be available to purchase after services every Sunday in the Narthex.

This project is being coordinated by Alex Sullivan, in partnership with the Youth Group. Please see additional information on next page featuring the coffee project.

ATTENTION ALL CALVARY CHILDREN & YOUTH LEADERS **Boundaries Training Workshop** **Wednesday, March 10th 7-9pm**

Light refreshments will be served. Please help us take advantage of this great NJ Synod Training Program. This is for all individuals who interact and work with children/youth at church.

We are inviting other congregations and we're looking for a good turnout!

Please RSVP to Jennifer Sharpe at jennifer.sharpe@spcorp.com



Confirmation Class Reminders

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 7th

9:30 am Sunday School

5:45 pm Evening Class

Sunday, March 14th

5:45 pm Evening Class

Sunday, March 21st

5:45 PM Evening Class

Easter Bags handed out after each service – Service Project

Sunday, March 28th

No Class - Palm Sunday

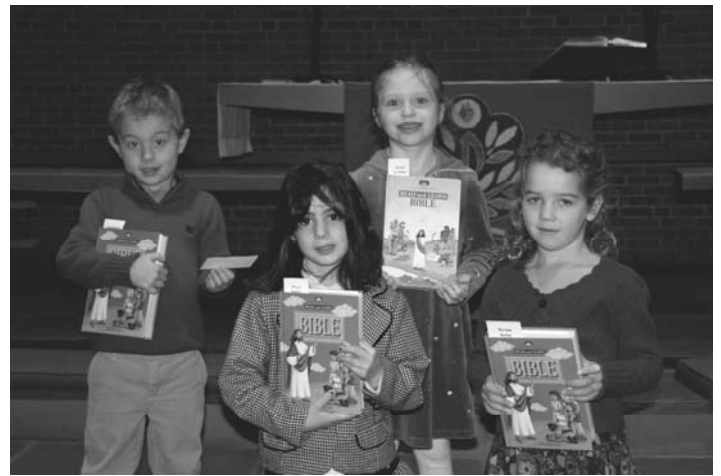
Attending worship, completing sermon cards and participating in service projects are all part of your covenant for fulfilling your Confirmation studies.

Also, if anyone is interested in helping out with the Nursery School children call Stacy Nick 272-3962 or the church office 276-2418 for details and information. This is a fun experience for both the children and yourself.

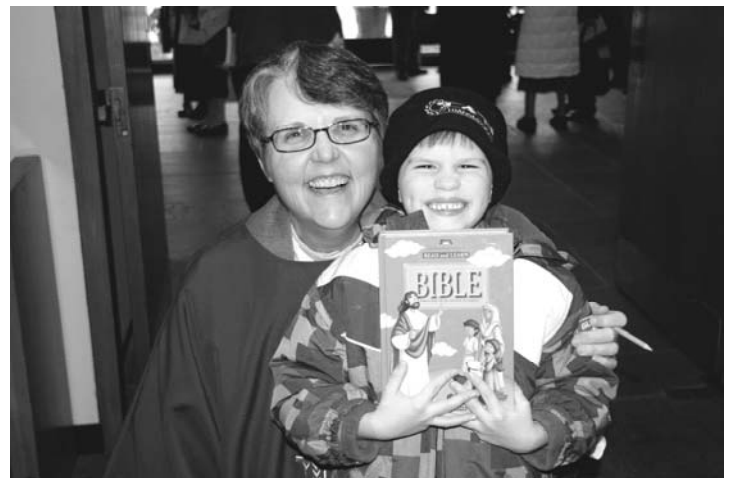
Passing on the Faith “Bible Sunday”

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8: 31-32



On Bible Sunday, January 24, 2010, Calvary gave thanks as the Holy Scriptures were placed into the hands of Brooke Burke, Layla Campbell, Tatum Dobbins, Michael Kawczynski, Katie Lynskey, Matthew McCarthy, Kurt Petschow, Christian Timberlake, Olivia Vogler and Benjamin Willem. Bible Sunday is a joyous reminder of how important the Word of the Lord is in our everyday lives. We pray these children find enjoyment and encouragement in the stories of our Lord. Congratulations!



Got faith? Pass it on!

From Our

DIRECTOR

*of
Music
Ministry*



Sing Praises to God

Time to step out of that pew and join in fellowship and praise to God by singing in Calvary's Adult Choir. The choir is looking for singers – High School age and above - in all parts.

We are preparing music for the Lent and Easter season. Rehearsals are on Thursday's from 7:30-9:00 pm.



Children's Music

We are delighted to have Rick Merino on staff as our Youth

Music Leader. Rick has provided the following schedule for when the children will be singing in worship -- so that you can mark your calendars.

Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday)
Sunday, April 11 (Child Care Sunday)
Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day)

Ring-a-Ding-Ding!

Calvary's Handbell Choir is always looking to welcome new ringers.

We rehearse weekly and plan to ring once per month in worship. No prior ringing experience is needed. Ability to read music is helpful.

Rehearsals are on Thursday's from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Youth Bell Choir

Rehearsals for the Youth Bell Choir have started up again (5:30-6:15 pm). There are still a few openings. All youth are welcome – no prior ringing experience is needed – however, ability to read music is helpful.

For more information about any of our music programs, please contact Jeanne Elmuccio at (908) 226-9088 or musicpoodle945@verizon.net.

SENIOR MOMENTS

This past year the media has made many references to "The Great Depression". Some of you reading this and remembering the depression know that it was anything but "Great".

In 1929 I was two years old and my mother was pregnant with my brother, Carl. Shortly after, my Father lost his job. Fortunately, my Dad found work and remained employed through that difficult time. Even though there was very little money to spare, I never felt deprived nor that we were poor. What my parents lacked in money they made up in ingenuity. They knew how to make a little go a long way!

Thanks to my parents' thrift I enjoyed a happy childhood unaware that others were struggling and dependent on soup kitchens. I do remember one incident that brought the depression to our doorstep and to my attention.

While playing outside one afternoon I noticed that there was a stranger sitting on the steps of our back porch. His appearance was shabby and dirty. He sat huddled on the top step quietly finishing the leftovers from our dinner. I decided that this stranger was someone to be avoided and quickly ran off to continue playing.

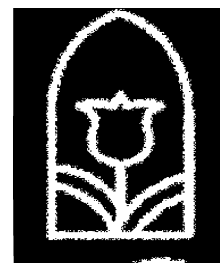
Later, upon returning home, I realized to my relief that the stranger was gone.

However, I found my mother with her head down on the kitchen table and crying. I knew my father was at work and that she had been alone in the house when the stranger had been there. I asked, "Did that dirty man hurt you?" She lifted her head and replied, "No June, he did not hurt me. I am crying because that poor man was hungry. He can't find work. I'm crying because there are so many men like him all over this country."

When I looked at the man I had seen him as a stranger, dirty, suspicious and someone to be avoided. Looking at him through my mother's tears I saw him as someone who needed help.

Now, when I read Matthew 25:31-46 I remember that man and my mother.

June Kaiser



A Loss *in the* Church Family

Parish News

We are sad to announce another death in our church family:

Walter Geisler February 17, 2010

Please keep the Geisler family and their loved ones in your prayers during this difficult time.



Bea Circle

Session 6: Does God Keep Promises?

This study is taken from Romans 9:1-33, 10:1-21, 11:1-36. Please read these chapters and join with us in the Betty Dahlquist Lounge on **Friday, March 19th at 1:00 pm** as we continue this study of Paul's letters. Lesson Leader will be Marie Roth. Call her at 810-0013 for further information.

Women's Bible Study

Session 7: The Renewing of Our Minds

Theme verse: Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Please read Romans 12:1-21; 13:1-14. This study explores Paul's challenge to himself and these original Romans and ourselves today. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm** in the lounge.

Lois Hasselman 908-789-0640

✠ Pray for the sick (especially) Ron Bobrowski, Abigail Breen, Lawaine Dain, Sandy Deter, Deirdre Dreyer, Sue Garnhart, Leo Gerdung, Eleanor Jostrom, Kevin Kozenski, Michael Kraw, Grace Kurasz, Rocky Metroka, Pam Milazzo, Marg Miller, Honey Ranhofer, Ilse Marie Rickmers, Keith Sherrick, Michael Sherrick, David Van Houten

✠ Pray for our elderly members who are unable to attend worship and help us to minister to them faithfully (especially), Eva Anderson, Edith Carlson, Doris Ducker, Marie Ducker, Bill Ellis, Phyllis Elmuccio, Pastor Art Geiger, Nancy Leicht, Helen Ludvigsen, Martha McCarthy, Dorothy McCoy, Edna Moldal, Michael Nahirniak, Horst & Martha Pajonk, Berte Pedde, Susan Valuck and Fran Weidenburner.

✠ Protect and comfort our servicemen and women as they stand in harm's way (*especially*), Sam Colby, Robert Elwyn, Jonathan Engroos, Paul Lazaro and David McElwain. We pray for the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, the Middle East and for families in conflict everywhere.

Thank You! THANK YOU!

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now you're probably asking yourself "when is this guy going to get off the prayer list"? Well I can't quite answer that question just yet but I want to assure you that I'm doing everything in my power to regain my health. I am in fact making progress and believe that the finish line is coming. Part of regaining my health includes having to struggle my way through the workday, eat and sleep well, and exercise regularly. Those basics things are difficult at times due to the nature of the illness but in most cases I have found a way to overcome those obstacles. With that in mind, I want to thank all of you for your continued prayers and support. You may not know it but having my name on that list makes me work harder and never give up. There have been numerous times where the Holy Spirit has picked me up and dusted me off and I certainly don't think that's a coincidence. Again, I want to say thank you and ask for your continued prayers.

Keeping The Faith,
David Van Houten

Dear Youth Leaders,

Thank you for your wonderful leadership. You are building a program that we can all be proud of. Keep doing what you are doing as it is having a profound influence on the kids...hard to measure but easy to see.

Anonymous

We wish to express our sincere thanks to our Calvary family for all the supportive words, prayers, and comforting sympathy cards we received on the passing of our Mom, Jean Potasky. Bless you for your kindness.

Patrice & Ed Patterson and Family



Social Concerns Special Benevolence will match up to \$5,000 of all contributions received for ELCA Disaster Relief for Earthquake in Haiti. Please make your checks payable to Calvary Lutheran Church and mark "Haiti Earthquake relief" on the check. Checks can either be returned in offering plate or mailed to the church office. Disaster relief envelopes are available in the narthex and the pews for your convenience.

Letter from Our Missionaries

February 18, 2010

Dear Friends:

A couple of days ago our family boarded a plane from Boston to Buenos Aires and our 2 ½ month home assignment came to an end. As we now reflect on what this time back in the USA has meant to us, the image of the medieval pilgrimage comes to mind. Medieval pilgrims usually set out toward a specific destination in light of a particular event. They traveled to be eyewitnesses of sacred events and places. They went seeking first-hand knowledge and experiences of a particular way God can "break into" human lives and transform us for God's own purposes. In our case the destination has been into the heart and hearths of your congregations and homes. The event has been the celebration of our shared faith in Christ and our connection through global mission.

As with the medieval tradition of showing hospitality to pilgrims and wayfarers -- who were warmed by the glowing embers of the hearths of inns and homes along the way -- you have so generously received us in your congregations and homes. You have welcomed us with potlucks replete with delicious food as we gathered around tables for joyful fellowship. We helped complete the circles around your Communion tables and joined our voices with yours in prayer and songs of thanksgiving and praise. We were

privileged to be invited into the intimacy of many of your homes to swap stories over an evening cup of tea in your living room or a morning coffee at the kitchen table. We truly had the privilege of many delightful moments of fellowship during this time! Thank you!

Your hospitality has sustained us along the way and has strengthened us for our journey now back to our ministry in South America. Visiting your local missions and ministries has energized us with a renewed sense of passion and purpose. Like the pilgrims who returned to their ordinary lives with so many tales from afar, we return with all the richness of the life and faith stories that you have shared with us.

We also want to give a special thanks to our siblings and parents who helped to care for our children Emily and Matthew during much of the time we were visiting sponsoring congregations.

Tomorrow we leave for a camping retreat with the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers who are serving in Argentina and Uruguay this year. It will be like the crossroads where the paths of several pilgrims meet as we share tales of our travels with them and hear their stories from these months that we have been away. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

In Christ,

David (Wunsch) and Kate (Lawler)

** We support the Wunsches with Special Benevolence dollars at Calvary.*



March Volunteer Schedule

		Assisting Ministers* CA = Communion Assistant	Altar Clean Up	Ushers ** C = Captain	Coffee Time Team
March 7	8:30 am	Donna Vaupel CA: Ernie Vaupel		Henry Wichmann (C), Pat Wichmann, Barbara Hill, Cliff Kaiser	Set Up: Nancy Bebel
	10:15 am	Amy Metroka CA: Brian Willem	Renee Vogler	Bob Wollenberg (C), Dave Van Houten, Nancy Van Houten	Clean Up: Shawn Vath
March 14	8:30 am	Anne Dawson CA: Chris Wendel		Henry Wichmann (C), Pat Wichmann, Barbara Hill, Cliff Kaiser	Set Up: Anne Dawson
	10:15 am	Warren Hynes CA: Raymond Kraus	Susan & George Bird	Bob Wollenberg (C), Dave Van Houten, Nancy Van Houten	Clean Up: Tracy Willem
March 21	8:30 am	Chuck Sherrick CA: Rob Seavy		Henry Wichmann (C), Pat Wichmann, Barbara Hill, Cliff Kaiser	Set Up: Leslie Schreiber
	10:15 am	Donna Schlenker CA: Karl Schlenker	Fred Miller	Bob Wollenberg (C), Dave Van Houten, Nancy Van Houten	Clean Up: Bonnie Birkel
March 28	8:30 am	Leslie Schreiber CA: Bob Wollenberg		Henry Wichmann (C), Pat Wichmann, Barbara Hill, Cliff Kaiser	Set Up: Glenda Huff
	10:15 am	Linda Nelson CA: Warren Hynes	Susan & George Bird	Bob Wollenberg (C), Dave Van Houten, Nancy Van Houten	Clean Up: Linda Huff
		Coordinator: Warren Hynes	Coordinator: Susan Bird	Coordinator: Jim Seavy	Coordinator: Tracy Willem

***Assisting Ministers:** If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please arrange for a replacement and notify the church office so the *Sunday Times* can be changed. Thank you

****Ushers:** If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please notify your captain and call a replacement. Please recycle bulletins for use at later services--Left over bulletins will be used at the 5:00 PM service.