

THE VOICE OF IMMANUEL

September 2016

Hans Christian Andersen tells the story of *The Princess and the Pea*. The prince was looking for a suitable princess to be his bride. As luck would have it, he was unsuccessful because one after another had some issue that disqualified them. A stranger wanders in, claiming to be a princess. The mother of the prince seeks to test the qualifications of the young woman by placing a pea in the bed she is offered for the night. The pea is then covered by 20 mattresses and 20 feather-beds. The woman reports the following morning that she spent a dreadful night because of some hard object in the bed. She identified the problem, had it removed, and they lived happily ever after.

I don't know how many princesses we have in Immanuel. I know we all have a "pea in the bed" that needs to be identified and removed before life can be restored. We call that sin. It may seem insignificant, but it cannot be simply dismissed. The only remedy is to discover it, bring it to Jesus, and receive his tender, loving forgiveness. There is no other way.

Some of us have, not a pea, but a huge boulder under the mattress. It could be something that we have done. I could be something that was done to us. It could be something to which we were a party. It could be something from long ago. It could be something that is ongoing. We try to sleep as best we can. We try to cope with it, and most of the time we may have done ok. We may cover it up with layer upon layer. Sometimes we get involved in other behaviors, trying to dull the pain. Those addictive behaviors cause great harm, but often they are more the symptom than the problem.

In the sight of God, there is no difference between a pea and a boulder. Sin is sin. In fact, trying to compare sins is an attempt at self-

justification. For example, saying, "Mine is not as bad as yours" is an effort to say that I am in less need of a Savior. Or saying, "If you had to deal with what I have to deal with, you would understand why I act this way" is a way of seeking an excuse for bad behavior. Neither one works. God **can** restore lives. **Only** God can restore lives. The death and resurrection of Jesus reunites us with the Father and with each other.

So, it is **never** too late. No matter how large, or how old, or how many mattresses have been used to cover it up, now is the time to identify it, bring it to Jesus, and receive his mercy. The only way for healing to take place is to face the situation squarely, courageously, fearlessly. But you cannot do that on your own. You need someone to aid you, to walk beside you, to listen to you. Talk to a parent, a trusted friend, a pastor. Share that burden. Your pastors are bound by oath not to break confidences. You will hear words of forgiveness and assurance. From Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, "Office of the Keys": *The pastor may pronounce the absolution by saying, "By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." ... This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.*

*Pastor Jim
Lehman STS*

PARISH NURSE

September – Mental Health:

“O Lord, I have come to you for protection; don’t let me be disgraced. Save me, for you do what is right.” Psalm 31:1 NLT

Mental health is something we tend to take for granted until there is a problem. At that time we wonder where to turn for help. In addition, stigmas are often attached to mental health issues which make us reluctant to seek help and we pretend that everything is just fine.

Mental illnesses can affect people of any age, race, religion or economic status and are one of the leading causes of disability in the world. Without treatment, they can result in unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, or suicide. Some of the many conditions considered mental illness are:

- ADHD
- Anxiety Disorder
- Bipolar Personality
- Dementia
- Depression
- Eating Disorders
- Learning Disabilities
- Obsessive/Compulsive Behaviors
- Panic Disorders
- Phobias
- Post-traumatic Stress
- Schizophrenia
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide

Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses. Symptoms of clinical depression include: persistent feelings of “emptiness,” sleep disturbances, inability to concentrate, memory problems, changes in appetite, loss of pleasure or interest in things that were once enjoyable, irritability, loss of energy, and feelings of hopelessness. Depression can be experienced because of a chemical imbalance, environmental factors, or stress. In Ecclesiastes we read, “Meaningless!” says the Teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.’”

These words describe how most depressed people feel. In a subsequent chapter it says, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” We can’t separate our physical, mental, and spiritual health. Only when we seek wholeness through our Creator do we find true joy. Joy or wholeness can only be found at the foot of the cross and the empty tomb. Seek medical help but don’t forget to seek spiritual help too.

(Source: www.mayoclinic.com)

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The project for the Women of Immanuel for the month of September will be Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The items needed for the kits include:

- ✓ one light-weight bath-size towel (52” x 27”), dark color recommended
- ✓ two bath- size bars soap (4 to 5 oz.)
- ✓ one adult-sized toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- ✓ one metal nail clipper
- ✓ one sturdy comb

There will be a box in the church breezeway for the collection of Personal Care Kits. Thank you for all the support you have shown for the LWR projects.





Eric Plackett and Jamie Garrell were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 6, 2016, at Immanuel, officiated by Pastor James T. Lehmann.

BLESSING OF CONFIRMANDS

Confirmation students will receive a blessing during the worship service on September 4, 2016.



REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Starting on September 11th, worship will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:15 a.m.- 10:05 a.m.

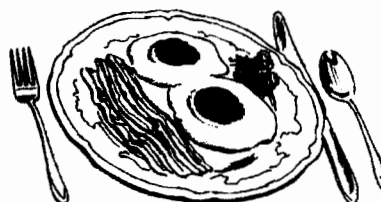
THREE YEAR OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL RECEPTION

Sunday, September 25th at 9:15 a.m., will be a reception in Luther Lounge for 3 year olds and their parents. The children will get a chance to become familiar with each other, their classroom and learn how much fun Sunday School will be!

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion at Brookstone will be Thursday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion at Country Health will be Thursday, September 8th at 1:30 p.m.



LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST

The Lutheran Brotherhood breakfast will be on Saturday, September 10th at 7:00 a.m. at Immanuel.



MISSION FESTIVAL

The Mission Festival Services are Saturday, September 10th at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 11th at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Pastor Eddy Perez will also speak during the Sunday School hour. The Mission Festival continues at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Barbara Busboom being our guest Preacher. Join us for refreshments after the evening service while students and Pastor Cindy give a presentation on their Mission Trip to Big Creek, Kentucky.

Pastor Eddy Perez is our mission festival preacher. In his book, *The Blowing Wind*, Perez "has written a tension-filled firsthand account of his delivery from death to life in Christ. The autobiographical conversion story emphasizes the workings of the Holy Spirit's transformative power, which took the author from a mostly unchurched childhood through a young adulthood strongly influenced by the sneaky sway of culture and evil forces of false religions; brought him to faith in Jesus and a firm renunciation of Satan." (From the back cover) We have copies of his book in the church library if you would like to check them out.

Mission Festival offering will go to the radio ministry of Pastor Eddy Perez. We look forward to this opportunity to worship together.

Joy Bells began practicing on August 24th and will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m.



YOUTH CHOIR

Beginning September 7th and every Wednesday evening following, Youth Choir will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. for practice. There will be singing every third Sunday of the month, starting in October. Grades 3-8 are welcome. We hope to see you all then! Thanks! Erin Siuts

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Cathedral Choir will be practicing every Wednesday in September. Practice will begin at 7:00 p.m. We are always welcoming new members.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Our warmest and best wishes to each of you as you celebrate your special day!

- 9/1 Kenneth Hinrichs
- 9/3 Mary Huls
- 9/8 Ann Wolken
- 9/9 Norma Reitmeier
- 9/9 Wanda Wilken
- 9/12 Gayle Duitsman
- 9/13 Lois Maury
- 9/13 Leo Studer
- 9/14 Lois Harms
- 9/15 JoAnne Mennenga
- 9/16 Derald Ackerman
- 9/21 Gesina Erdman
- 9/24 Emma Johnson
- 9/26 Evelyn Sjuts
- 9/27 Dora Ehmen
- 9/27 Shirley Johnson



Special Dates

- Labor Day, September 5, 2016
- Patriot Day, September 11, 2016
- National Grandparents Day, September 11, 2016



ALMA ENGEL ACKERMAN

Alma E. Ackerman completed her baptismal journey on August 1, 2016, at Country Health Care, Gifford. Her funeral was at Immanuel on August 4, 2016, officiated by Pastor James T. Lehmann and Pastor Cynthia A. Bisser. Burial was at Beckman Cemetery.

CLARE MERTZ

Clare Mertz, wife of Pastor Gerald Mertz died on August 5, 2016, in Sun City West, Arizona. She was 86 years old. She is survived by her husband, Gerald, and her three sons and their families; James (Janet), Dave (Doris Ann), and Tom (Dawn); three granddaughters and two grandsons; a sister, Elsie (Don) Fuhrman; and a brother Hal (De) Schuler. Gerald and Clare were married on September 9, 1956 and would have celebrated their 60th. They have lived in the Sun City area since 1994. She enjoyed being a wife, mother, a Pastor's wife, and a Registered Nurse. Cremation has taken place and there will be a Memorial service at American Lutheran Church in Sun City on September 10th at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be in North Dakota.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Bev Heiden (Chair)	568-7440
Donna Wiltshire	893-1715
Casey Flesner	369-7763
Brenda Barr	582-2071
Mary Huls	377-5215
Denise Wolken	202-2663
Teri Travis	694-4526

ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST

	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Total</u>
8/7	50	141	191
8/14	35	153	188
8/21	17	130	147

OSTFRIESIAN SOCIETY

The Ostfriesian Society will meet on Sunday, September 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us.

SHUT-INS

Keep our homebound and shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers. They would all enjoy calls or visits:



Brookstone Estates

- Dora Ehmen
- Norma Flesner
- Dorothy Fruhling
- Emilie Steffey

Country Health Nursing Home

- Lela Huls (for therapy)
- Emma Bergman
- Abbie Demien
- Esther Kopmann
- Arlene Peavler
- Margie Wolken

Holly Brook, Savoy

- Norma Reitmeier

Knights Templar Home

- Margie Huls

Riverview Assisted Living, East Peoria

- Donna Flessner

Homebound

- Elvin Ackerman
- Clara Graham
- Arnold Hinrichs
- Marguerite McDonald
- Hilda Swanson - in Arizona

YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING

Please save the date! Young families in the congregation will soon receive an invitation to our 9th annual Young Family Gathering. It will be held following services on **Sunday September 25th**.

“Extras!” New activities and experiences will be added to the event this year.



Among them is to provide a community service opportunity with

the program. To that end, we will accept donations to benefit the Multicultural Community Center in Rantoul. As you're purging your closets and drawers and thinking of what to do with all those extra warm clothes, craft supplies, coloring books, etc, please consider bringing your

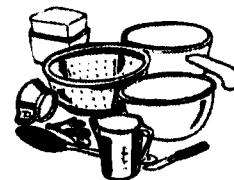
“Extras!” to the gathering to donate to this community resource. This is an opportunity to share our abundance of blessings with others! More details will be in the mailing to young families.



We're looking forward to seeing everyone on September 25th! Lunch will be provided and fellowship will abound... rain or shine!

EXTRA DISHES IN KITCHEN

If you have not done so already, please pick up any dishes you may have left in the kitchen. Thanks!



P.R.I.D.E. Sunday

OCTOBER 2, 2016



OUR CHURCH AT WORK

WORK DAY

A work day has been scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. Both men and women are needed for outside and inside work. Please join us!

- Put God first
- Remember to thank Him daily
- Include Him in your activities
- Deliver His message
- Every blessing comes from God

- ✓ Come casual.
- ✓ Wear your favorite team or school P.R.I.D.E. shirts on Sunday, October 2nd.
- ✓ Let's give the word P.R.I.D.E. a whole new meaning!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter deadline for October will be Thursday, September 15, 2016.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

With an impromptu collection at the doors following the service on Sunday August 7th, we were able to raise over \$180 and purchase 21 backpacks for students supported by the Multicultural Center in Rantoul. This exceeded our original goal of 15 backpacks! Your generosity and support for those in need within our local community is amazing and so appreciated.

THANK YOU!

BIG CREEK MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION


Join Pastor Cindy and our youth after the 7:00 p.m. Mission Festival service in Dier's Hall. They will be giving a presentation on their experience during their Mission Trip to Kentucky this past July.

SEPTEMBER 2016 CALENDAR-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	2	3 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
4 Promotion Sunday 8:30a- Worship & Holy Communion Blessing of Confirmands	5 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	6 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 5:30 p- Special Council Meeting	7 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 9:30 a- Bible Study 6:15 p- Joy Bells 6:30 p- Youth Choir 7:00 p- Confirmation Cathedral Choir	8 10:00 a- Communion at Brookstone 1:30 p- Communion at Country Health	9	10 7:00 a- Lutheran Brotherhood 8:30 a-12:00p- Work Day 5:00 p- Worship
11 Mission Festival 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a-SS/Adult Class 10:15 a- Worship 7:00 p- Worship	12	13 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:00 p- Council	14 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 9:30 a- Bible Study 6:15 p- Joy Bells 6:30 p- Youth Choir 7:00 p- Confirmation Cathedral Choir	15 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	16	17 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
18 8:00 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a-SS/Adult Class 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 a- Cong. Mtg. 1:00 p- Ostfriesian 3:00 p- Euchre	19 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	20 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	21 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 9:30 a- Bible Study 6:15 p- Joy Bells 6:30 p- Youth Choir 7:00 p- Confirmation Cathedral Choir	22	23	24 3:00 p- Hanna Mennenga/ Christopher Razo wedding at Allerton Park 5:00 p- Worship
25 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a-SS/Adult Class 3 yr. Old Reception 10:15 a- Worship 11:30a-Young Families Gathering 1:30 p- Hymn Sing at Brookstone 2:00 p- Devotions at Country Health	26	27 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:00 p- Women of Immanuel	28 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 9:30 a- Bible Study 6:15 p- Joy Bells 6:30 p- Youth Choir 7:00 p- Confirmation Cathedral Choir	29	30	


Acolytes, Lay Readers, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Ushers

SEPTEMBER 2016

Date	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Comm. Assistant	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, 9/4 5:00 PM 8:30 AM COMMUNION PROMOTION SUNDAY	Anna Crites Hallie Harms	Nicole Crites	Bonita Kopmann Edgar & Sharon Hoveln	Lloyd Duitsman Shirley Johnson	8:30 AM Captian: Todd Wilson Jeff Hoveln Brant Hoveln Scott Sage
Sunday, 9/11 5:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:15 AM MISSION FEST 7 P.M.	Jessica Palmer Colin Wayland Austin Cotter	Karon Currie Sharon Emkes Lloyd Duitsman		Gene & Joan Schmidt Marie Reitmeier & Danny Roelfs Mike Stark & Joyce Romine Robyn Camp	8:00 AM Captian: Todd Wilson Jeff Hoveln Brant Hoveln Scott Sage
Sunday, 9/18 5:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:15 AM COMMUNION	Denley Heller Lindsay Suits Tyler Scott Brett Brown	Wilma Suits Toni Brown	Mike Stark Nicole Crites Sharolyn Worley Erin & Megan Siuts	Lawrence & Clarissa Schluter Leon & Mary Ann Schmidt Mark & Kim Wood JoAnne Mennenga	10:15 AM Captain: Keith Sjuts Larry Frerichs Bob Clem Dirk Harms
Sunday, 9/25 5:00 PM 8:00AM 10:15 AM	Grace Flessner Josh Burkhardt	Angie Sage Maynard Duitsman		Tyler & Stephanie Vogelsang Bob Tuller Leo & Judi Studer Molly Flesner	

If you are not able to attend at the time scheduled, please attempt to find a substitute, if possible. If unable to do so, please contact Rodney Bergman, rpberg@wigi.us or 217-568-7269. Thanks!

OCTOBER 2016

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, October 2, 2016 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. COMMUNION	Karsten Wayland Hallie Harms Austin Cotter Lindsay Suits	Kalista Lutes Erin Siuts	5:00 Sharon Emkes 8:00 Sue Calhoun Adam Crites 10:00 Karon Currie Joyce Romine	Ranae, Jamie & Janna Buck Bev Lehmann Maynard & Jo Ann Duitsman Mary & Devin Wolken	October: 8:00am Wally Worley (Captain) Tad Worley Trent Worley Bob Tuller
Sunday, October 9, 2016 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Anna Crites Brayden Karlson	Emilie Steffey Teri Travis		Barry & Sandy Maury Virlon & Wilma Suits Julie & Jamie Hedrick Edgar & Sharon Hovel	October: 10:00am Mike Stark (Captain) Jerrod Lantis Marvin Rademacher Gary Busboom
Sunday, October 16, 2016 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. COMMUNION	Jessica Palmer Denley Heller Brett Brown Colin Wayland	Leon Schmidt Judi Studer	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Denise Wolken Coley Wolken 10:00 Toni Brown Judy Rademaker	Andy & Missy Buhr Betty Ihnen Julie Wilson & Callie Heidbreder Darlene Johnson	
Sunday, October 23, 2016 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Tyler Scott Grace Flessner	Kim Wood Ellen Blue		Gery & Lois Maury Dave & Denise Wolken Ernie & Evelyn Sjuts Rosetta Suits	
Sunday, October 30, 2016 REFORMATION 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. COMMUNION	Josh Burkhardt Hallie Harms Karsten Wayland Austin Cotter	Bev Lehmann Dr. David Bruns	5:00 Bonita Kopmann 8:00 Darla Rubarts Elaine Wilson 10:00 Molly Flesner Julie Hedrick	Edgar & Kay Busboom Lois Harms Rick & Jodi Wolken Donna Garrell	 OCTOBER

JULY 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balance Information

GENERAL FUND				BUILDING FUND				
Fund Balance	6/30/2016	\$	175,071.77	Fund Balance	6/30/2016	\$	80,839.16	
Offerings		\$	21,699.25	Offerings		\$	7,802.75	
Dedicated & Other Fund Receipts			3,260.15	Other Receipts			4,865.36	
	Total Income	\$	24,959.40		Total Income	\$	12,668.11	
Pastoral Ministry		\$	14,345.96	Building & Repair		\$	51.21	
Worship & Service			3,284.37	Insurance			4,603.00	
Our Church Home			3,146.54	Landscaping			41.50	
Dedicated Fund Expenses			3,509.88	Utilities			2,533.18	
	Total Expenses	\$	24,286.75		Total Expenses	\$	7,228.89	
Total Fund Balance	7/31/2016	\$	175,744.42	Total Fund Balance	7/31/2016	\$	86,278.38	
Less Dedicated Fund Total			65,246.14	Total Unobligated Balance			\$ 76,276.35	
Total Unobligated Balance		\$	110,498.28	<i>Building Fund Invested as:</i>				
<i>General Fund Invested as:</i>				<i>Other Fund Balances</i>				
		Checking	\$ 6,647.20	Endowment Capital	\$	66,763.81	Memorial	\$ 34,426.20
Money Market	\$15,972.91	CD	\$ 42,051.57	Endowment Common	\$	34,920.08	Endowment Interest	\$ 338.81
		CD	\$ 111,072.74					

Offering & Attendance July 2016

By Category

General	\$ 21,699.25
Benevolence	\$ 7,631.50
Building	\$ 7,802.75
Total	\$ 37,133.50

July Attendance

830
166

Benevolence Offering Includes

Gen Benevolence	6,445.50	Lutheran CORE	40.00
NALC Seminary	841.00	FOTCOH	30.00
Food Bank	275.00		

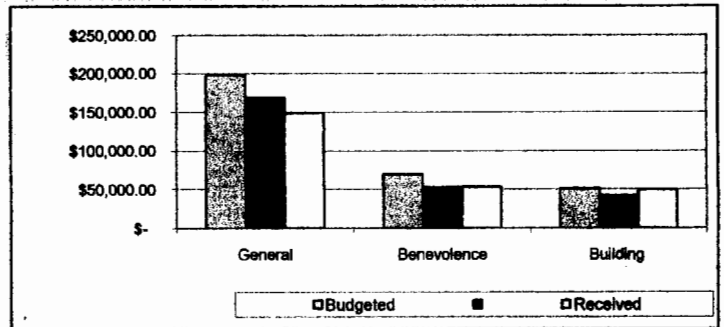
Additional Offerings Received

Sunday School	50.00	Parking Lot	550.00
LYO	75.00	Historical Committee	40.00
JOY	40.00	Endowment Fund	142.50
Altar Flowers	105.00	CD's	6.00
Cookbook	15.00	LWR Sewing	2.00
Radio Broadcast	70.00		

Stewardship Progress Year to Date

	Budgeted	Received	Ahead/(Behind)
General	\$ 198,573.10	\$ 148,863.70	\$ (49,709.40)
Benevolence	70,000.00	53,085.30	(16,914.70)
Building	51,391.65	49,185.00	(2,206.65)
TOTAL	\$ 319,964.75	\$ 251,134.00	\$ (68,830.75)

	Expenses	Ahead/(Behind)
General	\$ 168,559.98	\$ (19,696.28)
Benevolence	52,785.30	300.00
Building	42,183.72	7,001.28
Total	\$ 263,529.00	\$ (12,395.00)



Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville
Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS
Pastor Cindy Bisser, STS
Pastor Barbara Busboom, Pastor Emeritus

Telephones (Area Code 217)

Church Office 694-4156
Dial-A-Devotion 694-4711 Fax 694-4155E-Mail: flatville@wigi.us
Web Site: www.flatvillechurch.com

Church Officers

Robyn Camp, Pres.
Ranae Buck, V. Pres.
Callie Heidbreder, Sec.
Derek Harms, Treasurer

Congregation Council

Rodney Bergman
Ranae Buck
Robyn Camp
Casey Flesner
Derek Harms
Blake Hedrick
Callie Heidbreder
Kyle Johnson
Scott Sage

Cathedral Choir Director Charlene Bergman

Cathedral Choir Co-Directors Marilyn Buhr/
Darla Rubarts

Cathedral Choir Pianist Lois Harms

Bell Choir Director Laveda Clem

Youth Choir Directors Erin Siuts

Organists: Irene Buhr, Janice Siuts, Brenda
Anderson, Linda Pein, Laveda Clem, Shirley
Wyatt

**Parish Education
Committee**

Judi Studer - Chairman
Audrey Harms
Edgar Hovel
Marie Reitmeier
Diana Sjuts
Casey Flesner
Sue Calhoun
Jennifer Wayland
Sharolyn Worley

Building & Grounds

Justin Franzen
Evan Suits
Daniel Wilson

Youth Committee

Audrey Harms
Diana Sjuts
Jennifer Wayland
Sharolyn Worley

**Vacation Bible
School Committee**

Darcy McMahon
Casey Flesner

Sunday School Staff

Sue Calhoun, Supt.
Ben Lehmann, Asst. Supt.
Leo Studer, Treas.

Custodian/Groundskeeper:
Darren Ramm

Church Secretary:
Katie McKinney
flatvillesecretary@wigi.us

Financial Secretary:
Jo Ann Duitsman
flatvillefinance@wigi.us