

Christ Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
ELW Holy Communion, *Of the Land and Seasons*
February 20, 2022, 10:00 am
The Rev. Clifford Gerber, presiding



Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We extend God's own welcome to all, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other human distinction.

PRELUDE *The West Wind, Carolan's Draft* Traditional Irish

+ GATHERING +

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Most merciful God,
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 don't and by what we have left undone.
We have rejected your discipline.
We have avoided your pruning of our cluttered lives.
We have failed to maintain the tools of stewardship,
outreach, and witness
You have provided for the nurture of your church.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, train us, and redirect us,
So that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
To the glory of your holy name,
Amen.

"Be still, and know that I am God." During the Prelude worshippers are invited to prepare quietly for worship.

*Stand, as able.

The open font is a powerful symbol of the centrality of baptism for Christians.

HYMNS TODAY:

ELW 556
ELW 807
ELW 588

***GATHERING SONG** *Morning Has Broken* ELW 556 vv 1 and 3

***GREETING**

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.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Above the Hills the Angels Hosts* vv 1 and 2

1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts
2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,
3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing
4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,
5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,

glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to
Yet ten - der - ly God
God's own good will grants
We bow be - fore you
The Lamb of God, e -

seek the lost.
hears our cry.
sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!
as we sing.
ter - nal Word.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis

Music: THE DEVIL'S NINE QUESTIONS, Appalachian traditional

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The Prayer of the Day, formerly called the "Collect," gathers the theme of each Sunday's worship, each phrase rich in meaning.

God's living and enlivening word comes both to us and through us, proclaimed in spoken word, psalm, sermon and hymn-singing.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, our vinedresser, you train and discipline us as faithful growers do their orchards and loving parents do their children. Prune our lives of all that would cause us to be weak and unproductive, make open the way that our fruit may grow in your light, and strengthen our bond to the true vine, that we may grow in the ways of your statutes and commands, bearing fruit that is abundant and pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis ...

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

For the Psalm “Learn Your Lessons Well” from *Godspell*
Stephen Schwartz

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from First Corinthians...

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The psalms were the first hymns of the people of God and express hope and despair, trust and tribulation, anger, joy and praise.

***GRADUAL HYMN** *O God, Whose Word Well-planted v 1*

We stand to
greet our Lord
Jesus Christ as
he comes to us
in the Holy
Gospel.



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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***GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
ELW 807 vv 1 and 3

***APOSTLES CREED**

**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 congregation participates in the proclamation of God's Word in singing the Hymn of the Day, the assembly's principal song.

Lutherans celebrate the priesthood of all believers. The intercessory prayers are one way for lay persons to exercise the priestly role. Members of the assembly are encouraged to read the printed petitions, add their own intercessions, and to voice their assent in the responses.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled *especially*... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Hear, O God, the prayers on our lips.

(Worshipers are invited to voice their petitions.)

Hear, O God, the silent prayers of our hearts.

(Silence is kept for unspoken prayers.)

Let us pray. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

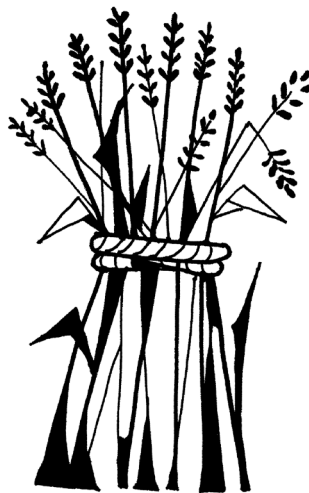
Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Much more than a polite greeting, the exchange of peace is God's answer to our prayers in the presence of the risen Christ and part of our preparation to receive him in his holy supper.

For the time being, please nod or signal to one another as a sign of peace.

+ MEAL +

Our monetary offerings are an act of worship, symbolic of our whole lives placed at the disposal of God's reign in response to God's self-giving to us in Christ Jesus.

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*, vv 1 and 3



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.

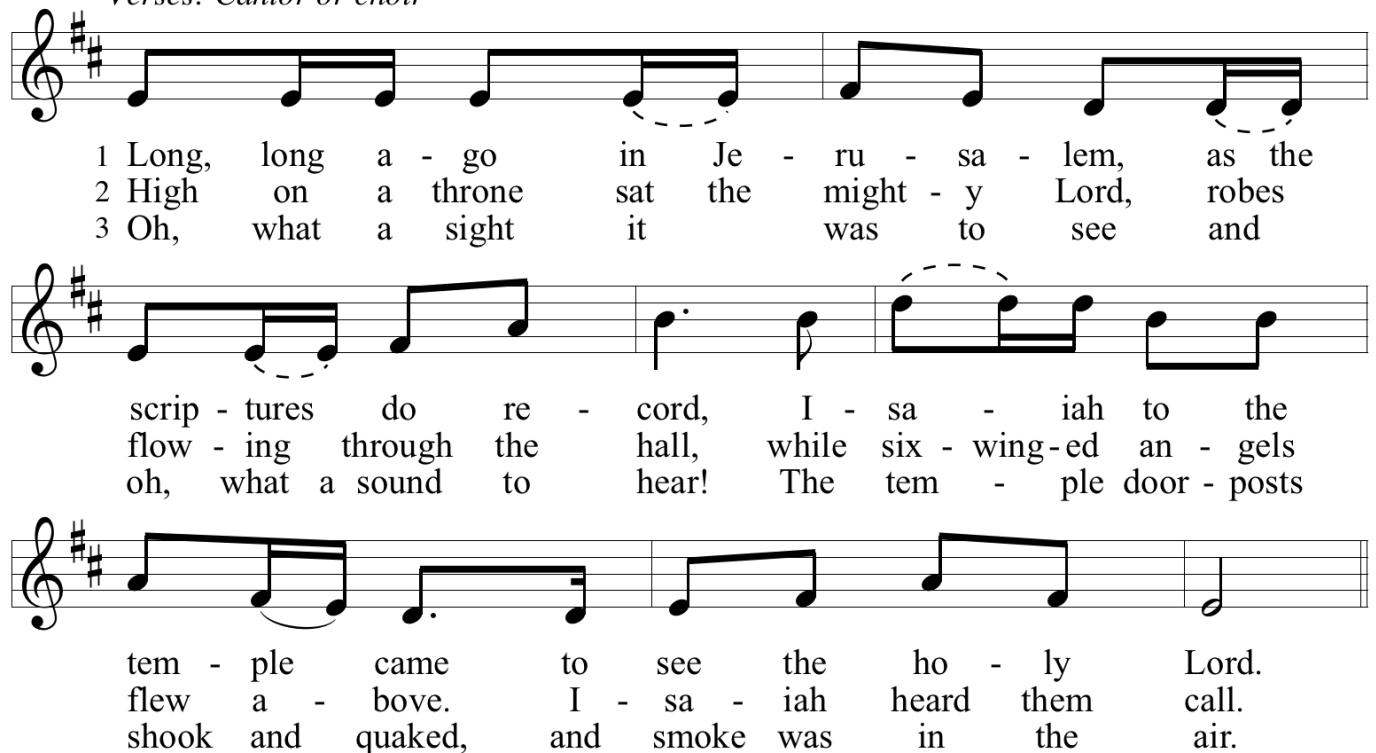
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

*SANCTUS verse 1

Long, Long Ago In Jerusalem

Verses: Cantor or choir

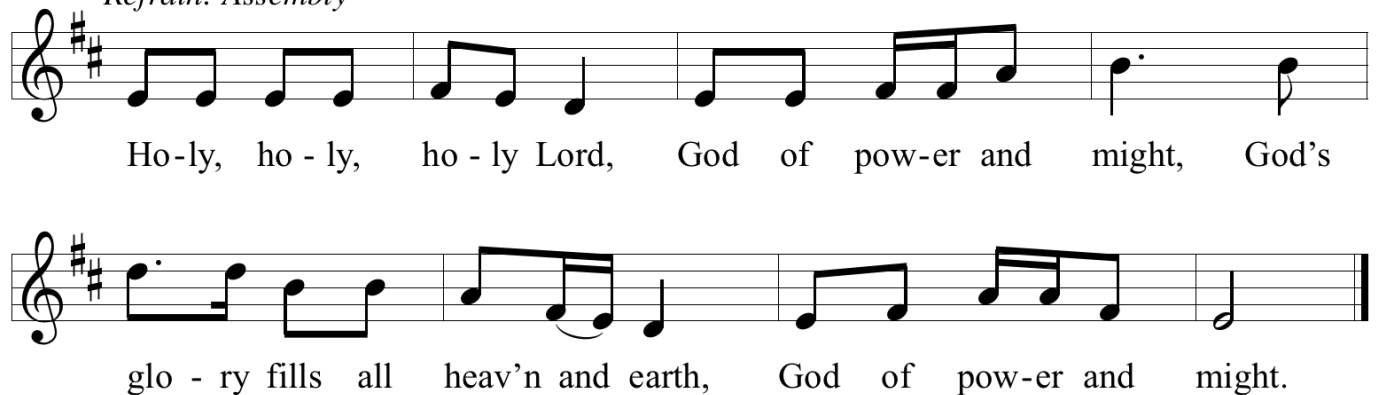


1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and

scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts

tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus

Music: SHADY GROVE, Appalachian traditional

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*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Sung or spoken, in any translation, the Lord's Prayer, which may be a pattern for all our prayers, here serves as our table prayer before we share in the Lord's Supper.

Christ Lutheran Church practices Eucharistic hospitality; all baptized Christians who trust in Christ's presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at the table where he is both host and food.

Communicants normally receive the bread in open, cupped palms (sometimes laid one over the other in the shape of the cross). Wine (light colored) or grape juice (red/purple) is offered in an individual glass.

For persons who exclude gluten from their diet, all wafers are gluten-free.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Children of the Heav'nly Father
Traditional Swedish

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

+ SENDING +

*BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
ELW 588 vv 1 and 3

*DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *Blackberry Blossom* Traditional Appalachian

“Go in peace.” The Postlude is a musical ‘sending’ that concludes the service, helping us to transition back into the wider world. Congregants are invited to stay and listen or to leave respectfully.

Please hold in prayer:

We pray for the family of Jim Gowe, Jim Aberth, Mary Kay Aberth, Anna Anderson, Kwai Lin Chan, Steven Chartier, Steven Chin, Brigitte Chisholm, James Clunie, Danny Elson, Ron Embree, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Susan Giroux, Charles Graham, Ann Hoilo, Joy Honen, Arthur Hurst, Richard Hurst, Gayle Jaffe, Adele Kasinskas, Gloria Kleinfelt, Georgie Klinger, Chui Yuk Lee, Erica Lee, Suxian Lin, Phillip Liu, Matt M, Laraine Marthinsen, John Melin, Jon Nelson, Arvind Raja, Deb Ream, Erica Rich, Shannon Ripp, Alexis Scala, Louann Smith, Jay Virshbo, Polly Weston, Shirley Wong, and Ellen Zagajeski; we pray for all who contend with addictions, all who struggle with mental illness; all who are serving in the armed forces; and all who fight COVID-19 and its lingering effects.

With Gratitude to Today's Worship Leaders:

Greeters	Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst
Assisting Minister	Joyce Simon
Reader	Gail Weston-Roberts
Communion Assistant	Lisa Chan
Tellers	Audrey Colson and Phil Roberts
Altar Guild	Phil Roberts and Hannele Saramo-Raja
Cantor	Anna Carlson
Audio Visual Team:	Comlanvi Agbodjinou, Alan Avalos, Rolf Larson, Phil Roberts, Juliet Seaberg

Today's Musicians:	Anna and Scott Carlson, guitars
	Frank Miller, accordion
	Jim Nail, guitar
	Kathy Sheperd, violin

Upcoming Commemorations

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

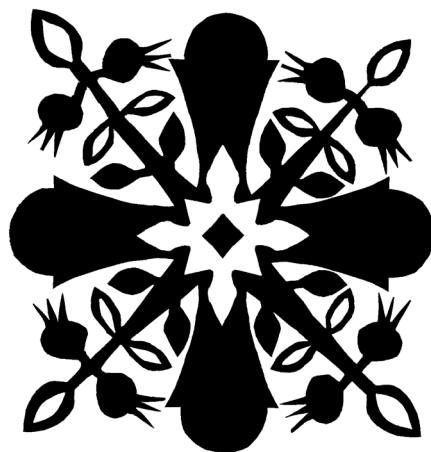
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Friday, February 25, 2022

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.



Christ Lutheran Church

www.christnatick.org

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The Rev David Hulse, Interim Pastor

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

Kim Petot, Bell Choir Director

Leaders of the Congregation

Frank Miller, Financial Secretary

Celeste Larson, Social Justice

Phil Roberts, Worship, Music, and the Visual Arts

Carol Virshbo, Professional Leadership

Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst, Family Promise

Edie Lohr, Altar Guild

Lisa Chan, Card Ministry

Carol Virshbo, Coffee Hour

John Whitlock, Finance and Property

Amy Lousararian, Endowment

George Hall, Stewardship

Diane Stevens, Visitation

Congregation Council

Mary Avalos (2024), President

Edie Lohr (2022), Treasurer

David Ripp (2022), Vice President

Ellen Zagajski (2022), Secretary

John Whitlock (2022)

Pamela Bathen (2023)

Patricia Bianco (2023)

Martha Cronin (2023)

Hannele Saramo-Raja (2023)

Anna Carlson (2024)

Elinor Holm (2024)



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