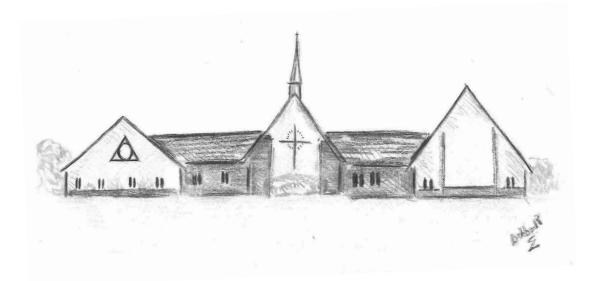
Celebration of Ministry for The Reverend Karen Ruth Nelson May 5, 2024



<u>OUR MISSION:</u>

To make disciples for Jesus Christ, to baptize and to teach the faith, that all may know the hope of Jesus Christ and become responsible members of His church.

Trinity Lutheran Church 1190 Valley Forge Rd PO BOX 340 Fairview Village, PA 19409 610-584-8411 <u>www.trinityfairview.com</u>

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

D Now, let us take a moment in silent reflection as we clear our hearts and minds for worship.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lone Wild Bird Hannah Nelson-Poteet, Soprano Carl Nelson-Poteet, Flute

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

D Please rise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

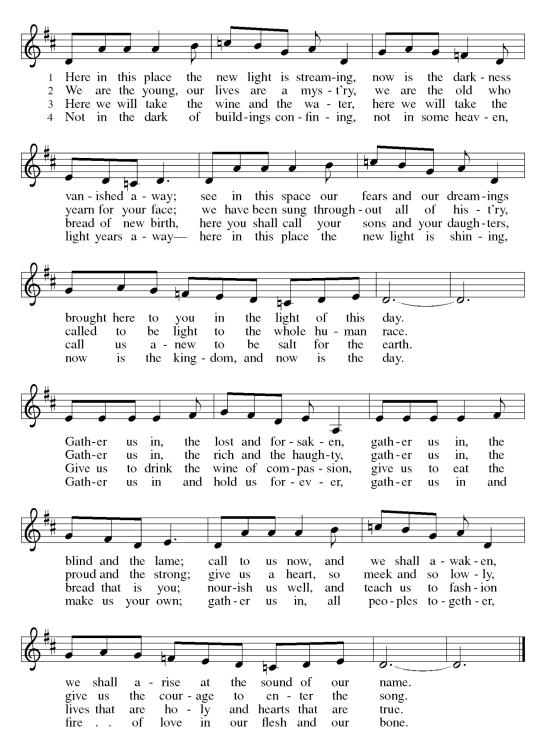
- C Amen.
- D Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- D Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.
- D Most merciful God,
- C We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

D In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ¹/₄ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG ELW 532

Gather Us In



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GREETING

- D The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- D Let us pray.
- C Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- D Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18

The Rev. Dr. Robert Poteet

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

Michael Martorelli

- L ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C ²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.
- L ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- C ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.
- L ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C ⁶Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
- L ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- C ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- L ⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- C ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- L ¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- C ¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- L ¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

Michael Martorelli

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 22

- P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty second chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

(Gospel Continues on Next Page)

²³The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her."

²⁹Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³²'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living." ³³And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching. ³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? ³⁷He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he? They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.
- P Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Phelps



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PRESENTATION

- D Please rise.
- D Dear people of God, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has authorized The Reverend Karen Ruth Nelson, our co-worker in the gospel, for extended service in the ministry of word and sacrament in Trinity Lutheran Church Fairview Village. Ordained as a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, her church has endorsed this ministry of extended service. Bishop Davenport, in accordance with the policies established by this church, has affirmed this invitation.
- R After prayerful deliberation,

we, Trinity Lutheran Church Fairview Village, welcome this invitation to The Reverend Karen Ruth Nelson to serve as minister of word and sacrament in this congregation. This letter attests to our willingness.

D Please be seated.

ADDRESS & QUESTIONS

- Under the grace of God, a relationship of full communion has been established between the church body in which you serve and this church body. In recognition of that relationship, Bishop Davenport of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has authorized me to invite you to serve for this extended period of service as a minister of word and sacrament in Trinity Lutheran Church Fairview Village.
- D A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

- D A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)
- A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)
- D Pastor Nelson, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?
- P I will, and I ask God to help me.
- Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and in a manner consistent with the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?
 Will you carry out this ministry in a manner consistent with the constitutions of this church body?
- P I will, and I ask God to help me.
- D Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and in your use of the means of grace?
 Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?
- P I will, and I ask God to help me.

- D Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?
- P I will, and I ask God to help me.
- D Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.
- C Amen.
- D Please rise.
- D People of God,

will you receive Pastor Nelson as a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

- C We will, and we ask God to help us.
- D Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?
- C We will, and we ask God to help us.
- D I now invite you to take up the ministry of word and sacrament in this place.

P After prayer and careful consideration,
I willingly accept this invitation to serve as minister of word and sacrament in this place and among these people.
I ask God's help, this synod's encouragement, and the prayers of all the people of this congregation.

D I announce to you that this ministry is authorized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

BLESSING

- D The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.
- C Amen.
- D People of God, I present to you The Reverend Karen Ruth Nelson, your Pastor. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

С I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Michael Martorelli

L Let us pray.

- L God of Wisdom and Mercy, we turn to you in these quiet moments, and offer you our thanks for the love you have shown us, seeking your blessing on our hopes for our lives. This afternoon we give you thanks for all those people who have shown us your face and taught us to follow you by the faithful example of their lives. We thank you for our life together in your church, as your forgiven people. May the light of Christ shine through our lives so that we become light for the world, shining examples of your love at work.
- L Christ of Compassion and Action, In you, we receive our call to live with purpose. From you, we learn how to love those around us. With you, we find strength to face each new day. So today we offer our prayers for those facing challenges these days and seek your guidance to respond to their cries.
- L We pray for those brought to mind by news headlines this week: for situations of violence and deprivation, danger and devastation.

C Hear our prayer.

L We pray for families going through difficult times, for all who are sick or in sorrow, for any who are lonely or despairing.

C Hear our prayer.

L We pray for those agonizing over important decisions and responsibilities, for those in leadership roles, and for those who care for the most vulnerable in our community.

C Hear our prayer.

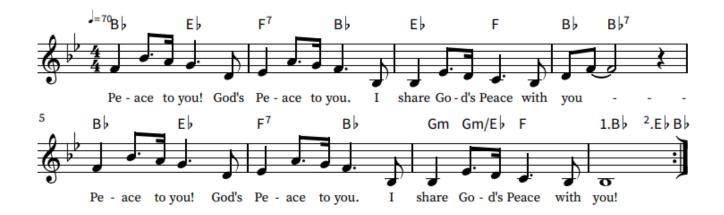
- L We pray for ourselves and for each other, for the situations that challenge us, and the new possibilities that encourage us.
- C Hear our prayer.

- L Spirit of Christ, move with us into the week ahead. Remind us each day to live according to God's will and purpose, for we want to offer your loving presence in the lives we touch in Jesus' name, in whose name we pray.
- C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P Please rise.
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

While we sing, you may turn to those sitting closest to you to offer, and receive, the peace and reconciliation which is possible only through Christ.



Peace

P Please be seated.

OFFERTORY MEDITATION MUSIC How Great Thou Art

OFFERING

Today's offering will be given to the *Bishops Discretionary Fund*, which assists pastors, deacons and their families, with help during times of distress, financial need, or medical crisis.

Offering by online giving: Make a gift to the general fund at <u>https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR6Z/home</u>

Bill pay option with your local bank orImage: Second s



P Please rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest.
As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

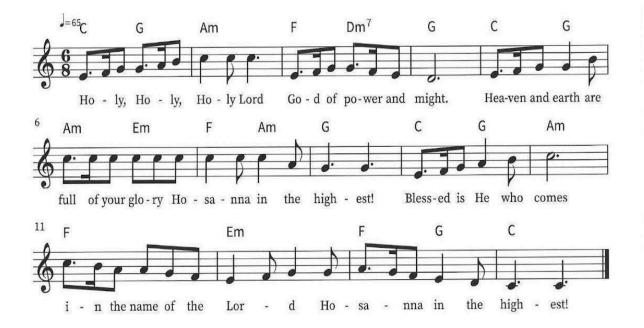
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



SANCTUS

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

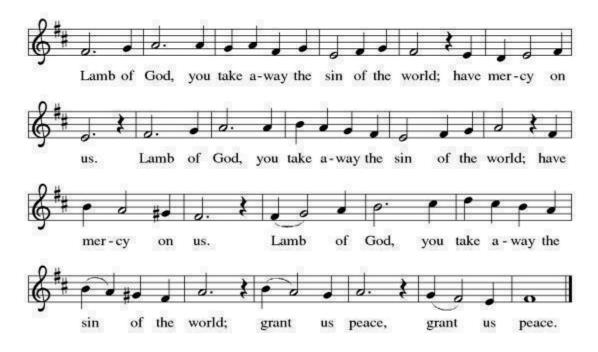
LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

 C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P Please be seated until the invitation.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

To receive Holy Communion please come by the center aisle to the pastor to receive the bread (wafer) and then proceed to the communion assistant for intinction (dipping your wafer in the wine) and then eat, then return to your seat by the side aisle.

Non alcoholic wine is used at all services. A gluten free wafer is available, simply tell the Pastor when you approach.

If you are not communing and desire a personal blessing please come to Pastor with your hands at your sides.

P Please rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you forever in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
- C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord look upon you with his favor, and give you his peace.
 In the name of the Father, 1 and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 526

God Is Here!



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DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.





Serving Today	
Presiders	The Rev. Julie DeWerth
	The Rev. Karen Nelson
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Phelps
Lectors	Michael Martorelli
	The Rev. Dr. Robert Poteet
Greeters	Lynne Schell & Marilou Doughty
Communion Assistants	Alma Nowmos & Susan Chambers
Ushers	Lori Peltier & Kathleen Schafer
Guest Musicians	Carl Nelson-Poteet
	Hannah Nelson-Poteet
	Tony Sandor
	Larry Greenley
Altar Guild	Trish Graves
Building Closer	Meg Smith