

# ***The Marin Lutheran Bridge***



***A Reconciling in Christ Congregation***

***March 2010***

## ***Welcome New Members***

*They're from Minnesota, Hong Kong & Germany -  
Finland, the Big Apple and even Mill Valley!*

*They are single and married and parents and grands  
One is expecting – a fulfilling of God's plans.*

*They are all doing God's work by helping others in many ways -  
PT, research, health, careers, and etcetera fill their days.*

*This one thing is true, we don't need to discuss  
They are no longer they, because now we are Us!  
And together our faith and our numbers will grow  
God will use us to share the good news I know.*

*So we welcome them now -  
We welcome them all -  
the young and the older, the short and the tall.*

*As they join us this morn we clap and we sing.  
For to our hearts, hope and joy they surely bring!*

*So may God put a blessing upon this faith community  
Upon this hill in Corte Madera which we call MLC.*

*Together we will worship, we will serve and we will pray  
We'll give God the glory - as we welcome you on this day!*

*Written by Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson*

## We'll see you in Worship this month!

### Sundays:

#### ***March 7: The Third Sunday in Lent*** ☪☪

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

#### ***March 14: The Fourth Sunday in Lent*** ☪

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!



#### ***March 21: The Fifth Sunday in Lent*** ☪☪

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing

Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism God's new person (you!) rises daily into new life.



#### ***March 28: Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday*** ☪☪

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet

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

### Mid-week Lenten Services:

#### ***Wednesday Evenings*** ☪☪

##### ***March 3<sup>d</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>:***

Each of these Wednesdays beginning at 6:15 p.m. we gather for a simple soup supper in the Parish Hall. At 7:00 p.m. we will hold a Lenten Evening Service, using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer Service.

#### ***Thursday Noon:*** ☪☪

##### ***March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>:***

Each of these Thursdays beginning at 12:00 noon we will gather in the narthex for fellowship – you are invited to bring your brown bag lunch. Then at 12:30 p.m. we will join together in the sanctuary for a short spoken Lenten service.

### Adult Education on Sunday Mornings in March

On Sunday mornings during the month of March, (*from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary/worship space*), we continue exploring and discussing the work of the Constitution Review Task Force: On Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> we will look at and talk about the proposed structure of Marin Lutheran Church. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Constitution Task Force will hold a question and answer session on any topic related to their work over the last couple years. As the 28<sup>th</sup> is Passion and Palm Sunday there will be no Adult Education Class. Our classes will resume on the Sunday following Easter.

## WHERE SHOULD WE DIRECT OUR EFFORTS AND OUR RESOURCES?

Much has been made of the huge task that President Obama has been confronted with during his first year in office. One doesn't really need to enumerate, because we are all too familiar with the financial crisis, two wars and health care, to name a few. Well, the Social Concerns Board/Committee at MLC, including a few new members, must admit to identifying a bit with the President. After all, the financial downturn has only made the challenges faced by many people a lot worse. We all know folks who have lost jobs, maybe even homes. And those responsible for food shelves talk about the "unprecedented" demands placed on their agencies, in the context of the last several decades. What should MLC be doing about the broad array of social concerns we learn about every day?

At our first meeting of the new year, your Social Concerns group started by sharing dreams we all have regarding what we would like to see MLC accomplish. We want to continue by addressing the scope of our efforts. Some of this discussion will certainly include various mechanisms for effectively involving MLC members in different areas. There will also be questions of how we might partner with different groups, e.g., other congregations, to achieve goals we share. But for now, we committed \$500 of MLC resources to Lutheran World Relief for addressing the tragedy in Haiti. Other funds have also been used to purchase Safeway cards for hungry folks that seek help from MLC.

We invite you to share any dreams you have in the area of social concerns at MLC. Simply contact any member of the committee. This includes Lois Errante, Pastor Kathryn, Mary Creigh Houts, Ross Johnson, Pamela Griffith Pond, Michele Rodriguez, Judy Rossbach, Tom Schmidt and Sandy Seeger.

Ross Johnson

## MARIN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** Join us for Bible study at 10:00am in the conference room at church. Prepare by reading Romans chapters 12 and 13 carefully before your session.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Mini Sale featuring Easter cards and Ukrainian Easter Eggs.

**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Serve and Share 9:00am-10:30am. Then at 10:30am Pastor's Bible study for leaders and anyone not able to attend the regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. Bible study.

### For your information:

The painting in the kitchen has been completed by Kerry Hansen (thank you Kerry!). Take a look and be thinking about what you might want for flooring, counter top, island, window treatment. Your ideas can be shared with the committee who will be available for informal meetings between services in the prep room behind the narthex. Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising by donations and purchases.

**Café** is an award-winning Web-based magazine for young women who want to build **C**ommunity, participate in **A**dvocacy, strengthen **F**aith, and strive toward **E**nlightenment (**CAFE!**). It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today. Visit [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org) and subscribe to receive e-mail alerts for new issues, also available as a podcast.

**Milestone Anniversary!**

March 6<sup>th</sup> is a very special day for *Erna & Bob Randig*. 50 years ago this year they were married. God's blessings on your anniversary and on many more years together. Congratulations!



**Welcome!**

During the services on February 21<sup>st</sup> we received a wonderful group of new members into our church family: *Minna & Brett Billick; Mike Clark with Isaiah & Joshua Clark-Hexter; Karen & David DiDonato, Mara & Ashton; Anke Pahmeyer & Thomas Grams; Lauris Halladay; Lindsey Theobald; Luke Zahradnik*. (Minna & Brett's son, *Nooa*, and Anke & Tom's children, *Conner & Sasha Grams* were baptized here in 2008. We celebrated *Logan DiDonato's* baptism at the end of last year and we look forward to the baptism of *Aili Billick* in April.)

In addition, *Esther & Ross Johnson; Joyce & Joe O'Neill* and *Yvonne Weidmann*, who were received as members through membership transfer, joined these folks in being received by public Affirmation of Baptism. We also look forward to *Travis Theobald* joining MLC through baptism.

We welcome you all and we are glad you have chosen to become a part of this church family. A few of these folks have shared part of their "story" with us and we hope to hear from others in upcoming newsletters:

*The Billick family* is very excited to be joining Marin Lutheran and have already felt so welcomed within the community. Minna is from Finland, while Brett was raised outside of Houston. They lived in London for a couple years before settling in the Bay Area in 2006. They have two children - *Nooa*, an energetic 21 month old son, and a daughter *Aili*, who is 6 months old. Brett works in marketing at Virgin America, while Minna has recently become a stay-at-home mom to take care of the growing household. When not on diaper duty, they enjoy traveling, running, and spending time as a family.

*The DiDonato family* recently repatriated back to the United States after living 13yrs in Asia (Hong Kong). Their family is comprised of David, who grew up in Naples, Florida. Karen is from the mid-West and grew up in New Jersey. David and Karen met in Taiwan where they attended university for language studies. Rounding out their family is *Mara Josephine* (10yrs old), *Ashton David* (6yrs) and *Logan Kai* (16 months old).

Their family has had wonderful opportunities to experience many religions and cultures during their travels. They are very pleased to be living in Marin and on the West Coast for their first time. They are especially thankful for finding Marin Lutheran and feeling the open arms and warmth of our congregation.

*Joyce and Joe O'Neill* are happy to return to Marin after moving from San Rafael to Sonoma in 1974. They settled in San Rafael in 1953 after spending 3 years in Alaska where Joe was a civil engineer working on the Alaskan highway. Joe is originally from Butte, Montana and met Joyce in Bozeman where she was working as a music teacher. After graduating from Montana State in 1949, they married and immediately moved to Alaska where the pay was 25% higher than the "lower 48."

After returning from Alaska in '52 Joe worked in San Francisco for Union Oil and Parker Engineering. Preferring to be out in construction he started Redwood Builders and J.D. O'Neill, Inc. They moved to Sonoma where they enjoyed the country and raising Arabian show and race horses.

Joyce is originally from Ishpeming, Michigan, a small mining town in the Upper Peninsula. She graduated from the MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis (now a part of the UofM). She served as the choir director at Marin Lutheran from 1952 - 1974. They now are happy to sit in a pew and enjoy the service with their children (Joe O'Neill, Jr. & Ann Marymor), & grandchildren (Miles & Michaela Marymor).

*Travis and Lindsey Theobald* met in college at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and have been married since 2004. Both are California natives; Travis is from Northridge, CA and Lindsey is from Napa, CA. After college, Travis and Lindsey moved to San Clemente, CA where they loved the beach community and sunny weather. Eventually, they moved to San Diego, then up to Berkeley, and now are busy fixing up their first house in San Rafael.

Travis works in Sausalito as a Landscape Architect at SWA Group. Lindsey commutes to San Francisco where she is an Architect at Feldman Architecture. Both try to use their design know-how in their own home and so far haven't butted heads on too many design decisions!

This March, they are expecting their first child, a girl. They are very excited! Look for the newest member of MLC soon!

### **Social Concerns**

Two activities that we hope you will participate in during the month of March.

- 1) The **food barrel** will make its appearance in the narthex again and we ask that everybody help us fill it to overflowing (perhaps we'll have 2 barrels?). These donations of non-perishable food items are distributed throughout our county by the Marin Community Food Bank.
- 2) We invite you to participate in the **Marin CROP Hunger Walk** on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m. in San Rafael - a 5K walk through downtown San Rafael. If you cannot join the walk, there will be opportunity to support the walkers by sponsoring them. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex on the Sundays leading up to the CROP Walk day.

### **Pastor Kathryn on Retreat**

Pastor Kathryn will be attending a silent retreat at Camaldoli Hermitage, Big Sur, March 1-4. She will spend much of her time holding us in prayer and ask that we hold her in our prayers as well.

# kids *of the* kingdom

We've just finished our unit on Doubting Thomas and having faith in God even though we cannot see him -- our kids played trust games, acted out their faith, scientifically proved the existence of things they could not see, and took the leap that bacon and chocolate might actually taste good together.

If you missed out on any of these faith-building activities, be sure to join us every Sunday morning for more fun and hands-on learning.

In March we will enter our study of Holy Week and Easter.

KOTK begins around 9:45 a.m. following communion at the 9:00 a.m. service.

*Michele Jacobs*



## Fed & Forgiven

Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Holy Communion

This is an event for children in Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grades and their parents to attend! To begin the evening we'll enjoy Rob Zlatunich's famous spaghetti dinner! Then we'll learn about the gift of Holy Communion for us all. Whether your child communes now, or you would like them to wait a little longer, this is an opportunity to learn more about this sacrament.

Please RSVP by signing the sheet in the Parish Hall or letting the church office know you are interested. Sign up by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CONFIRMATION

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>:** Class on the Old Testament: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Taught by Pr. Thomas)

**Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>:** VBS meeting at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:** Hunger Walk (Meet at MLC at 2:00 p.m. to drive over to St. Vincent's)

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** Class on the Old Testament: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday:** April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmands will bring up the symbols which focus upon Jesus' last meal with his disciples where he instituted Holy Communion. Plan on coming!



## **Save the Date for VBS**

August 2-6, 8:30 a.m. -12noon

(Ages 3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Games/Crafts/ Singing/ Laughter!/  
Bible Stories & much more!!!

## VBS Meeting

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

BAOBAB BLAST!!! (Think Africa!)

Anyone who is interested in participating in this grand inter-generational summer ministry - please plan to attend this meeting!

If you are unable to attend, please speak with Pr. Kathryn about where you would like to serve. You could also sign the VBS board in the narthex.

## Anthem Competition heats up!

Worship and Music placed an item in the magazine of the **American Composers Forum** (*Sounding Board*), in June of 2009, announcing an Annual Choral Anthem Competition. The item read:

### **Marin Lutheran Church Annual Choral Anthem Competition**



Open to female composers.

*Marin Lutheran Church seeks an easy to intermediate 3 – 5 minute work for SATB and piano on a biblical text. We offer an honorarium of \$1000 and a recording of the premiere. Works accepted until March 1, 2010.*

Chairperson Marilyn Davis has been fielding a host of inquiries via email; most inquiries have been from female composers, but strangely enough, some have been from interested males hoping, against hope, that we don't mean what we say! Marilyn has been very patient with these inquiries.

We have had excellent entries from Georgia, California, Minnesota, and Minneapolis. Eleven entries to date! Committee members Michele Jacobs, Joan Weinstein, Paul Davis and Joel Stahl will meet sometime after March 1 to review entries that have been screened by Marilyn. (Some pieces clearly do not fulfill the requirements, and have to be eliminated, being much too difficult, without a biblical text, written for the wrong combination of voices, or having been written by a non-female!)

Many of the entries are very beautiful and choosing one over the others will present quite a struggle for the committee.

Perhaps by the next newsletter we will have a winner!

*David Shepard*

## **MARCH CELEBRATIONS**

### **Birthdays**

- 1 Mary Creigh Houts
- 2 Anne Brooks Pfister
- 3 Michael Miller
- 5 Stuart Burt
- 11 Walt Potter
- 12 Robert Morgenlaender  
Kristian Gable
- 19 Caroline Wulzen

- 20 Leslie Lewczyk
- 23 Katherin Alden
- 24 Bob Wong
- 26 Jamie Kelley

- 26 Bob Randig
- 27 Robert Allen
- 29 Barbara Allen
- 30 Susan Morrow



### **Anniversaries**

- 6 Erna & Bob Randig
- 10 Barbara & Roy Allen
- 31 Colleen & Kerry Hansen

## Constitution Review Task Force (CRTF)

The Constitution Task Force was formed in April 2008 to review our current constitution and bylaws and make recommendations for changes. According to the ELCA, if a church desires to amend their constitution, it must adopt those sections of the ELCA model constitution that are required. In 2002, there was also a desire to make changes to a few sections of our constitution, but at that time, the council was not willing to undertake the full review we have just completed. Therefore we made minor changes to the bylaws and tabled the other potential changes. Today though, after almost two years of working through the review and research needed, the task force, whose members include Pastor Tom, Janet Foster, Tom Schmidt, Dawn Brewster, Ray Gergus, Jim Kamphoefner and Jeff Reinders, is ready to present our recommended revised constitution.

The process we followed included the following steps:

- Line-by-line comparison of ELCA required provisions as compared to the current MLC constitution.
- Line-by-line evaluation of all non-required sections of MLC constitution and bylaws.
- Each member studied the constitution and organizational structure of one other ELCA congregation and presented their findings to the other task force members.
- We read and outlined the information provided in the book, *Governance and Ministry, Rethinking Board Leadership*, by Dan Hotchkiss.
- Analysis of MLC governance and board structure; the ways in which it could support or hinder the fulfillment of our mission.
- Developed outline of proposed organizational structure, definition of board duties, reporting relationships.
- Obtained congregational feedback through several forums and obtained feedback from the various boards on changes they felt should be made to their duties.
- Developed a revised Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions that incorporates the required provisions of the ELCA model constitution and the task force's proposed organizational structure, definition of board duties, and reporting relationships.

It is now time to review the Task Force's proposed Constitution with the congregation and council and then vote on a final document. A change to our constitution requires that we complete the following steps.

- Present draft of new Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions to council 45 days in advance of a first congregational vote (April council meeting)
- In the first congregational meeting, the congregation must approve the new Constitution by simple majority of members attending. Motions to revise may be made at this meeting. (June 13 Meeting after late service)
- 2nd vote by congregation; Constitution approved in June must be ratified, without revision, by 2/3 majority of members attending. (September 19 meeting between services)

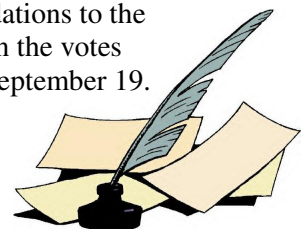
To prepare the congregation and allow time for feedback and possible revisions, the task force will hold seven Congregational Forums: Feb 14 - History & Why; Feb 28 - Church Organization; Mar 7 and 14 - Proposed Structure; Mar 21 - Q&A and discussion; Apr 11 - Other non-required sections and in May one final Q&A and discussion forum.

We are also making a variety of documents available on the MLC website under Quick Links then Constitution. These documents will include current constitution, link to ELCA model constitution, required provision comparison, proposed constitutions with changes showing and a clean copy of the proposed constitution. We will also have a history of MLC Constitutions, past, current and proposed organization charts, task force timeline, and the congregational forum presentations and notes.

I ask every member to attend the forums as you are able, to prayerfully consider this, ask questions, make recommendations to the committee, and participate in the votes scheduled for June 13 and September 19.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Reinders*

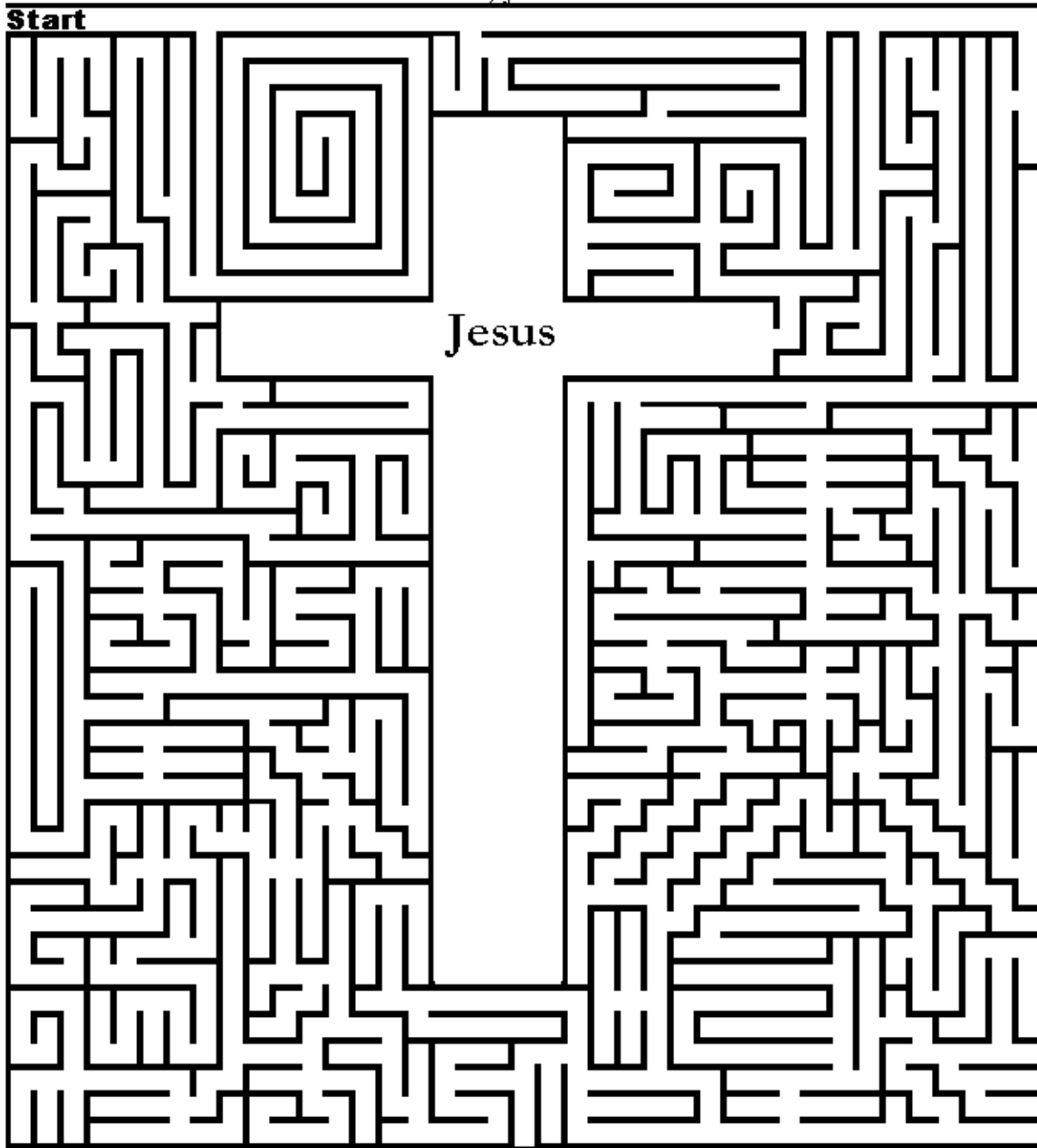


## MARCH 2010 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	MARCH 7 <sup>TH</sup>	MARCH 14 <sup>TH</sup>	MARCH 21 <sup>ST</sup>	MARCH 28 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>GREETERS</b>				
9:00AM	Dawn Brewster	Lorri Reinders	Ray & Margot Gergus	Jacobs Family
11:00AM	<b>Barbara Bischoff</b>	<b>Jane McKenzie</b>	<b>Erna Randig</b>	<b>Stu &amp; Jeanne Burt</b>
<b>USHER</b>				
9:00AM	Clint Bastin	T. Morgenlaender	Duff Hansen	Ron Jacobs
11:00AM	<b>Roy Davis</b>	<b>Rick West</b>	<b>Lorri Reinders</b>	<b>Dave Richard</b>
<b>ACOLYTE</b>				
9:00AM	Shellan & Taylor Saling	Chloe Jacobs	Hannah & Kris Gable	Adelaide S / Laine G
11:00AM	<b>Peyton &amp; Wyatt Russell</b>	<b>Kirsta Rodriguez</b>		<b>Michaela Marymor</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>				
9:00AM	Dawn Brewster	Caroline Wulzen	Ray Gergus	Rich Myhre
11:00AM	<b>Christa Compton</b>	<b>Annemarie Hofling</b>	<b>Sharon Guy</b>	<b>Bob Dunn</b>
<b>ALM</b>				
9:00AM	Christa Compton	Susan Morrow	Karen Anderson	Kathy Bayler
11:00AM	<b>Betsy McCormick</b>	<b>Christa Compton</b>	<b>Paul Davis</b>	<b>Paul Davis</b>
<b>COMM ASSIST</b>				
9:00AM		Bryan Wulzen		
11:00AM		<b>Jane McKenzie</b>	<b>Erna R. / Marie C.</b>	<b>Betsy McCormick</b>
<b>GIFT BEARERS</b>				
9:00AM	Paula & Morgan Saling	Cooper/ Michele Jacobs	Nik Gable & Pr. Kathryn	
11:00AM	<b>The Russells</b>	<b>Michele Rodriguez</b>	<b>Betsy McCormick</b>	
<b>SOUND TECH</b>				
9:00AM	Bart Saling	Jeff Reinders	Bart Saling	John Bischoff
11:00AM	<b>John Bischoff</b>	<b>Kerry Hansen</b>	<b>Jeff Reinders</b>	<b>Kerry Hansen</b>
<b>COUNTERS</b>				
9:00AM	Brewster/Bastin	Corneille Church	Roy Davis	Brewster/Bastin
11:00AM	<b>Janet Foster</b>	<b>Kamphoefner</b>	<b>Janet Foster</b>	<b>Brewster/Bastin</b>
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>				
9:00AM	Mary Creigh Houts	Rebecca Shunk	Karen Anderson	Margot Gergus
11:00AM	<b>Karen Clinton</b>	<b>Mette Wong</b>	<b>Sharon Guy</b>	<b>Tamara Stocker</b>
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Gudrun Moeck</b>	<b>Annemarie Hofling</b>	<b>T. Morgenlaender</b>	<b>Cathy Bedilion</b>
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>Jane McKenzie</b>	<b>Jane McKenzie</b>	<b>Jane McKenzie</b>	<b>Jane McKenzie</b>

In a world of confusion, Jesus is the clear choice.

Start



Jesus

### St. Patrick's Day Word Search

B	U	L	Y	I	G	I	J	Q	O
H	V	P	U	Z	U	R	I	E	R
G	H	E	B	C	M	I	E	A	E
A	R	E	M	I	K	S	U	E	D
L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N
E	V	X	A	M	I	A	X	Y	A
L	O	D	I	T	R	M	U	F	L
L	L	G	N	J	T	R	T	V	E
I	C	I	B	G	A	O	T	M	R
H	A	A	O	S	P	C	K	E	I
S	Y	L	W	S	E	K	A	N	S
O	D	V	L	I	Y	P	Q	E	M

- |         |          |            |
|---------|----------|------------|
| IRELAND | GREEN    | PATRICK    |
| IRISH   | CLOVER   | SAINT      |
| GOLD    | LUCK     | SNAKES     |
| POT     | SHAMROCK | LEPRECHAUN |
| RAINBOW | JIG      | SHILLELAGH |

SHAMROCK MAZE

