

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

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Holy Communion Setting Three

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- **P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire for-giveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	God, Whose Almighty Word ELW 673						
1 God, whose al - mig 2 Christ, who once cam 3 Spir - it of truth 4 Ho - ly and bles	e to bring, on your re dee h and love, life - giv - ing, ho	rk - ness heard em - ing wing, - ly dove, in - i - ty,					
and took their flight heal - ing and sight speed forth your flight Wis - dom, Love, Migh	; health to the trou-bled mi ; move on the wa-ter's fa	ay, and where the nd, sight where il - ce bear - ing the de, roll - ing in					
	now to hu - man-kind let th	ere be light. ere be light. ere be light. ere be light. ere be light.					
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GREETING

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

Kyrie

- A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEAL 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." 7But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this

one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

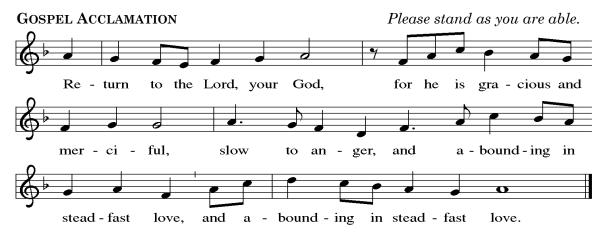
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

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

Spoken responsively



P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is

this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ..



A COMMUNAL BLESSING FOR THOSE THAT ARE ALONE

- P Forever, God is reminding us and telling us in our hearts,
- C I see you there, suffering alone,
- P with the illness or pain that lingers though friends do not or cannot. You, in isolation, locked in, or locked out.
- C You, the caregivers struggling in the certainty that there is not enough strength, time or resources. You who counsel others in their trauma but suffer deeply from your own.
- P You who are grieving losses, too many to name, too complex or unbecoming to speak aloud. Blessed are you, dear one.
- C Searching for someone to understand, see your wounds and your hope for healing.
- P You are seen, as you walk that hard and lonely road. Blessed are you because your loneliness speaks a deep truth: you were never meant to do this alone.
- C God, comfort us, guide us, that we hope for more, a prayer which will be answered, might be protected too. Amen.

SERMON

PR. GARY TESKE

HYMN OF THE DAY I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815 See page 10

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.





- P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- A Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Loving God, you care for vulnerable people across the world, especially those affected by the war in Ukraine. Provide safety and assistance for those in need. Guide families as they lose their homes and loved ones. Particularly, let us pray for the German Evangelical-Lutheran Church in the Ukraine and our partner synod of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East as they face times of conflict. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Comfort those who grieve and tend all who are sick, especially Terry Basham, Mike Jackson, Jett Horton, Peggy Buchholz, Linda Longren, Don O'Brien, and Martha Nemeth. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.

A God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the ministries of this congregation and of First Lutheran in Mission Hills, Kansas, Messiah Lutheran in Springfield, and St. Thomas-Holy Spirit Lutheran in St. Louis, Missouri. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Loving God, we pray for Carol Marker and Pam Kobbeman as they celebrate their birthdays and for Jane Lewis and Diane Bottorff as they remember their baptisms. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

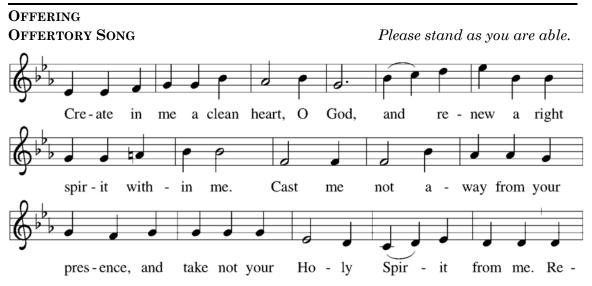
THE PEACE

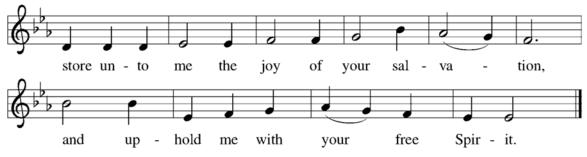
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.







OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
- C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say
- C Amen.
- P Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say
- C Amen.
- P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
- C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

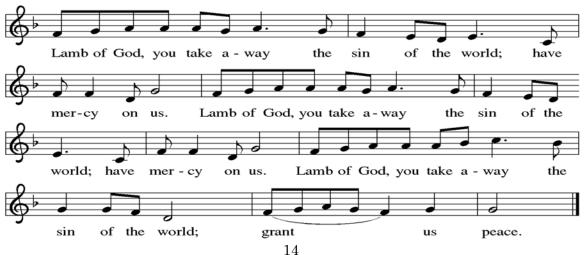
- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. Please be seated.



LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.
- C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen.

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DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Serve in love.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Welcome to worship at Trinity! Thank you for joining us for worship. We

hope that you found the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please contact the church office at 785.233.0767

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

	Worship with Holy Communion Coffee Hour	after worship
	Community Relations meeting	after worship
Tues., Mar. 21	Quilters	9:00 AM
	April Trinity Tidings deadline	
Sun., Mar. 26	Children's Sunday School	9:45 AM
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Coffee Hour	after worship

The new church directory will be printed next week. If you have any last minute changes or additions, please call, 785.233.0767, or email, *office@topekatlc.org*, the church office. Thanks.

	Worship Assistants									
Date	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Min- ister	Coffee Hosts			
Mar. 19	Diane Bottorff, Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Marcy Carlson	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Gary Teske	Marcy Carlson & Janelle Meredith			
Mar. 26	Dean McGinnis, Diane Bottorff	Mitchell Bean	Loni Reece	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Pr. Andrew Patty				

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS									
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average	Attendance/Communion			
Feb. 19	\$3,810.00	\$0.00	\$3,810.00	-\$1,653.85	\$2,156.15	29/28			
Feb. 26	\$1,980.00	\$580.00	\$2,560.00	-\$1,653.85	\$906.15	31/24			
Mar. 5	\$2,538.00	\$44.00	\$2,582.00	-\$1,653.85	\$928.15	24/23			
Mar. 12	\$2,009.00	\$77.00	\$2,086.00	-\$1,653.85	\$432.15	27/24			
			Income	Expense					
		Feb. 2023	\$8,593.36	-\$11,647.43	-\$3,054.07				
		Jan Feb.	\$23,135.16	-\$22,160.70	\$974.46				

Please make special note of April 2nd on your calendars. We have a lot going on that day.

- First, it's Palm Sunday so we will be doing "The Cry of the Whole Congregation" during worship. There are seven spoken parts in addition to the congregation. If you would like to participate as one of the readers, please let me know. (You can review the play in the Palm Sunday bulletins posted on our website.)
- Before the service begins, at approximately 10:20, we will hear a short presentation by the Gideons.
- Then after worship, we will hold a special congregational meeting to vote on the two proposed constitutional amendments that were publicized at our annual meeting and in the March Trinity Tidings. If you have any questions before the meeting, please contact Debbie Pomeroy or Diane Bottorff.

Current Doorstep Needs ~ March, 2023

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Men's Jeans (Especially Sizes 32-34) Boys & Girls Jeans (All Sizes) Deodorant Shampoo, Conditioner, & 2-in-1 (Full-size)

We have received several referrals for Impact Avenues families who have received housing, are no longer homeless, and need household items. We need the following items to continue to best help these families in their new

homes: (gently used, not new) Clean Bed Pillows Queen & Twin Sized Sheets & Comforters Bath Towels & Washcloths Small Kitchen Appliances: Hand Can Openers Toasters Coffee Pots Hand Mixers Dinnerware: Plates, Bowls, Cups & Glasses

Donations Accepted:

Monday – Friday 9am – 2pm

Use the South Door

Please do not leave donations outside our building when we are closed. It becomes a parking lot mess.

Food Room Needs:

Dry Beans Canned Milk Oatmeal Rice Spaghetti O's Macaroni & Cheese Spaghetti Hamburger Helper Powdered Milk Cold Cereal Peas Ravioli Hand Can openers Ramen Noodles

Peanut Butter Jelly Egg Noodles Boxed Pastas Canned Beans Pork N Beans Canned Fruit



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606 Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS 10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

${f T}$ ogether in Community

Living with Christ's Love

Caring for Neighbors

Together in Community

We are a faith community brought together to worship God and to be of service to the needs of the world as the Great Commandment is our guide in our lives (*Matthew 22:36-39, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:26-27*). We are a congregation that seeks to reach all those in our county with members spread throughout Topeka area, while being rooted in Historic Old Town. In our faith, we hope to be a symbol of Christ's love in the world (*John 15:12*), to be a community of support and care (*Galatians 6:2*), and to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ came to be a Savior for all people (*Colossians 1:13-14*).

Congregation Council

President Duane PomeroyVice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)Secretary Diane Bottorff (Community Relations)Shelley Andrews (Administration)Pam Kobbeman (Administration)Carol Marker (Spiritual Care)Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman