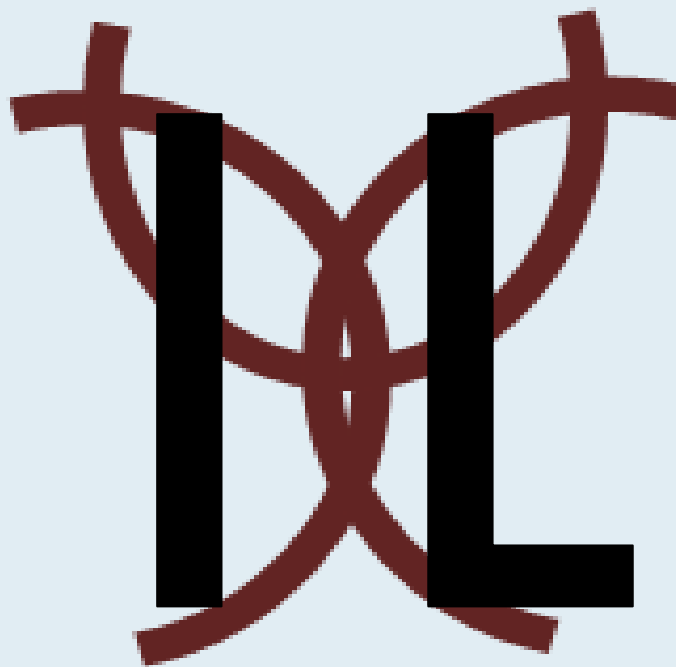


# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024**



**1002 Powell Avenue  
Erie PA 16505  
814-833-4062**

# CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS!!



## *In This Issue*

- ◆ From The Pastor's Desk
- ◆ Installation of Council Members
- ◆ Worship & Music
- ◆ Social Ministry Updates
- ◆ Christian Education and More
- ◆ Easter Flower/Meals on Wheels Appeal
- ◆ Lenten Coffee Hour Schedule
- ◆ Holy Week Services
- ◆ Ripple Effect
- ◆ Prayer List
- ◆ Green Corner–War & the Climate Crisis
- ◆ Worship Leaders for February
- ◆ Celebrations of Life & Love
- ◆ February Calendar & Events
- ◆ Church Council & Staff



## Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

Wednesday evening the choir and Anita were blessed to attend the Inter-Church Ministries worship service of Christian Unity. Along with Bryan's amazing organ accompaniment, with a cello and violin joining in with some of the pieces, we heard Pastor Jay Mitchell give a sermon based on the gospel of Luke 10:25-37 where Jesus tells the parable of the good Samaritan after being asked "Who is my neighbor?" Pastor Mitchell spoke of the goodness of sharing in the love of God. When we reach out to others we are reaching out as the love of God.

The days leading up to and including February 14 can be a difficult day for some people when the culture around them pushes the human nature of love, which is in Greek known as eros, a passionate love. People who are lonely because they've never had a love, the one they love has left them or passed away, or because the love they once felt for a person has died, feel even more isolated, alone, and hurting when it seems as though everyone surrounding them is happily celebrating love. I invite you to be more aware of those whose Valentine celebration is filled with pain and unhappiness.

A second type of love is philia, a love between close friends. It is the type of accepting love that has a strong bond and it is good for your health. A light touch of a friend lowers blood pressure. Philia love keeps a person healthier and allows us to be more resilient when we go through difficult times.

Another type of love is storge, the love of parents for children. It is the most natural type of love because a parent cannot keep from loving their child, even when the child isn't "worthy" of love. A parent will tolerate behavior from children that they would never accept from a friend or their spouse.

The last of the Greek love types is agape love. Agape love is modeled on the selfless love God has for humankind. It is given whether or not it is returned. It doesn't require any response. This love is central to forgiveness, something that is necessary for every one of us. It is also the love that drove the Samaritan man to help the injured man on the road. He did not know this man; he had no idea whether or not this man was a good person. He saw someone in distress, no one stopping to help, and he did what he could to show him love. The Samaritan dressed the man's wounds, took him to a place where he could be cared for, and paid for the man's care until he could return. He looked for nothing in return other than the man recovering from his injuries.

One of the ways God shows love to humanity is through people. Love is not an emotional response, love is not an ooey gooey feeling, love is an action verb. Agape love reaches out to all people, in all places, at all times, and as demonstrated by the good Samaritan, whether the person is friend or foe. God's love is universal; there is not a person alive whom God does not love.

If you are one of those people who are hurting at this sugary sweet time of the year, remember that God knows your pain, God knows what you are going through, God loves you still. Reaching out to others in love may be a way to help you get through the difficult times.

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm in the church office Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. (814-833-4026) and I am always available on my cell phone 724-557-2386. Please leave a message if I do not answer.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Karen

Join us for a Lenten Study on the book, "The Psalm on the Cross: Learn More about Psalm 22, Christ's Song of Sorrow and Victory". We will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. from Feb. 14 until March 20. See Pastor Karen for the book.

You can find Pastor  
Karen's  
latest sermons in print on  
our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/>



## *Installation of new Council Members:*

*Members of the Council were installed on January 21st. Congratulations and a big thank you for volunteering to serve your church community at Immanuel.*

### **OFFICERS:**

Council President: Bob Dorler, serves as the liaison to Property

Vice President: Rick Kuntz, serves as co-liaison to Property

Secretary: Mary Hauser serves as the liaison to Christian Education

Treasurer: Bill Redditt

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Joe Byrne, who is serving as liaison to worship and music

Dave Mays, who is serving as liaison to stewardship

Sally Leubin, who is serving as the co-liaison to Fellowship, Outreach & Growth





## *Worship & Music in the News.....*



On January 24th, Inter Church Ministries held a Christian Unity Service and Installation of the Church Ministries board members. Bryan Timm served as guest organist and had a spectacular performance. Members of Immanuel's choir participated in the service singing the anthem, "Mercy Still".

### **FEBRUARY SERVICES**

#### **LENTEN SERVICES**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Noon & 7 PM

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

#### **HOLDEN EVENING SERVICES**

every Wednesday evening

7 PM,

February 21st—March 27th.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATES

### \$OUPER BOWL COLLECTION

February 11, 2024



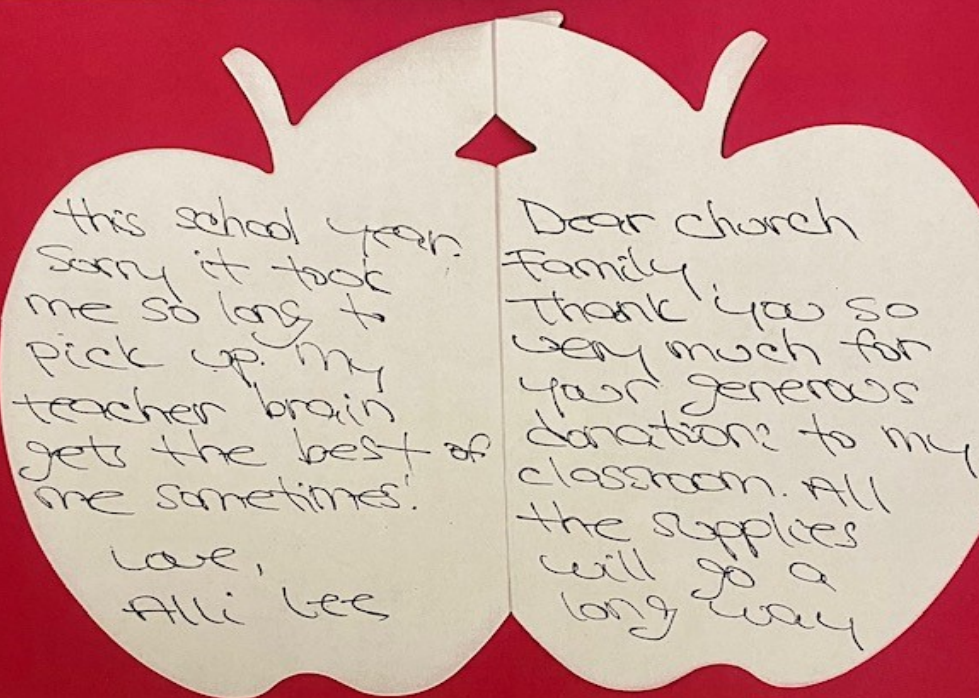
The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting donations on Sunday, February 11th, for the Holy Trinity Soup & Pasta Kitchen.

Large soup pots will be placed at both doors of the sanctuary before and after service for collection.



**Thank You for your support!**

*Many thanks to all that donated money for bus passes for the Community Shelter. Thirty six week long bus passes totaling \$270 were purchased and delivered to the Community Shelter.*



**A thank you note was received from Alli Lee for the school supplies donated to Alli's classroom in Fairview.**

## Christian Education & More

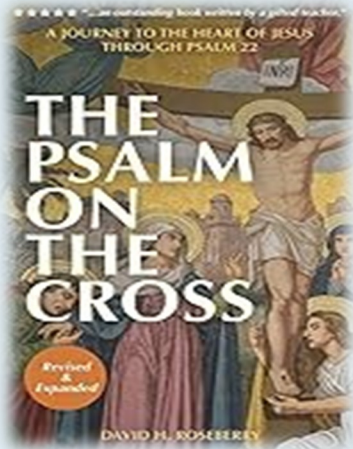
Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Karen

“The Psalm on the Cross”

Wednesdays

6 PM

Beginning February 14



Join Pastor Karen for Bible Study, beginning Wednesday, February 14th – March 20th, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Pastor Karen will discuss the book, “The Psalm on the Cross”. Pastor will supply the book.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

**Immanuel Lutheran is still in need of additional Church Council members!**



To learn more about joining the Church Council, please contact our newly elected president,

**Bob Dorler**

Email: [dorlerr@yahoo.com](mailto:dorlerr@yahoo.com)

Phone: (814) 833-2719



### **FEBRUARY EVENTS**

#### **1- REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SUMMER CAMP**

**3 - Saturday Safari:** Saturday Safaris are a great way to spend a Saturday! They are designed for families and small groups. Dress to be outside. (Registration Required)

**16-18 - Fathers & Sons Retreat:** A weekend just for the boys! Our traditional Fathers and Sons favorites (Trail of Five Fires Worship, Gaga Challenge, Junkyard Wars, and Blessing Service) now has a winter twist! It will be a weekend of fun, faith, and relationship building.

**23-25 - Grown-Up Winter Retreat:** A fun weekend at camp just for grown-ups. Campfire, tree tapping and maple sugaring, Agape Feast/Worship, games and conversation by a fire, crafts, and lots of camp fun just for adults. Must be 21 or older. Registration required.

**For more information and to register visit:**  
**<https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/>**



**EASTER FLOWERS**, I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ flowers for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday at \$8.50 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate your preference below*

- \_\_\_\_\_ please have committee member deliver to shut in
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver to shut in
- \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to pick up after late service

\*\*\*\*\*

**Instead of flowers** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday to go towards eliminating hunger through Meals-on-Wheels.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR SEND TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 4, 2024.**





ALL ARE INVITED TO THE  
LOUNGE AFTER THE  
WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN  
SERVICES TO JOIN IN  
FELLOWSHIP AND SHARE  
REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY  
THE FOLLOWING  
MINISTRY COMMITTEES:

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| <i>2/21</i> | <i>CHOIR</i>           |
| <i>2/28</i> | <i>F. O. G.</i>        |
| <i>3/6</i>  | <i>COUNCIL</i>         |
| <i>3/13</i> | <i>SUNDAY SCHOOL</i>   |
| <i>3/20</i> | <i>SOCIAL MINISTRY</i> |
| <i>3/27</i> | <i>NO REFRESHMENTS</i> |



*HEALING SERVICE  
PALM SUNDAY*

*MARCH 24TH  
7PM*

*SERVICE OF PRAYER  
AROUND THE CROSS  
TUESDAY*

*MARCH 26TH  
7PM*

2024 Erie County Fundraiser & Awareness Event

# Ripple Effect



**Join Erie County Keystone Family Alliance at Millcreek Community Church on 02/29/24 at 6:00pm to hear about the needs of vulnerable children and families in your community, and, more importantly, what you can do to create a *ripple effect* and have an impact on the lives of others.**

*Doors open at 5:30pm. There will be light refreshments provided.*

## Keynote Speaker: Erica Zerkle

Erica Zerkle is a stay at home mom of 8 children (5 adopted). She has been married to the love of her life, Sam for 18 years. Erica always dreamed of being a mom and loves sharing her very unique story of how the Lord has fulfilled that dream.

Erica is the author of two children's books, "Pickle's: The Goose on the Loose" and "Sally's Hope". She dreams of the day when every waiting child will find their forever family.



*Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.*

*The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.*

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Allen Millett  
Ron Madurski  
Eric Adkins and family  
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece  
Janice Kreger  
Rucha Kuntz  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn  
The Botwright family  
Connie Cooper  
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman  
Kyle Husted  
Carol and Gordon Ketchel  
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,  
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr  
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John  
Bishop Michael Lozano  
Diane McGranor  
Marie Redditt  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob and Sharon Roemer

All of our members & friends who are grieving;  
Who are in nursing homes;  
All who are ill at home

**We pray for those in the military:**

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)  
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson ).

***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.***

**Member Update:** Sharon Roemer is a resident of Fairview Manor.

**Mailing address:** 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415

Your prayers & cards are appreciated.



## Green Corner NWSA Synod Green Team

### WAR AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

"Israel's military assault on Gaza is not just a humanitarian disaster but also generating massive amounts of planet-heating emissions and exacerbating the climate crisis. The carbon emissions from Israel's bombs, tanks, fighter jets and other military activity in the first two months of the war were higher than the annual carbon footprints of 20 of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, according to researchers in the United States and United Kingdom. That is "a really conservative estimate," says *Guardian* reporter Nina Lakhani, who reported on the new study. The report is based on new work by researchers in the U.S. and the U.K., and they say even this impact is likely an underestimate. The analysis includes carbon emissions from fuel for aircraft, tanks and other vehicles, as well as emissions from making and exploding bombs, artillery and rockets. It also showed that U.S. cargo planes flying military supplies to Israel accounted for nearly half of all the carbon emissions."

<https://truthout.org/video/israels-military-assault-on-gaza-is-fueling-climate-crisis> January 11, 2024

"Twelve months in, the Russian/Ukraine war's decidedly mixed carbon impact is coming into view. Inside Ukraine, experts have tracked vast amounts of the greenhouse gasses that have been unleashed. Outside of Ukraine, though, the opposite has happened. To many analysts' surprise, Putin's decision to squeeze gas exports to Europe last summer has pushed the region's emissions down in recent months. It has also accelerated a global phase out of fossil fuels.

**But the bad climate news first.** Forest fires sparked by fighting, attacks on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines, the need to rebuild hundreds of thousands of blasted buildings, plus the millions of fossil-fueled journeys by soldiers, munitions, and refugees, adds up to a lot of extra carbon pollution. Russia's targeting of Ukraine's energy system, starting in October, has been particularly damaging: as oil depots and gas power plants have exploded, releasing carbon and methane into the air, Ukrainians have been forced to rely on dirtier fuels to keep warm. "We saw a huge influx of inefficient [diesel-powered] generators in November and December," says Lennard de Klerk, a Dutch carbon accounting expert in Kyiv preparing a report on the war's greenhouse gas impact, due to be presented to the U.N. in June(2023).

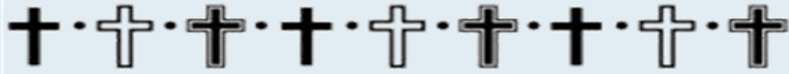
**The better news** is that Europe slashed its emissions in the later part of 2022. Many climate advocates had feared that Russia's suspension of natural gas exports to the E.U. would force the bloc to use more coal, which is twice as polluting. And some countries, including Germany and the U.K., did extend the life of coal plants that were due to be shut down. But the far more dominant trend was a fall in energy use. Europeans responded to dizzyingly high gas prices by turning down their gas-powered home heating or closing down businesses that couldn't pay their energy bills. The E.U.'s non-electricity natural gas consumption has fallen 17% year-over-year since the start of the war—which translates to 117 metric tons of avoided carbon emissions, according to Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. "Europe's CO2 emissions overall would have been higher without the invasion and Putin's attempts at an energy war." [The Unexpected Climate Impact of Russia's War in Ukraine | TIME](https://time.com/625749/Russia-ukraine-war-climate-impact/) [time.com/625749/Russia-ukraine-war-climate-impact/](https://time.com/625749/Russia-ukraine-war-climate-impact/) February 2, 2023

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

[nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

February, 2024



Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
2/4/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
2/11/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
2/14/24 7:00 PM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
2/18/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Rick Durst
2/25/24 9:30AM	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Michael Patterson



**Altar Guild:** Penny Maloney, Sue Pfeiffer & Sally Leubin  
**Counters:** Debbie & Bill Redditt  
**Usher:** Bob Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment –  
please find an alternate & notify the church office.

If you would like to  
volunteer to Lector,  
please email or call  
the church office.



Lectors:

Remember to adjust  
microphone towards  
you & speak into it  
for all to hear!

**You can also listen via speaker in our  
Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.**



# Celebrations of February Life and Love

## Birthdays

## Wedding Anniversaries



*3 Mychal Molnar  
8 Joseph Maloney  
13 Vic Paternosh  
16 Mark Moore/Lori Yusz  
17 Cathy Rightnour  
19 Judy Stewart  
26 Melissa Sturgeon*



*1 Cindy & Dave Eckman  
14 George & Sue Pfeiffer*

### Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show **\$28,213.48** toward our goal of \$58,803.



### Pennies for Poverty

collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



### **LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL**

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING  
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.

# February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 6 pm Church Choir 7:15 pm	2 AA 7:00 pm	3
4 9:30 am Worship Soup Off	5 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	3 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	7 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	8 Bible Study 6:00pm Church Choir 7:15 pm	9 AA 7:00 pm	10
11 9:30 am Worship Sunday School  Souper Bowl Collection	12 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	13 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	14 Ash Wednesday Wor- ship Service Noon and 7 PM Tops 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	15 Church Choir 7:15 pm	16 AA 7:00 pm	17
18 9:30 am Worship	19 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	20 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	21 Tops 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00pm Holden Service 7pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Church Choir 7:45pm	22	23 AA 7:00 pm	24
25 9:30 am Worship	26 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	27 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	28 Tops 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00pm Holden Service 7pm AA Mtg. 7:30pm Church Choir 7:45pm	29		





**Immanuel**  
Church Office  
814-833-4062

Office Hours  
8:30—12:30  
Monday—Thursday

immluthch@verizon.net

## Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!*



### **Staff**

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062  
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386

#### **Pastor's Office Hours :**

**Tuesday 1:00-2:00**

**Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm**

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin  
Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm  
Admin. Ofc.: Vacant

### **Sunday School**

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger  
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor Kostur

### **2024 Congregation & Church Council Officers**

Pres: Bob Dorler 814-833-2719  
VP: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719  
Sec.: Mary Hauser 814-397-7552  
Fin. Sec.: C. Geddes 814-734-1286  
Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756

### **Additional Council Members**

Sally Leubin, Dave Mays, Joe Bryne



2024 Council Members

Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)  
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the church calendar, newsletter or annual report?  
Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES NEWS**

### **Fellowship, Outreach & Growth**

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin

**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**  
**SOUP COOK OFF, CHURCH PICNIC**

### **Finance**

Council liaison: Vacant

**ANNUAL Budget**

### **Property**

Council liaison: Bob Dorler & Rick Kuntz

Committee Chair: Vacant

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE**  
**RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**  
**ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### **Stewardship**

Council liaison: Dave Mays

### **Social Ministry Committee**

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

### **Worship & Music**

Council liaison: Joe Byrne Chair: Sue Pfeiffer

### **Christian Education**

Council liaison: Mary Hauser