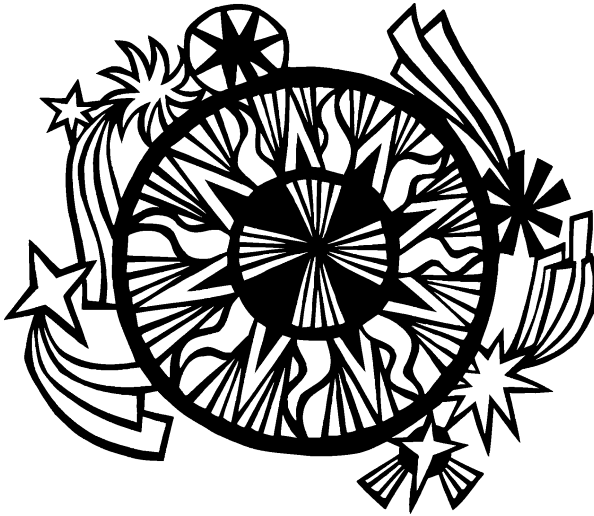


Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

Holden, Massachusetts 01520

(508) 829-4416

www.immanuelholden.org

facebook.com/immanuelholden

instagram.com/ilcholden

*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

Welcome

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

sit

Celebration Song

Love, love, love!

Love, love, love! That's what it's all about!

'Cause God loves us, we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother.

Ev'rybody sing and shout, 'cause that's what it's all about!

It's about love, love, love! It's about love, love, love!

Additional Verses:

Peace, peace, peace!

Joy, joy, joy!

Children's Chat

Marie Vogel

(young worshipers through grade 5 are invited to Children's Word)

stand

Hymn of Praise

O Word of God Incarnate

Hymn 514

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children

through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed

in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

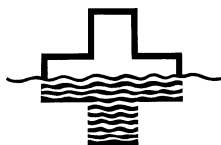
Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Hymn 510



Holy Baptism

This morning we receive Annabel Eleanore Welsh into membership in Christ's church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Annabel is being presented for baptism by her parents, Stephanie & Christofer Welsh. Her sponsors are Christina Welsh and Matthias Minderer.

Presentation

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate.

Today, we present Annabel for baptism.

Stephanie and Christofer, called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Annabel baptized into Christ?

We do.

As you bring Annabel to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Annabel grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

Christina and Matthias, do you promise to nurture Annabel in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Annabel and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The congregation joins in the following responses:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land

of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, who bids all who thirst to come and drink freely of the water of life; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Annabel Eleanore, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation responds:

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Laying on of Hands and Sealing with the Cross

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Annabel with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Annabel Eleanor, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Hymn

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Hymn 445

During this hymn, you are invited to help pass the light as we remember our own baptisms and our call to share in God's mission of love and peace. After the hymn, you can extinguish your candle, and then return it to the basket at the back of the sanctuary when the service is over.

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright & sparkling; compass them with love & light
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.
Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**

Let us give thanks to God through acclamation and applause together!

Prayers of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the
church, creation, and all who are in need.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music

Offertory Canticle *We Come to the Hungry Feast* Hymn 479 vs. 1

Offering Prayer

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

p. 152

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light, blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All is now ready! Come to the feast of joy!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All are invited to receive communion by coming to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the end, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; if you'd like one, simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

page 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,
grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns	<i>I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</i>	Hymn 815
	<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	Hymn 302

Prayer after Communion

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Hymn 671

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22711.

Reprinted under One License #A-742113. All rights reserved.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ministers – the people of Immanuel

Pastors – Pastor Sarah Barnes

203-518-0327 | pastor.sarah@immanuelholden.org

Pastor Josh Ferris

360-244-9207 | pastor.josh@immanuelholden.org

Parish Administrator – Jen Langhill (M-Th)

508-829-4416 | office@immanuelholden.org

Music Director – Claire W. Paquette | music@immanuelholden.org

Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore

Sexton – Don Roberts

Online Ministry Coordinator – Jennifer Greene

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – scheduled volunteers

Assisting Minister – Vickie Muller

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson

Acolyte – Carter Gowdy

Greeter – Joyce Kujala

Nursery Care – Sam Bardon, Emmie Leotsakos

Children's Word – Elise & Dave Cranson

Coffee Hour – Beth & Fred Borchelt

Altar Guild – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey

Counting Team – Greta & Scott Gridley

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Jan. 5: Psalm 72, Joshua 1:1-9, Hebrews 11:32-12:2 John 15:1-16

Jan. 6: *Epiphany of Our Lord*

Jan. 7: Psalm 72, 1 Kings 10:1-13, Ephesians 3:14-21

Jan. 8: Psalm 72, 1 Kings 10:14-25, Ephesians 4:7-16

Jan. 9: Psalm 72, Micah 5:2-9, Luke 13:31-35

Jan. 10: Psalm 29, 1 Samuel 7:3-17, Acts 9:19b-31

Jan. 11: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Young Family Gathering + Adult Confirmation
Monday	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom)
	6:30 pm	Monday Night Bible Study (Room 6)
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Spirituality for the Home Stretch (Choir Room)
	7:00 pm	Memorial Fund Committee (Room 6)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	CLNS Board Meeting
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class (Room 6)
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study (on Zoom)
Friday	9:00 am	Facility Management (Room 6)
Saturday	7:00 am	Men's Ministry
	10:00 am	Women's Prayer & Share (Choir Room)
Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour & Adult Forum

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Children's Word – After the Children's Chat, our young friends are invited to go with our volunteers to the gym to worship in their own way. Kids will return in time for communion.

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by members of Immanuel for members of Immanuel.

If you would like to sign up for Sunday altar flowers, please see the flower chart in Lawson Hall. Cost is now \$50 and the 2026 chart is now up!

Coffee Hour – Join us in the gym after worship for coffee, fellowship, and treats. We thank Fred and Beth Borchelt for hosting today!

Nursery Care – Nursery care is available during our 9:00am worship services (8:30-10:30am). Simply go down the stairs at the back of the sanctuary. The toddler room is on the left, where you can sign in.

Young Families Gathering – Families with young children are invited to gather after worship today for a time of fun and fellowship. Kids can play, while parents have a chance to connect with one another. Godly Play and Faith Quest return next week!

Adult Confirmation – We meet again today! Join us in Room 6 at 10:30am. For materials, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3hmjv4jc>.

2026 Giving envelopes – This year's giving envelopes are now available in Lawson Hall for all those who requested them.

Annual Meeting & Reports – Our congregation will have our Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 25 (snow date February 1). We ask our ministry leaders to submit their reports by Tuesday, January 13.

New Members – Immanuel will receive new members in worship on January 25. If you're interested in becoming a member, please reach out to one of the pastors!

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380, Passcode: scripture)

Monday Night Bible Study – The Monday “Jesus, Bible, and Pizza Study” group will gather again on the first Monday in January (1/5/26). And as usual, all are welcome.

Spirituality for the Home Stretch – Join us on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:00pm to discuss the final chapters of *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. At our gathering, we will also pick our next book. New members are always welcome, and the New Year is an especially good time to jump in!

Confirmation – We'll meet this Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00pm in Room 6 to discuss the first three commandments.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Join us on Thursdays at 10:30am on Zoom! We're discussing the book of Daniel together and would love to have you with us! Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Book Club – For the month of January, we're reading Eliot Stein's *Custodians of Wonder*. Join us for discussion on Thurs., Jan. 15 at 6:00pm.

Soup & Pie Supper – You're invited to our Soup & Pie Supper on Saturday, January 24 at 5:30p! Bring a soup and/or pie to share (more options = more deliciousness!). Sign up in Lawson Hall! All money received will be split between the Self-Care Station at Wachusett High School and food gift cards for future homeless kits assembled by our church.

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you'd like to connect with one.

The **Bethlehem Star** that hangs over our chancel this Advent/Christmas season is a memorial to Ron English, and shines as a symbol of guidance and faith, representing the star that led the Magi to the manger where Christ was born.

Homeless kits – You can grab a homeless kit – and small bags of period products – to hand out in Lawson Hall!

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer and grape juice.

Lent Devotion Booklet – If you're interested in sharing a reflection, meditation, or prayer with the congregation this Lent, we'll need all submissions in early February. More information coming soon!

We are currently collecting:

Period Products – Unscented pads and tampons of all sizes and brands, handed out at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Worcester.

Greeting Cards – New greeting cards of all kinds, which are given to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Bras - Bras in good condition of any size, color, or style, which will be given to veterans in need. Questions? Contact Mary Donev, (661) 599-2870 or mary@donev.com.

Wachusett Food Pantry – Non-perishable, unexpired food items for the Wachusett Food Pantry (serving all Wachusett Towns).

In Your Prayers this Week

This week, please lift up to God those who have requested our prayers:

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, Mary Beams, Jane Bedard, Bob, Heidi Besse, Grace Bialecki, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Ken Cameron, Kaylee Caramanica, Joy Cohen, Bonnie Colon, Becca D'Alessio, Colleen Davison, Alvina Debois, Lauren Demerjian, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Jaeger Dziama, Jim Eisenlord, Gabriella Falk, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Leah Frances-Woods, Ann Marie Grambo, Dave, Dolores Hadady, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Mackenzie Keogh, Carole Laino, Jean Lane, Ayuen Leet, Jim Legere, Meghan MacDonald, Joe Martire, James Mellor, Joanne Neal, Karen Papachristou, Francis Parretti, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Donald Shefer, Anita Slater, Wendy, Shirley Smith, Ray Smola, Maria Taylor, Will, Elaine Vetter, Donna Vilian, Liz Wilson, Jim Zelesky, Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.