



Vol. 61, No. 10

December 2016/January 2017

ADVENT

*Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;
He is just and having salvation!*

“HE IS COMING!” Such is the message of Advent. This does not mean that someone is coming from anywhere within our world but that Someone is coming from beyond our world and entering our time and space, yea, even our very human nature, to help us in our need. And that Someone who is coming is no one less than God Himself!

The Advent cry “He is coming!” is, however, not a mere empty promise of a future event but the announcement of an already present reality, a reality which God already began in the past. We dare not, however, speak of God’s coming as if it were merely a bygone event; He is at the present time still coming to us. Yet He does not exhaust Himself in the present but will reveal Himself to us also in the future.

The church has attempted to express this entirely unique, supratemporal coming of her Lord by speaking of His threefold Advent. (1) He has come! The One whom God promised to His people actually appeared in history and has permanently united Himself to our human nature. (2) He is coming! Even today He continues to come unto us with all of His grace and favor through His Word and Sacraments. (3) He shall come! His tremendous majesty shall be revealed at the end of time. He whom the world nailed to the cross shall confront His rebellious creatures as their Savior-Judge. He is

already now secretly and invisibly present in the world, ever since His resurrection from the dead and His exaltation to the right hand of God’s power. Soon, however, He will break through the orders of creation and make us fully understand what He means when He says: “I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.”

If we are to meet Him who comes thus, we must repent and allow ourselves to be admonished by His forerunner, John the Baptist, to approach His crib and the approaching celebration of His incarnation with repentance. That is why an earnest violet is the liturgical color for Advent, preceding the white of Christmas and Epiphany (which symbolizes the manifestation of Christ’s glorious light). In keeping with the tone of repentance the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted from the liturgy during Advent. In many places no flowers are placed on or about the altar. Certainly, except for rehearsal purposes, Christmas hymns and carols are not sung until Christmas Eve. A fine Advent custom is that of preparing an Advent wreath with its four candles; one candle is lighted before the reading of the Old Testament lesson in the service during the first week in Advent, two during the second week, and so forth until during the fourth week all four candles burn in anticipation of “the fullness of time” when the incarnation is celebrated.

Source credit: LCSM Worship Commission of 1961

Peace to you in this blessed season

**ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 2016-2017**

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday December 7
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Third Sunday in Advent - December 11
Matins Service – 9:00 a.m.
School Choir sings

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday, December 14
Jr. Kindergarten - 8th grade will confess the faith through song.
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent - December 18
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday December 21
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24
Lessons and Carols – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25
The Nativity of our Lord-Divine Service – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31
Service of Corporate Confession and Holy Absolution - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany – Friday, January 6
Service – 7:00 p.m.

**Regular worship services are held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
*Midweek Chapel is held on Wednesdays at 8:35a throughout the school year.
All are welcome to attend.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



Grace LWML Mission Statement

“Our mission is to encourage the women of Grace to grow spiritually through Word and Sacraments that they may serve our Triune God with their time, talents and treasures.”

“Serve the Lord

with Gladness”

December 18, 2016 – Grace LWML Annual Luncheon

(see information separate page)



Circle Bible Study

Will not meet in December, 2016

Watch Church Bulletin for January Study



2016-2018

Mission Grants

14. Operation Barnabus for
Comfort Dogs
LCMS Office of
National Missions

\$2,090



Save your mites

Upcoming Dates:

January 24, 2017 – Mission Project Work Day
1:00 pm Dolores Keim's home



GLC LWML Luncheon

Sunday, December 18, 2016
12:00 Noon – Grace Parish Hall

Everyone Welcome! Men, Women, Children
Grace Members - Grace School Families - Friends
No Sign-up, just come!

Bring a salad or hot dish (beverages, rolls & dessert provided)

Monetary Love gift:

Kenya Missionaries Pastor and Jan Froh



MESSAGES FROM MATONGO

VOLUME 4 THANKSGIVING
EDITION 2016



NEWS OF JANET & CHARLES FROH SERVING CHRIST IN KENYA Charlie.froh@lcmsintl.org



In this Issue:

WE OFFER OUR THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD FOR YOUR PRAYERS, SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Ever wonder what your monthly contributions do when sent to the Froh family through LCMS and Mission Central? The biggest line item, other than helping pay for our transportation to and from Kenya and purchasing books for the students, is the vehicle referred to as **"The Tank"** (The loan through synod is about \$10,000 a year/ 100,000 Kenya Schillings; most expensive vehicle ever bought in the Froh household and it was 8 years old when first purchased!) Below you see how this has been a wonderful addition to our ministry at Neema Lutheran Theological College. This past month "The Tank" made trips into Kisumu to pick up visitors, get medical supplies for Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva's deaconess training; took students to teach worship seminars at various ELCK parishes where the students' voices brought the joy of singing the liturgy and hymns in Ibada Takatifu; finally, many hospital runs made and yes, even for Jan just this past week! Being on "fixed income" and volunteers working without salary, we could not do what we have been tasked to do without the generous contributions from congregations and the regular monthly gifts from so many of you. **We thank you and we give thanks to God for you;** without you we would be unable to continue. Asante sana; Mungu akubariki. (Thanks so much; God Bless you)



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Charlie.froh@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



MESSAGES FROM MATONGO

VOLUME 4 THANKSGIVING EDITION 2016
page 2



NEWS OF JANET & CHARLES FROH SERVING CHRIST IN KENYA Charlie.froh@lcmsintl.org

PROJECT SEWING FOR MERCY

In October 2015, as part of an English assignment, our deaconesses wrote essays with the following starter: "I think NLTC could improve by..." Their suggestions were given to the Academic Board.

One year later on November 2, 2016 one of their suggestions became a reality. Six Singer treadle sewing machines, bolts of material, thread, scissors etc. were dedicated to the work of the Lord at Neema Lutheran Theological College. This was their dream but you dear supporters were what made it come true!

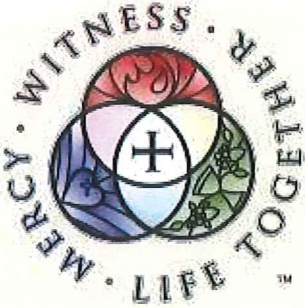
Grace, Grass Valley, CA heard about the project at one of our mission presentations. The ladies, supported by their pastor, Rev. Kent Schaaf, and the entire congregation raised \$1,000.00 and on October 14th, one tuk-tuk, a very brave driver, and a representative from the company made it from Kisumu and up the "Great Chabera Highway" in pouring down rain to deliver and set up the machines. Two weeks later, we received a love gift of \$500 from CNH District Circuit 8 LWML to buy items needed to start sewing. All we needed was an instructor – and the Lord provided; a local seamstress agreed to teach.

Classes started on November 10th; Martin Luther's birthday! Since then, \$1,500.00 has also been received from Grace congregation, San Mateo and an anonymous donor which will be used to buy material, zippers, buttons etc. for Deakonia uniforms, pay our instructor, get a cabinet built for materials and machines to be kept locked when not in use and keep the project continuing. The ladies are ecstatic; the men also want to learn the skill and of course the deaconesses who have graduated want to return and have lessons! We are so excited; thank you - your gift is one that will keep on giving for years to come.

Thanks be to God for His mercy; thanks be to God for all of you.



PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS



Prayer Requests,
THANKSGIVING 2016
Teachers of the Faith
Daughter Rebecca
Armstrong, continuing
treatment for MS
E.L.C.K. leadership, &
Church Body
NLTC Faculty & Staff
LCMS International
Board of Missions.
THANKS to God for
the opportunity to
serve Him
For peaceful USA
Presidential Elections
That God would move
more to share in the
Mission at Neema
Lutheran College
Thanksgiving For The
gift of Christ
Our Partners in
Mission,
Word & Sacraments
Faithful students,
Our Prayer Partners.

When the child of God offers his or her prayer they are taught to pray in the “**Name of Jesus**”. To understand why this is so, I offer some thoughts for your contemplation gleaned from the writings of the now sainted Rev. Doctor Herman Sasse.

The Church is a liturgical community. When asked what does the church do? Dr. Sasse answered; The Church prays. Intercessory prayer was therefore one of the four main parts of the liturgy. The early church was a church at prayer. As a praying community, it made such impact on its social environment that all people were filled with awe at it. (Acts2:43)

With typical tongue in cheek Sasse remarks, “**The early church dealt with problems before it by praying.** When it was faced with the challenge of evangelizing to the whole world, it did not establish missionary societies or organize a program for the systematic evangelization of each nation in turn; nor did it write tracts on evangelism to encourage its members to be evangelists. **Instead, it celebrated the sacrament and engaged in constant prayer.**

Sasse writes, “the prayer of the church was connected with its faith in Christ. **It was prayed in the name of Jesus.**” This presupposes that the risen Lord who has received all authority in heaven and on earth is present in the Liturgical assembly as the chief liturgist. Through Jesus and with Him they approached by their petition God the Father. Jesus thus prays for them and with them.

It is my fervent prayer through Christ Jesus that you assist in the ministry which has been laid before Jan and I through your prayer to God through Christ Jesus. He will thus take up our prayers and make them His own before His Father’s Throne.

If you desire to support our Kenya work through MISSION CENTRAL Please make your check payable to Mission Central :

project # A10698- 69389
40718 Highway E 16 Mapleton IA. 51034

OR:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Charles Froh”! Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/froh

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

To the saints at Grace Lutheran Church,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray this long overdue update/thank you finds you all well. A couple weeks ago I received your generous gift of support. I am overjoyed, humbled, and thankful that you have continued to faithfully support me even as my seminary education is quickly coming to an end. You deserve an apology, however. Things have been so busy with our transition from vicarage back to Fort Wayne that I failed to write a letter with an update of how we are doing and what things have changed for us. I hope you can forgive my failure to get this letter off sooner. I had spoken with Kay Bell a couple weeks prior to the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic school year and told him I would get an update to him as soon as possible in order to share it with you all. Unfortunately, I did not do so. Again, I apologize.

As I said, things have moved busily along. My first quarter of my final year has already come to an end. It is very hard to believe that I am a few short months away from receiving a call to serve as a pastor in Christ's Church. I ask for your prayers as that time draws ever closer. In some ways it is a frightening thought. In other ways, however, I am excited to take up this office boldly, as Luther admonishes pastors so to do in the Large Catechism. What does this boldness look like? Luther writes, "Therefore, my dear sirs and brothers, who are either pastors or preachers, I beg all of you for God's sake to take up your office boldly, **to have pity on your people who are entrusted to you, and to help us bring the catechism to the people.**"

Luther's admonition to boldness is to be a compassionate shepherd who guides the people of the Lord into the way of peace through the gifts He has given the pastor so to do. That is, through the preaching of the blessed Gospel of our salvation and the right administration of Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Absolution. The boldness of the office consists in these, that is, such boldness consists in serving, caring, and shepherding. My God grant me the conviction and the ability to do just that.

My wife, Jill, and son, Ephraim continue to do well. She is able to stay home with Ephraim, thanks be to God, and I pray she will continue to be able to do so. Jill finds much joy in caring for our son and maintaining our home. She does it faithfully and I am so grateful that our Lord has given me such a pious and loving wife. We are excited to announce that Jill is due to have another baby at the end of January (which is coming up quickly). We chose to remain ignorant as to whether the baby is a boy or a girl. Either way we are very excited that the Lord has blessed us with another child. Pray for Jill and our new baby, that all goes well through labor and delivery.

May God continue to bless and keep all of you through the end of the Church year as we look forward, again, to the blessed season of Advent and Christmas, wherein we anticipate that glorious announcement from the angel to the Virgin Mary, "Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1.30-33). May God grant that as John the Baptist prepared the way of our Lord, so too our hearts would be made ready through repentance and faith to receive He who reigns forever, world without end. Amen.

In Christ,

Marcus Williams

Looking Ahead:

December

6... JK-8 Open House (6 to 8pm)

11... All-School Choirs Sing (9am)

14... Children's Advent Service (7pm)

16... Noon Dismissal

Ext. Care available (12-6pm)

19-30 Advent/Christmas Break-

No Ext. Care available



PRESENCE Stocking Stuffers

Luke 2: 1-20

Looking Ahead:

January

2-3... Christmas Break

4..... School Resumes

10..... PTL Meeting (6:30pm)

JK-K... Information Night (6-8pm)

22-27... Lutheran School's Week

27..... PTL Talent Night (7pm)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given...

Well, are you excited? Are you excited about Christmas coming? Or are you excited about Christmas almost being over? It tends to be crazy out there. Cars, shoppers, etc. As a kid, I always got really excited waiting for Christmas to come. And one of the things I always looked for was the Advent symbols. Whether it was a wreath in the round or the candles symbolizing getting closer and closer to when Jesus was born.

The waiting is so hard. It helps to know that when that fourth candle is lit, and the Christ candle is lit; that's when it is here! The PRESENT we've ever been given is the PRESENCE of Jesus Christ. That's really what this season is really about.

There are so many people who celebrate Christmas but don't really know what they're celebrating. It's the time of the year when you would think all of us would be spending as much time with Jesus and instead, we're spending time on everything else but Jesus. Is that how it works? It's like everything kind of gets flipped upside down from the main reason for the season.

Let's try to honor some of the traditional decorations of the Christmas season while giving them perspective. Having a giant "FROSTY" in your front yard is ok. Having "MISTLETOE" hanging in your doorway is ok too. But what's important to remember is the spirit of joy in the home. The "WORD" of God is even better because it reveals the Savior of the World.

Let's take a look at another symbol of Christmas, the "Christmas Stocking". Do you know the origin or any of the legends? The first reference I found was from 1823, in a poem called "A Visit from St. Nicholas". "Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care with hope that St. Nicholas would soon be there." It closes with... "He spoke not a word nor went straight to his work, and filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod up the chimney he rose."

I heard of a legend of a recently widowed father who had three daughters and was having a hard time making ends meet. He had no money at all. He was worried about the welfare of his daughters. The town's people cared about his family and St. Nicholas just happened to be in the village on a particular day and wanted to bless this family with fortune, but he knew the man wouldn't accept charity. So, He snuck into the house. How? Down the chimney of course. Then he put gold coins in each of the three girl's stockings that were hanging out to dry. And then everybody lived happily ever after. True or not, it's an interesting legend. It's probably why many of us celebrate the stockings today.

We always hung up our stockings as kids. My brother and I differ on the number of days we hung our stockings (socks) on the end of the bed posts. Was it 7 or 12 days before Christmas we would ask each other? Each morning before Christmas, we would get up very early, excited to see what we would find in our socks. One morning it would be a match box car, another pack of gum, and another a coin. It was always exciting. For my brother, sisters, and me, it was like a countdown. We knew it was getting closer and closer. So as hard as it was to wait for the birth of Jesus and the big celebration, that helped.

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I enjoy driving around the neighborhoods looking at the beautiful lights and scenery; the gifts that we give and the gifts that we get; the music, the love, and the worship. I'm reminded and I get to remind others of the huge gift of love that God has given us and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. That's the best!

Christmas

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Yuzo Ishikawa	6	7 Flora Lisa Vasilescu	8	9	10
11 Lois Brownlee	12 Rebecca Young	13	14	15	16 Hans Tuft	17 Diana Vasilescu
18	19 Alexis McEnroe	20	21	22	23 Detlef Siarkowski	24 Ellen Bordy Rufus Clapp
25	26	27 Mike-Tami Bannister	28 Bill-Sue Bethke	29 George Melke	30 Debra Rockmore	31

January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Gesine Kruze	5 Fred McKenna Angelique Gomez Marcus Williams	6	7
8	9	10 Robert Keim	11 John Kilcullen	12 Daniel Saber	13	14
15 Larry Franquez	16	17 Trina Johnson	18	19 Fred-Marilyn McKenna	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Herlin Gomez	31				

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Sunday School		6:00p-GLS Open House	8:35a-Chapel Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p-Senior Choir 7:00p-Midweek Advent Service			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Sunday School		4:00p-School Board Meets	8:35a-Chapel Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p-Senior Choir 7:00p-Midweek Advent Service		GLS Noon Dismissal	10:30-Welcome Amigos
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Bible Study Noon-LWML Potluck	No School/Ext. Care Advent Break	No School/Ext. Care Advent Break	6:00p-Senior Choir No School/Ext. Care Advent Break 7:00p-Midweek Advent Service	No School/Ext. Care Advent Break	No School/Ext. Care Advent Break	Christmas Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day 10:00a-Divine Service	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	New Year's Eve 7:00p-Service of Corporate Confession & Absolution

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00a-Worship Service	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	No School/Ext. Care Christmas Break	8:30a-GLS resumes 8:35a-Chapel Kids of the Kingdom		6:00p-Senior Choir 7:00p-Epiphany Service	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	MLKing, Jr. Day Church/School Office closed	6:30p-PTL Meeting		4:00p-Senior Choir		9:00a-Planning Council
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study Lutheran Schools Week	No School/Ext. Care	10:30a-Circle Bible Stu. 4:00p-School Board 6:00p-GLS Info Night		4:00p-Senior Choir		9:00a- Bd. of Lay Elders Meeting 10:30a-Gen. Society Lutheran Schools Week
29	30	31				
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study				4:00p-Senior Choir Lutheran Schools Week	7:30p-PTL Talent Night Lutheran Schools Week	Lutheran Schools Week

DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017 PRAYER PAGE

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. ~ Galatians 6:10

Egon Adam	Veronica Crews	Miriam Hitzeman	George Melke	Paul Soals
Kelly Archer	Clara Crews	Robert Innes	Howard Menche	Stacey Soals
Emilia Archer	Celeste Crews	Shirley Innes	Donna Menche	Jacquelin Soals
Bella Archer	Charlotte Custino	Michael Innes	Daniel Menche	Dimitry Spencer
Marilyn Baillie	Robert Doody	Donald Iocco	Michael Moreira	Peter Spittler
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Natalie Dubbel	Heather Iocco	Amanda Moreira	Tamaray Starling
Valerie Balgeman	Bob Egan	John Iocco	Mia Moreira	Darryl Sterner
Chandler Balgeman	Maria Eggert	Judy Iocco	Molly Munson	Sandra Sterner
Mike Bannister	Robert Emery	Ko Ishikawa	Caroline Nagy	Michelle Sterner
Tami Bannister	Doris Emery	Mariko Ishikawa	Pamela Nelson	Robert Stevens
Nathanael Bannister	Bill Eng	Yuzo Ishikawa	Floyd Oatman	Willis Stevens
Kay Bell, III	Sara Eppler	Lance Johnson	Jeannette Oatman	Doris Tirschwell
Kay Bell, Jr.	Carly Eppler	Doreen Johnson	Doug O'Donnell	Hans Tuft
Nathanael Bell	Larry Franquez	Katarina Johnson	Patty O'Donnell	Gina Tuft
Adele Bergstrom	Shelly Franquez	Evelyn Jones	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Mark Tuft
William Bethke	Nick Franquez	Bob Keim	Gil Ramirez	Sue Tuft
Susan Bethke	Chad Franquez	Dolores Keim	Kathleen Ramirez	Martin Udishes
Alice Boerschinger	Pam Frisella	John Kilcullen	Fred Robinson	Leann Udishes
John Bordy	William Gangelhoff	Stefanie Kilcullen	Roberta Robinson	Christine Ullrich
Ellen Bordy	Shirley Gangelhoff	Katie Kilcullen	Akram Saber	Zachary Ullrich
Judy Boyd	Rev. Glendon Genthner	James Kilcullen	Ghada Saber	Octavian Vasilescu
Fred Brauer	Brooke Genthner	Michael Kilcullen	Daniel Saber	Diana Vasilescu
Karla Brauer	Alex Gomez	Barbara Kilpatrick	Michael Saber	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Jordyn Brauer	Herlin Gomez	Ruth Klingner	Donald Schaefer	Joan Weckerle
Justin Brauer	Anjanette Gomez	Bill Koester	Maria Schaefer	Randy Wimmer
Klayton Brauer	Angelique Gomez	Faye Koester	Martin Semmler	Caden Young
Paul Brownlee	James Graziano	Ryan Koester	Michelle Semmler	Rebecca Young
Lois Brownlee	Roger Guse	Amanda Koester	Scott Semmler	Chandler Young
Marcus Brownlee	Dan Hahn	Gesine Kruse	Daniel Semmler	Logan Young
Scott Brownlee	Lori Hahn	Glenn McEnroe	Julia Semmler	Rowan Young
Katherine Brownlee	Abby Hahn	Alison McEnroe	Sandy Shanks	Eugene Zahnow
Rev. David Carver	Arthur Hayame	Alexis McEnroe	Jessica Shanks	Judy Zahnow
Kelli Carver	Barbara Hayame	Fred McKenna	Detlef Siarkowski	Mamie Zimbelman
Phoebe Carver	Tim Hayame	Marilyn McKenna	Hannelore Siarkowski	
Samuel Carver	Darren Hayame	Steve McLaughlin	Ethan Smith	
Jolene Crawford	Joy Hayame	Heather McLaughlin	Dave Smoot	
Robert Crews	Hannah Hayame	Sandra Means	Barb Smoot	