

The Church of St. Mary

420 Irving Street (PO Box 669)
Alexandria, MN 56308

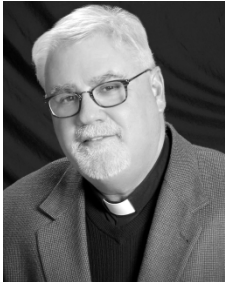
Parish Office: 320-763-5781
School Office: 320-763-5861
Rel Ed. Office: 320-763-9202

Website: www.stmaryalexandria.org
Email: stmary@stmaryalexandria.org
Diocese website: www.stclouddiocese.org

Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Monday – Thursday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM Friday

September 3, 2017

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Fr. Steve
Binsfeld

**“Our Mission
is to know,
love, and
serve God by
living the
Eucharist.”**

*Promulgated on
Pentecost Sunday 2013*

Greetings to you on the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time!

Visitors and friends are invited to our **Community Block Party** next **Sunday, Sept. 10** at the **Runestone Community Center** (Fairgrounds) for a time to socialize and listen to some good, free entertainment that includes *Blonde & The Bohunk* (country), *Mary Rowels* (comedian), *Eric E.* (amazing guitar), *James Wedgewood* (ventriloquist/comedian), *Missy Rademacher* and *Enterprise Band* from **11 AM to 5 PM**, ending with the Grand Raffle. Good food and refreshments will be served. There will be a Silent Auction, games & bouncy house for kids, Spin for Sweets and a Country Store. Breakfast will be in our gym on Sunday, serving from 8:30 AM - 12 PM.

The main leaders of our **Thanksgiving Community Dinner** --Rich & Anna Solheid, with Bob and Michelle Neale--- have resigned because the circumstances in their lives have changed. They have been over-all leaders for years, taking over from Steve and Janet Schiltgen. I thank them for their years of faithful service. They have been trying to find some folks to take that leadership role unsuccessfully. Anna and Rich are willing to shadow new leadership this year. Ideally there should be 3 – 4 couples in that leadership position. If you have an inclination to be a leader for this event that has been going on for a long time, the office can put you in touch with Anna and Rich. If no one comes forward within the next two weeks, the Thanksgiving Community Dinner will not be able to take place here this year, since basic organization needs to begin in September.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is available to any person seeking full membership into the Catholic Church. Each year adults, youth, and children who want to join the Catholic Church from a different faith tradition or finish their sacramental initiation. They come together to learn about the church through prayer, catechesis and liturgy. It is an initiation process for: • Adults who have never been baptized • Adults who have been baptized but have not completed initiation sacraments of Eucharist and/or confirmation • Adults who have been baptized in another tradition and wish to become Roman Catholic • Children over the age of 7 who have not been baptized We begin the process in mid- September with Inquiry (asking questions). Please call me Fr. Steve at 320-763-5781.

Continued on Page 2...

Readings for the Week of Sept. 4th

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11
Friday: Mi 5:1-4a; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday: Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass Server: Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri., - **Tom Kretschmer**

Monday No daily mass
Tuesday 5:00 PM +Stephen Bartos
Wednesday 8:30 AM +Rita Gasperlin
Thursday 7:00 AM +Michael Strasser
1:30 PM @ Knute Nelson +Bernie Bitzan
Friday 8:30 AM +Dave Slattery
Saturday 5:00 PM +Alica Ahmann
Sunday 8:00 AM For the Parish
10:00 AM ++John & Leona Schmitz

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday at 4 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (room behind presider's chair; also has a separate entry)

Celebration of Baptism: All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course before their child's baptism. Sign up by calling the Parish Office. The next course will be offered on Sept. 12th at 7 PM.

Baptism Dates: Sept. 9th & 17th, Oct 1st, 7th, 15th, Nov. 5th, 11th, 19th. To schedule a baptism on one of these dates, please call the Parish Office.

Preparation for Marriage: Members of the parish (or children of members) must arrange for marriage at least 6 months in advance. Information can be received from the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick: is held on the first Sunday of the month, immediately following the 8 AM Mass. Those who wish to be anointed are asked to come to the front of the church.

New members - to register please stop by our hospitality desk located in the Commons Area of the church or visit our website to complete the registration online.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

September 9th & 10th

SATURDAY 5 PM MASS

Greeters Team 2 –Alice Larson, Jane Johnson, Katie & Daniel Trombley

Ushers Team 2-Henry Wessel, David Sternquist, Tom Lynch, Loren Larson, Mark Johnson, Steven Takle, Roy Nodsle

Extraordinary Ministers Team 2

Lector 1 Kimberly Rose

Lector 2 Velma Yatskis

Servers Nicholas Olson & Anthony Olson

SUNDAY 8 AM MASS

Greeters Team 6 B – Mary & Tony Strasser, Bridget Tvrdik, Gretchen Tvrdik, Richard & Suzanne Sudmeier

Ushers Team 6 – Tom Haase, Don Thoennes, Mike Savageau, Ritchie Spindler, Kevin Becker, Arnold Ebert, David Close

Extraordinary Ministers Team 6

Lector 1 Jim Boisclair

Lector 2 Payton Olson

Servers Joshua Kietzmann & Ashton Schlosser

SUNDAY 10 AM MASS

Greeters Team 10 B – Carol Mayer, LeRoy & Melissa Bitzan, Patricia Finnestad

Ushers Team 10 –Dick Woelfel, Josh Brummond, Doug Houska, Glen Klimek, Clarence Wolf, Austin Klimek, Frank Klimek

Extraordinary Ministers Team 10

Lector 1 Megan Bristow

Lector 2 Florian Ledermann

Servers Thomas Klecker & Henry Klecker

Drivers –September 10th

Bethel Manor –Pete Olmscheid

Windmill Ponds –Randy Meyer

Arabella Manor –Laurel Linder

Grand Arbor – John Hovel & Ron Boyden

Hospital/Nursing Home –September 10th

Hospital –Melanie Boesen

Knute Nelson/Nelson Gables – Dennis & Julie Barnack

Bethany –Jim Korkowski

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME EM'S – We will be working on the schedule for Oct. – Dec. If you have any dates you are not available please call or email the Parish Office with that information by Sept. 15th.

BAPTISM – Nora Clara child of Thomas & Megan Larsen

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Tuesday evenings in the Great Hall immediately following the 5 PM mass. Call Mike at 759-1911 for more info.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Thursday mornings in the Commons Area of the church at 6:00 AM. Call Mike at 759-1911 for more info.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - *Please join us* when we begin the fascinating, in-depth study "**Peter: Cornerstone of Catholicism**". Come learn about this stubborn and impulsive fisherman who becomes the "rock" upon which Jesus built His Church. This series is **perfect for both the beginner and seasoned studier!** It is a ten-part study and will be offered at two different times (Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings) Begins Saturday Sept. 16th (8-10 a.m.) and Sunday Sept. 17th (6:30-8:30 p.m.) To enroll or receive more information call Lori 320-808-1145 or Tammy 320-808-6404 or email biblestudywomen@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S PRAYER LINK: If you have a prayer request, please send to Wosepkak@aol.com or phone Kelly Wosepka at 320-815-4655. You may also call Julie Desautels at 846-1842. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Rosary: Sundays (before Mass) 7:35 AM & 9:35 AM

Holy Spirit Prayer Group: Thursdays 5:30-6:00 PM (rosary in Commons Area) 6-7 PM prayer time in the Chapel Contact Jim Joerger 834-2945

Divine Mercy Hour: Mondays from 3-4 PM Contact Barb Nei at 846-0022.

Sanctity of Life Prayer Group: Meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 PM. Contact Louise Revering at 762-8632.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Mary's is open Monday through Friday from the early morning until late in the evening, with several perpetual hours of operation. The following times we would like another person to be with someone who already has volunteered. Mon – 4-5 am; Tues – 7-8 am; Wed – 4-5 am, 7-8 pm, 11-midnight; Thurs – 12-1 am, 2-3 pm, 11-midnight; Fri – 12-1 am, 5-6 pm For more information, please contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006; tscamcculloch@charter.net.

THE MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION is offered by Craig Hamilton, an experienced, certified spiritual director and parishioner. For an appointment or more information call 612-237-3463 or email craighamilton@careofsouls.org.



Interested in becoming Catholic, or returning to the church? Call Fr. Steve at 320-763-5781. Our process of becoming Catholic begins mid-September. He would be happy to visit with you.

PRAYER CORNER

If you or someone you know in our parish community is sick or ill or has a family member who could use our prayers, please call our Parish Nurse, Kathy Fischer, at 762-2320. Please remember the following people in your prayers: Lori Thorson, Ruth Partington, Ron Hoffman, Chris Ficene, Emily Stark, Ken Judson, Betty Schlosser, Robert Weiland, Butch (Bruce) Schmidt, Jim Rutten, Nancy Westhoff, Irma Moriarty, Harold Grundman, Scott Addy, Gretchen Rivers, Susan Johnson, Joyce Shea, Carol Furth, Marvin Anderley, Ben Vanderheiden, Ronald Decker and Kathryn Vieaux.

Fr. Steve's article continued...About the Catholic Advocacy Network: Last October on "Life and Dignity Sunday," we were all invited to sign up to receive emails from the **Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC)** concerning upcoming legislative action that can use your voice as members of the Catholic Community. Advocacy is part of social justice, being a voice for those who have no voice. Some people said that they have not received any emails from MCC, even though they signed up to receive them. Keep in mind that you will not receive a lot of them when there is no working session...and they are sent when we need to know something upon which we are invited to add our voices. Here are some things to check if you have not received any: 1) Check to see if you are receiving emails from the **Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN)**. MCC emails come to us under the heading of CAN...NOT the MCC. 2) Check your spam folder. Sometimes the MCC emails get tucked into the spam mail category. 3) If you have run the above checks and still cannot locate MCC or CAN email, send a note to Bernie Cullen (our ambassador) at bmbjc2@gctel.net and he will follow up on this for you.

We are taking registrations for the tour I am organizing for **Sicily and Malta May 7-17**. There are brochures on the display in the Commons Area. We go not just for ruins and churches, but also experiences-wine tastings, food sampling and more. Take a brochure.

AID FOR SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS: We are aware of the devastation in this region. The Bishop has asked us to help with relief efforts by contributing to Catholic Charities USA, who provides direct assistance immediately and in the relocation/rebuilding process. On Sept 10th weekend we will tithe 10% of our plate offering to this cause. We as a parish tithe for special needs such as this. Your generosity helps us be able to do this. Thank you. Fr. Steve

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO Sunday, September 3rd at 7:00 PM & Wednesday, September 6th at 2:00 PM at the KC Hall on 6th Ave E. & Nokomis. Team 1 Gary Gruber, Gary Boesen, Jorge Ramos, John Boesen and David Hartman will be in charge.

PLEASE NOTE: A family of our parish is in need of help with occasional meals brought to their home. The following dates are available Oct. 5, 17, 19, & 26. Please call Kathy at 762-2320 by Sept. 22 if you are able to volunteer on any of these dates or for more information.

SANCTITY OF LIFE MOMENT:



Visit St. Mary's Sanctity of Life online, at <http://sanctityoflifestm.org/> for more information and resources.

ST. MARY'S FALL RUMMAGE SALE – Mark your calendar, our fall rummage sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16th from 8 AM until 11 AM. Sale items and paper bags may be dropped off at the school on Friday, Sept. 15th from 4-7 PM. We are trying to go Green this year, so please bring your canvas bags for shopping. **NO ELECTRONICS PLEASE!** Help will be needed on Friday to set up and on Saturday for the sale. Please contact Carol at 815-1208 if you are able to help.



THANK YOU: Florence Hvezda, Kathy Thoennes and Team 2 for serving Richard Stark's funeral luncheon. Mary Larson, Mary Strasser and Team 7 for serving Jimmy Chan's funeral luncheon. Arlene Larson and Team 4 for serving Rita Fehrman's funeral luncheon.

SAVE A MARRIAGE. Are you or someone you know living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouvaille can help. The next program starts Sept. 22, 2017 @ Country Inn & Suites in St. Cloud, MN. Call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information. Preregistration is required. Space is limited.

WE ARE MOMNIPOTENT. Join us for a young women's Bible Study/Book Club! Our group meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Youth Room at the YMCA. Children are welcome as childcare is available. Our first book starts on Sept. 15th. Call Michaela at 320-219-3852 for details.

FR. DARIN DIDIER 11th ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1420 7th Street N, Fargo, invites you to attend the 11th Annual Fr. Darin Didier Memorial Mass on Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day) at 5:20 p.m. For more info, call the parish office at 701-232-5900. Father Didier was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fargo on June 4, 2005, and served as parochial vicar at Holy Spirit Church until his death on September 6, 2005. For more info on Fr. Didier, please visit the website: www.fatherdarin.com

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – is looking for a new leader. Jean Skarda is stepping down and is searching for a volunteer to take her place. If you are interested in leading this wonderful ministry, please call Jean at 762-7729.

FAITHFULLY FIT FOREVER

What: An exercise program with a focus on body, mind, and spirit.
Who: Designed for all ages
When: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-10:00 AM
Where: Great Hall No registration – free of charge
Session includes: 40 min. exercise, warm-up & cool-down, 10 min. health education & 10 min. faith and devotion
Questions call Kathy at 763-5781. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 19th.



**BLOCK PARTY – Sunday, Sept. 10th
WANTED**

Silent Auction Items for Baskets – Need some ideas? Use of a boat or guided trip, Use of a cabin or motorhome, Tickets for sporting event or music event, Labor for painting, gardening, cooking or cleaning. Additional ideas can be found on theme basket idea sheets in the Great Hall. Baskets are also available in the Great Hall if you need them. If you have items to donate to be made into baskets, please call Jackie at 218-849-1311 or Michelle at 320-760-9081.

The Country Store is also looking for donations of plants and produce to be sold the day of the Block Party. The Spin for Sweets (formerly the cake walk) will have other goodies besides cakes. Dig out your Favorite recipes and help us have a great selection of goodies for the Spin for Sweets. You can bring them to the Runestone Community Center on Saturday Sept 9th.

Our annual Community Block Party would not be such a success without your help! Signing up for one of the many volunteer slots is a great way to help, meet some new people and bring a smile to other people from our community. Please consider this opportunity and add your name to the hundreds of other parishioners on the volunteer signup posters in the Commons area of our church building.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives



YOU MAY BE GETTING OLDER, BUT ARE YOU AS WISE AS YOU COULD BE? AGE SMARTER! COME TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING CLASS THAT WILL :

- Help you make and maintain small but impactful changes in your health behaviors, financial wellbeing and enrichment in later life
- Get rewards for attending and taking small steps that can improve your overall well-being.
- Meet people, provide support and encouragement to your peers, learn of opportunities and how to be involved in your community.
- Hear the latest from expert speakers on Navigating a longer life, Healthy relationships, Exercise for you, Fall Prevention, Sleep, Medication management, Eating and Hydration, Financial Fitness, Advanced planning community engagement and Intergenerational Connections

The program will meet every THURSDAY starting on SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria. (605 Douglas St. in Alexandria) from 5:15 to 6:45 on September 7,14,21,28 and Oct 5. \$20 registration fee, includes materials and snacks for all FIVE classes. **Register through Alexandria Community Education 320-762-3310 ext 4272.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

email: stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org
Phone: 763-9202



<u>Class Schedule</u>	
<u>Sunday School:</u>	October 1, 9:50 – 11:00 AM
<u>Grades 1-5:</u>	September 20, 3:45 – 4:30 PM
<u>Grades 6-12:</u>	September 27, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Registration forms for the upcoming Religious Education year have been mailed out! If you have a child age 4 thru Grade 12 and have not received the mailing, please call our office at 763-9202 to let us know.

Come Join us for Sunday School!!

Back to school time is upon us! Don't forget Sunday school! This is a fun, faith-filled learning opportunity at St. Mary's for **kindergarten-aged children and four year olds**. We meet Sunday mornings during the 10:00 Mass and learn about Jesus, his Holy Family, the sacraments of Eucharist and baptism, liturgical seasons, and much more. Each lesson includes a bible story, prayer, crafts, and music. **For more information contact the Religious Ed. office at 763-9202.**



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School educates the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment.

Email: stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org

Phone: 320-763-5861

Fax: 320-763-7992



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Dear Parishioners,

On Tuesday we will begin another school year. Our enrollment is 199 students. Grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 5 have double sections; and we have added 20 new families and three new staff members to our school family.

The new staff members are Jerry Witt, Beth Engstrom, and Margaret Martin. Jerry is our new phy-ed teacher and Beth and Margaret will be paraprofessionals supporting the students in our Kid Kare program.

We have been very blessed to fill our vacant positions with highly qualified people. Their new ideas and enthusiasm will blend well with the rest of our remarkable staff.

The children, parents, and staff are excited to get this school year started. We welcome all the new faces to our school and look forward to a great year.

Mr. Sladek

Please contact Mr. Sladek at 763-5861 if interested in helping out.

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of people to help with lunch at St. Mary's School. The time commitment is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Volunteers are asked to help for the whole week; but, if there is a day you can't make it, we have a list of substitutes to call.

Duties include cleaning and cutting fruits and vegetables and assisting with serving the lunch to students.

If you enjoy working in the kitchen and have the time to give, please consider helping us!

Call Mrs. Flaten in the School Office if you have any questions or to schedule your week!

Thank you!
Mr. Sladek

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2017

August 27	Bob Davidson, Alexandria \$35
August 28	Bob Barnes, Johnston, IA \$20
August 29	Alexandra Tierney, Lenexa, KS \$20
August 30	Mary Bakker, Alexandria \$20
August 31	Megan Pesta, Alexandria \$20
September 1	Pat Finnestad, Alexandria \$100
September 2	Sara Stroot, St. Cloud \$20

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Parent / Teacher Meetings are on Tuesday, September 12. Grades K-2 are at 6:30 p.m. and Grades 3-6 at 7:15.

First School Mass is Friday, September 15.

FOLLOWING CHRIST

If you've ever had an unpleasant but somewhat amusing practical joke played on you, then you have some understanding of how Jeremiah feels today when he tells God "good one—you duped me." We can almost see him shaking his head with a bit of a rueful smile, but an angry undertone in his voice. In similar fashion, Peter thinks Jesus is "duping" him when Jesus starts to explain that being Messiah means suffering and dying, and being a follower of the Messiah means taking up a cross and doing the same. Jeremiah tries to deny God's will for him by trying to shut up; Peter—who has just been made the foundation of the church—out and out denies the teaching of Jesus, for which he is named "Satan" today. Fortunately for us, Jeremiah comes to realize that to have the word of God placed in your heart means that it will be futile to try and keep silent, even if it means scorn and derision from those around you. Luckily Peter ultimately returned to the faith he professed in last week's Gospel, and came to understand our need as baptized followers of Christ to follow in his way, even when it means following him to our very death.

LITURGICAL & MUSICAL NOTES

Does God want us to be happy?

Does God want us to be happy? How could anyone answer 'no'?

How could anyone suppose God is loving if it is not true that he wants us to be happy?

And yet look at Christ's line in the Gospel Reading. Deny yourself, Jesus tells his faithful followers; take up your cross and follow me.

Denying yourself seems the opposite of going for happiness, doesn't it? And the cross is an instrument of torture. Why would God want these things for his people? Does God want us to be *unhappy*?

A man divorcing his dowdy wife to marry a much younger, prettier woman explained his decision to his devastated wife this way: "God wants me to be happy," he told her, "and I can't be happy with *you*. I *will* be happy with her."

It seems never to have crossed the mind of this man that God might have any care for the happiness of his wife. As far as his wife was concerned, the husband's full view of the matter could be put this way: "God wants *me* to be happy, but God doesn't give a damn about *you*."

This little story is common in its selfishness. But we should not let our familiarity with its callous disregard for the suffering of others blind us. Whether it is these familiar evils or the terrible shocking evils we see in the news, these evils show us the sickness of the post-fall human condition. We are willing to privilege our own power or pleasure over any greater goods, even at the cost of cruelty to others.

We can't be happy in *this* condition. **No one can be happy whose heart has deep within it a willingness to crush others to get what he wants.**

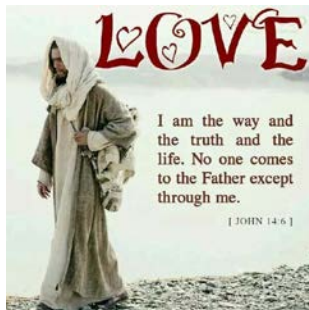
Well, then, what is to be done with us? What *will* make us happy? What will save us from the evil that infects us and leaves us so willing to afflict others?

This is where Christ's cross comes into the story. Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (Jn 14:6) The cross of Christ is our only route to the happiness God does want for us.

Taking up our cross with Christ is healing for our sinful condition. It is the way to life, and to true joy.

Eleonore Stump

Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University
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FINANCIAL GIFTS

Collections for the Weekend of 08/27/2017

	Actual	Budgeted
Sunday Envelope	\$38,140.10	\$29,941.88
Loose	\$ 2,981.64	\$ 2,115.38
Sunday Children	\$ 15.00	\$ 115.38

A more detailed report may be viewed at the Parish Office.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Steve Binsfeld 763-5781

Parish Business Administrator

Todd Wentworth 763-5781

Director of Music and Liturgy

Laurie Youngers 763-5781

Parish Nurse

Kathy Fischer 762-2320

School Principal & Elem. Religious Ed

Troy Sladek 763-5861

Logistics Coordinator

Laurie Bienias 763-9202

Coordinator of Youth Ministries & Confirmation

Gina Pohlen 763-9202

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Parish Trustees

Elmer Kobbermann 834-3103

Francie Peterson 320-360-0325

Pastoral Council President

Tammy Huss 808-6404

Finance Committee

Mike Dolan 763-4705

Board of Education

Francie Peterson 320-360-0325

Liturgy Committee

Laurie Youngers 763-5781

Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Tammy Boushek 760-5405

Parish Life Committee

Verna Winter 507-329-0135

Cemetery Committee

Don Skrove 320-760-4454

CARING & SHARING ROOM

320-760-8084

PASTORAL COUNCIL

President: Steve Russell

Vice President: Mike Sponsler

Secretary: Sonya Skinner

Megan Bristow, Tammy Huss, Dan Hillback, Dawn Houska, Mary Jane Reif, Tabatha Odens .