

**The JOURNEY** — *Walking Daily with Jesus*



**2018 BUDGET APPROVED AT ANNUAL MEETING**

**TRINITY MEMBERS SET UP TO SERVE**

Trinity’s annual meeting was held November 11, to vote on various items for the upcoming year.

Newly elected council officers and members are: President — *Leo Diehl*; Vice President — *LeRoy Brensel*; Treasurer — *Brian Russ*; *Financial Secretary* — *Mike Rubin*; *Congregational Care* — *Jim McGraw*; *Education, Youth & Family* — *Cindy Rubin*; *Worship & Music* — *Kathy Thom*; *Evangelism* — *Brien Gindt*.

Nominations were taken for the 2018 Nominating Committee and Wally Thom, Kevin Sunderland and LeRoy Brensel were elected to the committee.

**WOMEN OF TRINITY HAPPENIN’S**

- ◆ The Women of Trinity held their November meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with president Ginger LaMotte presiding. The meeting was a week earlier because of Lefse-making on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ The duties of Altar Guild for December will be divided as follows: 12/2 – Cindy Rubin 12/9 – Carol Addington 12/16 – Jeanne Dahlby 12/23 & 12/24 – Karen Hayes, and 12/30 – Dianne Buxton.
- ◆ Pillow cases, which will be donated to the Birchwood Food Pantry for sale at their December 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas sale, are being made individually, not as a group, as originally planned.
- ◆ Reports were given on visits made to EMBRACE in Ladysmith, Pregnancy Help Center in Rice Lake, and the Warming (Family) House and Benjamin’s House in Rice Lake. This helps us determine which organizations should receive donations from the Women of Trinity at the end of the year. All of these are good organizations, doing good work.
- ◆ We chose seven local charities, plus the Love Fund, and gifts for the six paid staff

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members of Trinity, for our year-end distribution of money earned during the year. A breakdown of those donations will be in the January 'Journey.'

- ◆ Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will be before and after the December 2<sup>nd</sup> church service. Baked goods will be received the day before between 1:00 and 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Cindy Rubin, Ginger LaMotte, and Marcia Kampf for doing this.
- ◆ The Lefse Sale will go right along with the Bake Sale on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, if there's any left after the sale of Lefse on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Karen Scott brought us together to make and bake this delicious Norwegian treat on November 15<sup>th</sup>. She has a good crew, and we work for the 'leftovers' or 'failures.' Lefse is especially good when it's warm and right off the griddle.
- ◆ Service Committee One needs two co-leaders as Kathy Thom and Sue Jostad have resigned. The Service Committees are so important. Their primary function is to serve lunches for funerals, and help the family put a final touch of comforting food and conversation to the passing of their loved one. Anyone who is willing to chair this committee, please get in touch with Ginger LaMotte, President of Women of Trinity, or call Cindy Westphal at our church office.
- ◆ Our December meeting will be moved up to December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m., so we can put together Christmas Cookie Boxes to be distributed to those recipients who have difficulty getting out and about. Women are asked to bring home-baked cookies to that meeting and help put the gifts together. They'll be given out the following week.

## WOMEN OF TRINITY VISIT BENJAMIN HOUSE IN RICE LAKE



The Women of Trinity have Benjamin House as one of their recipients for end of the year donations. To understand it better, Sue Capra and Carol Addington visited recently. Benjamin House, in Rice Lake, is a temporary

residence for single people and families who have no place to stay. Since opening they have served over 900 individuals and over one-third of those were children. This year 61% of residents successfully completed a program that involves skill training. The goal is for them to leave the shelter and have a means of income and place to stay. The Women of Trinity have supported Benjamin's House since they opened. The location for this shelter is beautiful and it is located on Heart Island on the south end of Rice Lake. The building is a former convent with small rooms and connected ones for families. Most rooms are 'sponsored' by churches and organizations in Rice Lake and surrounding communities...this means they can call on sponsors when a need arises for such things as bedding, toiletries and miscellaneous decor. They rely solely on donations and fundraisers. They have 5 full and 4 part time employees. Meal preparation is provided with a stocked pantry. Food comes from "Feed My People" and local food pantry. This is not a 'safe house' but a temporary residence while they seek employment and housing. They have a clothes 'closet' available for residents and welcome donations for that. They can serve 15-25 residents at a time. Family house is next door. These two houses are on a cul-de-sac with a park for the children. A very welcoming destination and a very deserving charity.

## WOMEN OF TRINITY VISIT PREGNANCY HELP CENTER IN RICE LAKE

Marcia Kampf, Terry Freeman, and Rose Cutsforth recently made a visit to the Pregnancy Help Center (PHC) in Rice Lake on behalf of the Women of Trinity. At the end of the year the women make their charitable contributions to local charities. This year we decided to find out more about these charities.

The PHC is a non - denominational Christian organization with a goal to make a practical, loving effort to help young women choose life and to assist those with an unplanned pregnancy. PHC encourages alternatives to abortion and administers to the physical and spiritual needs of each individual through classes and counseling. The needs are great but the rewards are greater. Women of Trinity are glad to donate money toward such a good cause.

PHC stocks a large supply of baby clothes, diapers, baby equipment, and more. The mothers-to-be attend classes and can earn 'points' toward purchasing the supplies for their baby. PHC is in the process of purchasing a home to house their business. For more information call PHC 715-736-4357 or Rose Cutsforth 715-977-2905.



## **PASTOR JACK'S COLUMN**

*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. — Ephesians 6:18*

Recently I was asked,

**“If all you had today, was what you praised and thanked God for yesterday, what would your life look like?”**

It was a great thanksgiving reminder. It was also a call for bold, unhesitating prayer, with a confident belief in the Father's response.

This question obviously brought immediate images of my wife and sons; their well-being and our life together. But it also prompted thoughts of our church. In my mind, a new question was framed “How often are we praying for Trinity Lutheran Church in Birchwood Wisconsin?” How often are we praying for His church?

Our church is made up of amazing people of God. Many fill needed leadership roles. Many serve in the congregation and our community with no expectation of pay or reward. Many share from their abundance with those less fortunate around us. Many attend Bible studies, and actively encourage others to read God's word. Many join in times of fellowship. Many in our church lead a lifestyle that honors God.

I believe “many” is an answer to prayer! Let's praise God for this! However, our church still needs prayer.

During this season of Advent please join me in regular prayer for our church; the community within and the community we're a part of.

### **Prayer for Trinity:**

*Heavenly Father please protect us from laziness, a love of sleep or of recreation that would eclipse our desire to worship You with*

*brothers and sisters and prevent our attendance in the church You have ordained. **Lord, gather us.***

*Protect us from distraction, which would rob You of our intentional praise and attentive hearts. **Lord, focus us.***

*Protect Trinity from worldliness, which silently erases our uniqueness in a generation that is perishing, in desperate need of gospel witness. **Lord, mark us for the world to see.***

*Father please protect Trinity from sinfulness, which destroys the very purpose for which You saved us, to make our church a holy people that would show the glory of Your Son. **Lord, sanctify us.***

*Protect Trinity from monotonous and routine worship, which denies that You are the One true and living God, the divine object of all our singing, praying, and proclamation. **Lord, excite and animate us.***

*Protect our congregation from self pity and grief or sorrows, which would make us believe that our burdens are greater than the love of Your gospel relief. May we rest in Your grace and delight in Your yoke. **Lord, lighten us.***

*Protect us from being empty vessels, merely swept clean but still endangered by other spirits. May the Word preached by Your servant be the Word applied by Your Spirit. **Lord, fill us.***

*Protect our church from religion, which would substitute our own deeds or efforts for relationship with the One who loved us from the foundation of the world. May we be satisfied only with the reality and never merely the form, only with the Person of Christ and*



**never the idol. Lord, guide us on a closer walk with You. In Jesus name. Amen**

May our Father in Heaven continue to guide and bless you this Christmas time. May your prayers be answered according to His will, and may your presence offer peace and blessing to those around you. In Jesus holy name.

## **MISSIONS & OUTREACH**

On November 14 three members of the Outreach team traveled to Ladysmith to deliver items collected to Embrace. There were many kids' print quilts and hand knit afghans. Also, three totes full of things on their wish list. Included were towels, cleaning supplies, paper goods, personal care products and many stuffed animals.

Most women when escaping an abusive situation with their children have little time to gather things needed so they appreciate what they receive. All of the workers there were excited to receive the items and even more excited to go through them. They were heard saying, "This is more fun than Christmas morning for us." We also presented them with a check for \$500.



**THE CROSS –**  
**YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION**

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the prosperity of God.”*  
**1 Corinthians 1:18**

During our group session on November 21, we talked about what it means to be a Christian; hate what is evil, honor others, serve the lord, rejoice with hope, and care for other believers. After reading Gospel of John Chapter 2, Jesus’s first miracle turning water into wine, journaled scripture, observation, application, and prayer (S.O.A.P) to help focus on the scripture in a way that adds depth and understanding to their Bible study time. With the help of the Lord and using His faithful servants in our congregation, we continue to teach, model, guide, and mentor youth toward a closer relationship with their savior Jesus Christ.



Each registered student has received their new Study Bibles. These Bibles are a gift from Trinity and are filled with resources. If you would still like to purchase an additional Bible, or sponsor Trinity’s effort to put a Study Bible in the hands of every student that attends, please see Ashley Beffa or Pastor Jack.

We are looking for feedback on sponsoring a child through Compassion International, a Christian humanitarian aid child sponsorship who is dedicated to other long-term development of children living in poverty around the world. Check out their website to see all the different ways we can support their mission at [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com).

The Cross follows Birchwood School closing and cancelations therefore there was no

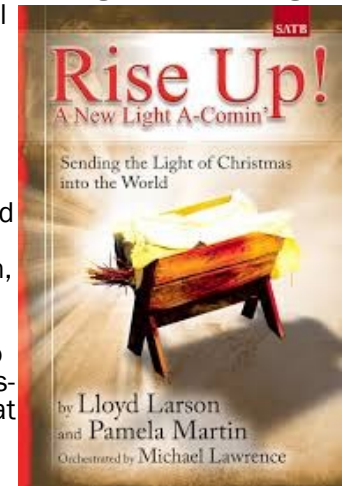
Youth and Confirmation the week of Thanksgiving. Each student was assigned to read John chapter 3 for next meeting and to bring their Bibles.

Our Community BINGO and Free Chili Feed was a success! Everyone was welcomed to come try a variety of chili while playing BINGO! 89 people attended the event collecting 5 boxes of non-perishable food items and winning over 30 prizes. Prizes were donated by Just Rite on Main, Ed’s Pit Stop, Birchwood Café, Greener’s Lumber, Two Sisters Boutique, Full Throttle Sports, Pomp’s Tire Service, (Diane) Christmas CDs, All About You Salon, Seasonal Power Sports, Rustic Corner, (Cindy) Creative Memories, and Dairy State Bank. Highlight of the night was when Wyatt, the amazingly awesome Bingo caller, got two of our guests to sing the whole B-I-N-G-O song for the grand prizes! Thank you to all those who helped make this a fun and successful event.

Starting in December, the second Sunday of each month the youth, their parents, and mentors will usher, greet, read, and assist in communion. Also, for December there will be an Advent Meal served Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall. For other updates and upcoming events for The Cross Youth and Family follow us on Facebook, The Journey Newsletter, and Youth and Family bulletin board in the Narthex. For questions or concerns please contact Ashley Beffa, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator at [abeffa@outlook.com](mailto:abeffa@outlook.com) or 715-790-1491.

**TRINITY'S CANTATA CHOIR WILL**  
**PRESENT THE CHORAL MUSICAL, RISE UP! A NEW LIGHT A-COMIN', DURING THE 10 AM**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE,**  
**DECEMBER 9.**

“Children, go where I send thee.” That powerful call—that sending out of a people to share the Christmas story—is the inspiration and the ultimate message of this stirring telling of the gospel tale. The narrative is filled with inspired scenes highlighting all those who were sent: prophets, angels, Mary and Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and, finally, Christians sent into the world to proclaim the gospel message that a new light is comin’.



*Come celebrate the Christmas story and prepare for Christmas through this cantata!*

**NEXT MEETING OF . . .**

- Birchwood Food Pantry Open. . . . . 10:30 am, Dec. 1, 3, 15, 17***
- Worship & Music Team. . . . . To be scheduled***
- Mission & Outreach. . . . . 10:00am Dec 5***
- Trinity Lutheran Church Women. . . . . 11:00 am, Dec 13***
- Congregational Council . . . . . 7:00 pm, Dec 18***

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED**

Once again, there were too few names to run the Worship Assistants chart. So please stop by the Welcome Center and sign up — **WE NEED YOU!**



**LIBRARY CORNER**

I hope you stopped by the free book table and perused what I put out for you to more enjoy the holidays with your family. There were some really fun ideas there.



Now for Christmas I have placed a wonderful selection for you...some from my own personal supply. I have had these books for most of my life and its time to share them. Please take them home, read them, share

them, gift them. Give love thru books this Christmas...the gift that keeps on giving. God Bless us every one! Carol Addington

**MID-WEEK ADVENT MEALS**

Come join us for simple mid-week advent meals at 5:30 pm on Dec. 5 (Choir and Missions & Outreach host), 12 (Women of Trinity host), and 19 (Fellowship & Growth host).

The mid-week Advent services will follow at 6:00 pm. No cost — free-will donation.



**BAKE SALE AT TRINITY SUNDAY, DEC 2**

The Women of Trinity will hold their annual Bake Sale before and after the worship service on Sunday, December 2.

Anyone willing to donate baked goods is asked to bring their donations to the church narthex Saturday, December 1, between 1 and 3pm.

The Birchwood Bluegill Christmas Festival will be on December 1, and with all the other bake sales around town, the Trinity Women are catering to their own congregation with homemade and baked goods.

All money received from the sale goes back to our church or local charities.



**WOMEN CHANGE MEETING DATE TO DECEMBER 13!**



The Women of Trinity will hold their monthly meeting on **December 13**, instead of December 20. The reason is to be able to make up the Christmas Cookie Boxes for those in need so they can be distributed in time for Christmas.

The meeting will start at 11 am, in the Fellowship Hall, cookie boxes will be made up. Please put this on your calendar and join us!

**CHRISTMAS TREE FAMILIES**

As in years past, Trinity will participate in the annual ADOPT-A-FAMILY program. Missions & Outreach has received the wish lists of five families this year.

Every year when the lists are picked up we are told that Trinity always goes above and beyond in their giving. Members of Trinity continue to amaze with their generous giving.

The tree in the narthex has all the tags for gifts needed. Take a tag off the tree, purchase your gift, return the gift wrapped and tagged with the original tag.

If there are clothing items as gifts, please include a gift receipt in the wrapped present. **All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 16.** Birchwood School will be picking up the gifts Monday morning, December 17.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks may be made out to "FBLA" and dropped off at the Birchwood School to Sara Waldron.



**REMIND APP**

People are encouraged if they have not done so to download the remind app! This will allow you to receive reminders and updates as needed. To do so text, **@tlcbir** to number 81010. Please call the office if you have any questions.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPENINGS**

**DEC 2 1st Sunday of Advent** – Worship w/ Communion @ 10 am

**DEC 5 Mid-week Advent Service** at Trinity @ 6:00 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)

**DEC 9 2nd Sunday of Advent** – Cantata “Rise Up! A New Light A Comin’” @ 10 am

**DEC 12 Mid-week Advent Service** at Trinity @ 6:00 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)

**DEC 16 3rd Sunday of Advent**–Worship w/ Communion @ 10am

**DEC 19 Mid-week Advent Service** at Trinity @ 6:00 pm (Meal @ 5:30 pm)

**DEC 23 4rd Sunday of Advent** – Worship w/Communion @ 10 am

**DEC 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** w/Holy Communion @ 5 pm

**RIGHTNOW MEDIA**

If you wish to receive access to RightNow Media, please email the church office. RightNow Media is like the Netflix of Bible study videos. You will have FREE access to thousands of video resources to help you with parenting, marriage, discipleship and more. It includes content for all ages and stages of life.

Red Cedar Choir Presents

**What Sweeter Music**

Featuring Traditional Christmas Music

**December 2, 2018, 2:00 & 4:00 pm**

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
128 W. Humbird St., Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Elizabeth Joosten, Director  
Barbara Lancaster, Accompanist  
With Holiday Brass Quintet

Eau Claire Barron COUNTY Free-Will Donation

**BIRCHWOOD AREA FOOD PANTRY**  
INVITES YOU TO COME JOIN US FOR OUR 2018

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND BAKE SALE**

**DECEMBER 1**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Homemade candies, cookies, breads and many special holiday favorites along with beautiful crafts.

Treats and Hot Chocolate along with coffee will be available: All proceeds go to provide food at the pantry. Come and enjoy and help others.

If you have crafts or bake goods to donate please give us a call at: 715-651-5650. We always appreciate your support. The Pantry is located down town Birchwood across from the dental clinic.



- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin Kotel 12/02      | Eldon Kvale 12/14      |
| Jacki Rich 12/02       | Cody Rurup 12/15       |
| Tyler Marcinske 12/03  | Karen Scott 12/16      |
| Bob Skar 12/03         | Donna Willis 12/18     |
| Brent Wahtke 12/03     | Brian Russ 12/20       |
| Jason Ivers 12/04      | Alexander Jasper 12/22 |
| David Miller 12/04     | Pete Baribeau 12/24    |
| Stacy Anderson 12/05   | Ray Buxton 12/24       |
| Betty Blanch 12/06     | John Will 12/26        |
| Anne Gilbertson 12/06  | Joan Fuller 12/29      |
| Lauren Gustafson 12/06 | Sheila Moline 12/29    |
| Wally Thom 12/06       | Auston Cherney 12/30   |
| JoAnn Schupp 12/07     | Cody Miller 12/30      |
| LeRoy Brensel 12/08    | Brody Rurup 12/30      |
| Logan Saldana 12/10    |                        |
| Judith Ede 12/12       |                        |

*A sincere thank you*

Thank you for the prayers, moral support, hugs, and memorial gifts in the death of my grandson Alex Pfannebecker. As devastating as his passing is, to Laurisa, Anora, Logan, Kaylea, Aura Lea and me, my Trinity Church Family with God's help, holds us up.

~Donnarae Carrell

# DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
<b>2 First Sunday of Advent</b> WOT—Bake Sale 9a—Choir Warm-Up 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion Money Counters: Sue Svitak & Brenda Mackey Altar Guild—Cindy Rubin	<b>3</b> 9:30a—Quilting 10:30a-1:30p Food Pantry Open 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b> 2pm—Christian Life Mtg	<b>5</b> 10a—Mission & Outreach Mtg 5:30p—Advent Meal 6p—Advent Service 6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Cantata Reh 8p—Choir Reh	<b>6</b> 9:30a—Womens Bible Study 6:30p - Group Faith Study	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>8</b> 9a—Cantata Reh
<b>9 Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Christmas Cantata  Money Counters: Ruth Clausen & Cindy Westphal Altar Guild Carol Addington	<b>10</b> 9:30a—Quilting 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30p—Advent Meal 6p—Advent Service 6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh	<b>13</b> 9:30a—Womens Bible Study 11a - WOT Mtg 6:30p - Group Faith Study	<b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>15</b> 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
<b>16 Third Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion <b>Love Fund &amp; Food Pantry Offerings</b> Money Counters: Tom Svitak & Mike Rubin Altar Guild—Jeanne Dahlby	<b>17 Journey Deadline</b> 9:30a—Quilting 10:30a-1:30p Food Pantry Open 6:30p—Wmns Bible Study 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b> 7:00p - Council Mtg	<b>19</b> 5:30p—Advent Meal 6p—Advent Service 6p—The Cross Youth 7p—Choir Reh	<b>20</b> 9:30a—Womens Bible Study 6:30p - Group Faith Study	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Third Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30a - COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion <b>PRAYER SHAWL SUNDAY</b> Money Counters: Char Mohns & Joan Fuller Altar Guild—Karen Hayes	<b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED 5p—Christmas Eve Service 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall Altar Guild-Karen Hayes	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30a—Womens Bible Study 10a - Journey Assembly 6:30p - Group Faith Study	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>29</b>
<b>30 First Sunday in Christmas</b> 9:30a- COFFEE TIME 10A—Worship w/ Communion  Money Counters: Sandi David & June Ehrich Altar Guild—Dianne Buxton	<b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall  					

Trinity Lutheran Church  
 501 E. Chetac Ave  
 PO Box 8  
 Birchwood, WI 54817

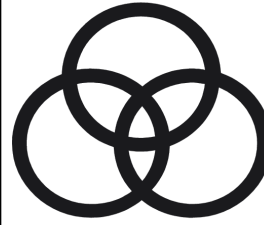
**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**



**CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
 DECEMBER 9!**



Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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 Permit No. 3  
 Birchwood, WI  
 54817



# The JOURNEY December 2018

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Jack Jorgensen, Pastor  
 Cindy Westphal, Parish Administrator  
 Ashley Beffa, Youth & Family  
 Joanne Schilling, Choir Director*

*Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians*

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**JOURNEY Editor ♦ Cindy Westphal ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com ♦**

Sunday School 10 am (Sept - May 21)  
 Office Hours 8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)  
 Bulletin deadline 9 am Wednesdays



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Addington	Eileen Koefler	Jim Pravda
Tom Allard	Bill & Eunice Kuntz	Tom Reed
Vicki Busick	Roy Kuula	Bill Rice
Barb Fegan	Bill & Joyce Lambrecht	Buddy Robotka
Annette Gentile	Rebecca Langham	Ro Sackmann
Dan Gowan	Ed Leader	Carter Sackmann
Laine Guttenberg	Lora	Collette Sandow
Ron Hartzell	Leonard Nysted	Frank & Linda Starca
Andy Hedman	Mary Nysted	Cindy Schaan
McKel Heebink	Betty Orsund	Elaine Yndestad
Becky Hunt	Kathy Paquette	
Merlin Jahnke	Fred Peck	
Art Johnson	Jean Petersen	

**In the military:** Rigil & Randy Christensen, Rochelle & Alex Fabrizio, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Cody Davis, Bennett Jorgensen and all those serving in the military.