#### <u> March 2024</u>



#### Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday in Lent/Communion

Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent/Communion

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent/Communion

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday/Communion

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday/Communion

Friday, March 29

**Good Friday** 

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday/Communion

#### Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends in Christ,

We ask for a lot of volunteers around here. We ask you to volunteer your time, your abilities and passions, your knowledge, your material wealth, and your prayers.

In January, I attended an excellent day-long workshop titled Spirit-Focused Ecclesiology 1 sponsored by our synod. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson, Academic Dean at Wartburg Seminary was an inspiring speaker. One idea (among many) which stood out to me was simply switching out the word volunteer for disciple.

Why? Here are three reasons:

Jesus has made us disciples [John 8:31-32]

A disciple follows in the way of a teacher [John 13:13-17]

A disciple has certain expectations to fulfill [John 13:34-35]

When we ask for volunteers, it implies that we are asking people to give up or sacrifice something, which makes it more about what we are doing rather than about what God is doing through us. It also implies that we have one regular life which occupies the majority of our time, and we take a little bit of that life and give it up for God.

When we ask for disciples, it implies that we are asking people who follow Jesus to take up their responsibilities and to meet the expectations of their teacher. We do not live two lives; our lives as disciples are the only lives we lead. Everything else flows from following Jesus' way of being in the world. It's a big shift for many of us, including for myself, but you'll notice me beginning to shift how I talk about our volunteerism. It will take me some time to change how I think about and express this concept, so don't feel awkward if you yourselves have a hard time with it. Following Jesus isn't about what we give up from our "normal" lives; it's about how following Jesus fills our whole lives and inspires us to contribute as a disciple in all things. Our congregation is so very grateful for the contributions you make on behalf of God's mission in this place. It is a true blessing to be together in discipleship!

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. -Galatians 6:9-10 [NRSVUE]

Pastor Amy will be on vacation from February 22 through March 9. If there is a Pastoral emergency you can contact Council President Dan Thompson at 715-384-3431 or the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org. Pastor Katie Andersen will be the church's contact during this period.

#### Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie

Rummaging for God

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging

around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter?

Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life? Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen1. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan? Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She

knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20) Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

#### Council Corner

Here is a short summary of the congregational meeting on Jan 28th . The yearly reports and budget were discussed and all were approved. A couple of highlights were some slight changes to the budget:

- Cleaning up some budget line items that are no longer used.
- Adding Benevolence to the budget. Prior to this, it was only a goal that was noted along with the yearly budget.
   We are also changing how the benevolence money is distributed out to the 5 different organizations. We will be using a fixed percentage of the general fund giving as a means of determining the amount. If you have questions on how this will work, please ask a council member.

New council representatives were elected to a 3 year term. They are: Mary Wussow, Kevin Miller and Ray White.

The other agenda item was to decide what to do with the revenue from the Belgea/Zuelke gift. After some very good discussion, it was decided to go with the council's recommendation. That is as follows:

 10% Tithe, this money is to be distributed locally, nationally and worldwide. We are establishing a small group of congregation members to investigate possible programs/uses and make a recommendation to the council.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact the church office or a council member.

- Pay off the balance of the building loan which is roughly \$64,000.
- The balance of the money is to be invested in CDs and/or money markets to earn some interest income.

Thank you to all that attended and took an active role in making decisions for our church.

#### Dan Thompson

#### 2024 Zion Lutheran Church Council

President/ Brandon Aschenbrenner
Vice President/ Brian Stroetz
Secretary/ Maryel Schoenfuss
Treasurer/ Kevin Miller
Evangelism/ Dan Thompson
Worship/ Mary Wussow
Stewardship/ Carmella Moon
Property/ Robin Curtis
Faith Formation/ Ray White
Faith Formation Youth/ Casey Dasler

#### February Baptisms



Calen Patrick Reno the son of Cammie Reno & Ethan Baity will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Calen's baptismal sponsors are Courtney & McKale Weichelt and Mitchell Guralski. Born May 22, 2023. May God bless

Calen and his family on this day.

Aurora Judith Wells and Sophia Christine Meyer. Aurora is the daughter of Dakota & Brittany Wells. Sophia is the daughter of Benjamin Meyer and Brittany Wells. Both girls will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Aurora's baptismal sponsors are Jessica Leonhard and Kyle Wells. Born June 5, 2023. Sophia's baptismal sponsors are Chelsea Porter and Jason Goldbach. Born March 20, 2015. May God bless Aurora and Sophia and their families on this day.

#### Lenten Worship Services

March 6, 2024, Wednesday

5:30 pm Worship Service

6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich (Congregational members hosting)

March 13, 2024, Wednesday

5:30 pm Worship Service

6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich (Council hosting)

March 20, 2024, Wednesday

5:30 pm Worship Service

6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich (Property Team hosting)

March 28, 2024, Thursday

5:30 Maundy Thursday Worship Service / Communion

March 29, 2024, Friday

5:30 pm Good Friday Worship Service

March 31, 2024

7 am and 9 am Easter Sunday Worship Service/ Communion

#### New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday will be held on **April 21st**If you or others you know wish to receive a membership to Zion
Lutheran Church please contact the church office at 715-687-4110
or office@zionstratford.org.

#### Easter Flowers

Lilies will be used to brighten our sanctuary for Easter. They may be given in honor or the memory of family and friends. Lilies may be taken home following worship on Easter. An



Easter tulip or crocus flower can be purchased for a homebound member. Palms will be used on Palm Sunday and donations to cover the cost of the palms are appreciated. Please fill out the form that can be found in the back church. Return it to the church office or with the Sunday collection with your payment. The deadline for the forms is March 24<sup>th</sup>. You can also call or email the church office to sign up. 715-687-4110 / office@zionstratford.org. Thank you.

#### March's Faith Journey

#### Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study will be each Tuesday morning. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.

#### Tuesday Morning Bible Study Schedule 2024 (10 am)

Date	Topic & Scripture Notes
March 5, 2024	No Bible Study
	Pastor Amy is on vacation
March 12, 2024	Prodigal Son
	Luke 15:11-32
March 19, 2024	The Beatitudes
	Matthew 5:1-16
March 26, 2024	No Bible Study
	Holy Week



Christian Youth Education Programs.

Continue to pray for all the children and leaders as they continue their faith journey.

Little Lutherans/J-Team
March 13,2024
Beatitudes
March 27,2024
Upper Room

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on the Bible this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from **3:15-5:15 p.m.** 

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <a href="https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/">https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/</a>

#### Confirmation

Confirmation students are required to attend the Lenten midweek services. Each student has selected a Mentor during the Lenten season. Mentor and confirmation students will meet twice to have discussion regarding their Lenten journey.

Thank you to all of the people who agreed to Mentor the youth here at

Zion during the Lenten season.

Class runs from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Confirmation students are required to participate in all CORE classes. Elective classes are selected by the student. Sermon notes and activity verification are required throughout the year and should be returned to the office or dropped in the basket in the narthex or on the information table in the lobby. Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information available at:

https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/.

#### Disciples For Christ

Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

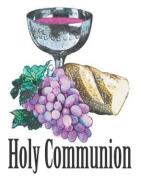
Faith Statement and Preparing for Affirmation of Baptism

Book: My Beliefs Pages 29-32

Book: Saying Yes pages 33-36

Book: Life Beyond Confirmation pages 45-48

# May 5, 2024 Affirmation of Baptism will be during the 9 am Worship Service.



#### First Communion Class

Looking for anyone who would be interested in taking the First Communion class on **April 7th** following the 9 am worship. First Communion would be held on **April 14th**. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org and we will get you signed up for the class.



### Supporting Ministries

#### Simply Giving

Your congregation works hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities all year long.

Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can "set it and forget it" when it

comes to donating to Zion's ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you.

Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.

#### Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being good stewards (managers) of God's gracious provision to fuel Jesus' ministry.

January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024:

• General Offering Received \$ 8,985.50

Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$12,997.83

• Giving vs. Expense Deficit \$ 4,012.33

Undesignated Cash Balance (1/31/24)

\$ 2,789.98

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

#### **Building Update 2024**

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 10,109.74
Total monthly interest payments	\$ 740.26
Balance of loan as of 01/26/2024	\$ 64,395.27

#### Partners Bank

Building checking acct. balance as of **02/05/2024** \$5,478.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
12/01 & 12/15	\$71,627.07	\$3,100.00	\$213.69	\$2,886.31	\$68,741.07
12/29	\$68,741.07	\$1,500.00	\$103.58	\$1,446.42	\$67,294.65
01/12 & 01/26	\$67,294.65	\$3,100.00	\$200.62	\$2,899.38	\$64,395.27



Zion has a group of people who serve as disciples in prayer that pray for all prayer requests the church receives. If you would be interested in becoming a disciple in prayer please contact the church office and you will be added to the group. Group members receive all prayer requests by email. Contact the church office for all prayer

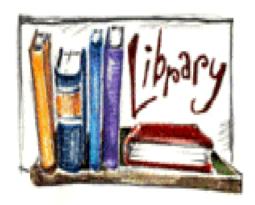
requests. <u>office@zionstratford.org</u> or 715-687-4110. Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the website? .https://zionstratford.org/prayer.

#### Evangelism

The Evangelism team would like to send cards to individuals or families who are hospitalized or have experienced a loss in their family. If you have someone that you wish for the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.

#### **Fellowship**

Join us each Sunday following worship for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa fellowship. It is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, family, and other members of your congregation. Often, there are tasty treats to enjoy as well. Consider hosting a fellowship for your fellow members, it is as easy as signing up. If you have never hosted a fellowship, no worries! Several people are willing to help you out with making coffee and setting up. Let the office know and those arrangements will be made.



The following books were purchased for the Zion Library in 2023. They will be featured in the library in January.

- 1. The Mitten by JanBrett
- 2. God Gave Us Love by Lisa Tawn Bergren; art by Laura J. Bryant
- 3. **Discovering Life in the Tree** by Petra Bartikova and Magdalenda Takacova
- 4. The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron
- 5. Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
- 6. Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God by Eric Metaxas.
- 7. The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- 8. Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

#### Christ in Our Home

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for April, May, and June is now available in the Narthex or the information table in the church lobby.

#### Choir Rehearsal 8:00 a.m.

March 3, 10, 17 and 24 in the balcony. All are welcome to join in the musical discipleship here at Zion. Come make your voices be heard.





#### **Homebound Visits**

Several members of Zion are homebound. This makes it difficult for them to come to church and receive communion. Pastor Amy makes frequent visits to these members and encourages other members of Zion to visit their fellow members and serve communion.

Pastor Amy will walk you through how to serve home communion. Consider disciplining the homebound by taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.

#### **RaiseRight** new name for SCRIP

RaiseRight is available year-round! Each order supports Faith Formation Youth Programs such as Camp Scholarships and National Gatherings.

Thousands of gift card options are available! Some of them are in stock, and always available for pickup, and others need to be ordered. To make our orders as profitable as possible, we will be placing special orders on the 10th of every month. Log into the Raise Right app to place your order or contact Kathy in the church office and ask for information on RaiseRight. She will provide you with a phone number. This phone number can be used to call or text in your order. Once your order has arrived, you will be contacted with details on how to pick up and pay for your order! Simple as that!

Many vendors offer e-cards as well! E-cards are sent via e-mail and can be ordered anytime! No waiting! Simply place your order on the Raise Right app and contact Janet or Wendy to send the order. The e-card will arrive in minutes!

#### Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius



Worship Schedule Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as an usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister. The spring signups are now available. Sign up by March 17 for April 2024. I appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up! Brenda Huther Here

is the link for April:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B 0-47523106-april

#### Stratford Food Pantry Drive

Stratford Food Pantry would like to extend a thank you to individuals who have generously given to the Food Pantry during the summer months. There continues to be a need in the Stratford community for support from the Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider donating supplies to the Food Pantry. You can drop off donations in the lobby of the church or the Narthex here at Zion.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you need food, we are here for you! Hours are Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or by appointment. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Wieland at wieland.dandeb@gmail.com or 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

#### **Greetings from Crossways!**

Our 2023 Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16th, 2024 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah. We are excited to share a report about the ministry of 2023 as well as plans for 2024 and beyond!

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting from 10:00 AM - Noon. Light refreshments will be available. Congregations in good standing, may elect up to two individuals to have voting privileges at this meeting. Please let us know who your delegates will be by emailing info@crosswayscamps.org or completing the form below. Please RSVP by March 6th!

## Please RSVP by sending the following information to info@crosswayscamps.org:

- Name of delegate(s)
- Email address for direct contact with delegate

While we hope delegates will attend in person, we will also provide a link which will allow for remote attendance. The link will be emailed to delegates prior to the meeting.

If you or your representatives have any questions prior to the meeting, please be in touch. We look forward to sharing this time with you.

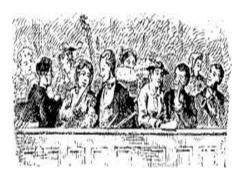
#### Technology Ministry

#### Website zionstratford.org

Look us up online at <u>zionstratford.org</u>. Zion's website is full of information at your fingertips. Weekly sermons you can listen to with a link to the scriptures of the week and attached bulletin. The events calendar can be used as a quick reference for events here at Zion. The monthly newsletter and council minutes are also available each month. The church office is taking care of loading the information, so please be patient as this is new to the office. Hope you enjoy the website of Zion Lutheran Church.

#### Council Minutes

Council minutes are available on the church website at zionstratford.org/publications. You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.





#### Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <a href="https://zionstratford.org/publications/">https://zionstratford.org/publications/</a>.

Zion Lutheran Church 213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

We're on the web!

# www.zionstratford.org

Phone: 715-687-4110 Fax: 715-687-3541 Email: office@zionstratford.org

Return Service Requested

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Pastor Amy is on vacation until March 9th					I	2 Wedding Courtney Reno & McKale Weichelt	
3 9am Worship/ Communion	4 6pm Worship Team Meeting	5	6 5:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:15pm Soup & Sandwich	7	8	9	
10 9am Worship / Communion  Daylight savings begins	11 6pm Executive Team Meeting	12 10am Bible Study 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting	13 3:15pm JTeam/Little Lutherans 5:30pm Lenten Worship Baptism Averie Foster 6:15pm S&S	14	15	16 Funeral of Patricia Tietyen Visitation 10:30 am Service 12:00 pm	
17 9am Worship/ Communion 5:30pm Disciples for Christ	18 6pm Council Meeting	19 10am Bible Study	20 5:30pm Lenten Worship 6:15pm Soup & Sandwich	21	22	23	
24 9am Palm Sunday Worship/Communion	25	26 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting	27 3:15pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans	28 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship/ Communion	29 5:30pm Good Friday Worship	30	
31 7am & 9am Easter Sunday Worship/ Communion							

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	03/03/2024 3rd Sunday of	03/06/2024	03/10/2024 4th Sunday of	03/13/2024	03/17/2023 5th Sunday of	03/20/2024	03/24/2024	3/28/2024 Maundy	3/29/2024	3/31/2024	3/31/2024	04/07/2024 2nd Sunday of
	Lent	3rd Wed of Lent		4th Wed of Lent	Lent	5th Wed of Lent	Palm Sunday	Thursday	Good Friday	Easter	Easter	Easter
Date	9:00 AM	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	5:30 PM	5:30 PM	7:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Carmella Moon	Brenda Huther	Dan Thompson		Riley Spindler		Casey Dasler	Carmella Moon		Brenda Huther	Dan Wieland	Marge Kollmansberger
Reader	Carmella Moon	Mary Wussow	Rhonda Thompson	Cooper Wiesman	June Krueger	Willie Casperson	Casey Dasler	Carmella Moon	Olivia Ballerstein	Avery White	Dan Wieland	Marge Kollmansberger
Acolytes	Reese & Reid Spindler	Reese Spindler Sierra Kreft	Ella Schultz Eleanor Smazal	Cooper Wiesman	Sierra Kreft Lily Cournoyer	Charlotte Peirce	Emmercyn & Ryleigh Schiller	Ruby Casperson Ian Maguire	Abby & Hudson Ballerstein	Dayton & Finley White	Jackson & Jevin Spindler	Avery White Brynn Wiesman
Ushers	Mary & Gary Wussow	Garrett Smazal	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Jaden Weis	Ryan & Amy Cournoyer	Brenda Huther	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Angie & Frank Guralski	Rod & Brenda Huther	Ray & Lindsay White	Rhonda Knoll Sharla Dreikosen	Brian & Darla Leick
Communion Assistants	Lois Miller Carmella Moon		Dan & Rhonda Thompson Sandy Andersen		Riley Spindler June Krueger Brenda Garrigan		Casey Dasler Wendy Spaeth Marge Kollmansberger	Carmella Moon Brenda Castellano Lois Miller		Brenda Huther Barb Wrensch Brandon Aschenbrenner	Dan & Deb Wieland Lois Miller	Marge Kollmansberger Tadd Schoenherr Angie Guralski
Basket Holder	Ellie & Turner Southwick				Jordy Spindler Archer Tews			Natalie Messerschmidt Harvey Waddell				Colton Trachte Jordy Trachte
Communion Steward	Lindsay White		Sandy Andersen		Patti Casperson		Wendy Spaeth	Deb Wieland		Deb Wieland	Deb Wieland	Lindsay White
Fellowship	Gary and Mary Wussow		Brenda Castellano	Council	Wiesman Family	Property Team	Foley Family			Easter	Easter	Pat Emon
Host	Carmella Moon - Stewardship	Brandon Aschenbrenner (Council President)	Mary Wussow (Worship)	Brian Stroetz (Council VP)	Ray White Faith Formation	Robin Curtis - Property Team	Casey Dasler Faith Formation Youth	Maryel Schoenfuss -Council Secretary	Mary Wussow - Worship	Brandon Aschenbrenner President		Maryel Schoenfuss - Council Secretary
Bell Ringer	Kevin Miller		Phil Schultz		Ryan Cournoyer		Tom Schoenherr	Frank Guralski	Brenda Huther	Ray White	Rhonda Knoll	Brian Leick
Media	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther	Marge Kollmansberger	Connor Kreft	Connor Kreft	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler	Kevin Miller	Garrett Smazal	Rod Huther	Marge Kollmansberger	Garrett Smazal
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