

North Shore Church News

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE



*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New
Year*

OUR PURPOSE IS TO GROW AND DEEPEN
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
IN A FAITH COMMUNITY GUIDED BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

December 2023

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Sunday Worship

10:00am
Worship (Sanctuary/YouTube)
10:15am
Music & Movement and
Godly Fun

Midweek Manna

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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Fox Point, WI

Vol. 41 Issue 12



“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The Confluence of the Christmas Calendar

Planning for the holiday season at NSCC for 2023 has been just a bit different than it is most years, and it all has to do with the calendar. Every five to six years (with periodic exceptions on leap years), we find ourselves coming back around to a confluence of holiday timing that makes for some distinct questions in the life of the church. With five Thursdays in November, Thanksgiving comes very early in the month this year. At the same time, with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, Advent starts very late (not until December 3). Thus, we find ourselves faced with a unique set of questions.

We don't often have a Sunday between Thanksgiving and the start of Advent, so we are posed with the question of what we will do with that 'in-between' time of worship when Thanksgiving is behind us, but the season of Advent has yet to begin. The timing of Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday is even less common, and it immediately forces the consideration of if and how that timing might impact our 'typical' Christmas Eve worship schedule. Do we have a service at 10am? Do we still have two services that night?

There are, of course, answers to these questions that you will find addressed throughout this newsletter (yes, we are having our 10am service on December 24 to recognize the fourth Sunday of Advent and we will have BOTH our 4p and 9p services later that day). What I want to leave with each of you as we head into this blessed Christmas season, however, is the gift that such a disruption of the norm can be!

There is something extraordinarily valuable about being pulled away from the common and expected and being forced to be thoughtful about how we will engage the season. As simple as it may seem, these uncommon circumstances of the 2023 season force us to be that much more intentional about the decisions we make and the paths that we take. What's done each year doesn't quite

fit. Last year's calendar doesn't quite match up. We don't have to throw the baby out with the bathwater, but we do need to pause for just a moment to give due consideration to how we will faithfully and meaningfully embrace the Christmas season that lies before us.

There is no doubt in my mind that the upcoming season will be filled with wonderful and treasured traditions that are part of your every year – I know that will be true for our family! I do wonder, however, if we all might benefit from the moment's pause that the calendar forced upon us as we headed into this year. Not a moment to question all we do or discard all we treasure, but a moment to consider how this season might look a bit different, and a moment to consider how we can most faithfully and meaningfully embrace both the treasured traditions and the delightful disruptions that this season... this story... this gift... can birth to our lives in 2023 and beyond.

In Faith, *Marty*

Church Budget - 2024



A **forum** has been scheduled for any questions people might have regarding the **2024 church budget**. Copies of the budget will be available for pickup on December 3 and will be distributed by email on December 4. Please join us in Friendship Lounge, or on Zoom, at **7:30pm on December 6**. For those accessing via Zoom, a direct link will be distributed with the weekly email on December 4. If you do not receive it, or need assistance, please contact the church office.

The next **congregational meeting** will take place after worship on **Sunday, December 17**. The purpose of this meeting will be to act on the proposed budget for 2024. Attendance can be in-person or on Zoom. For those accessing via Zoom, a direct link that will be distributed with the weekly email on December 11. If you do not receive it, or need assistance, please contact the church office.



FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday Morning Book Group

We decided to slow the pace a bit with “Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs,” which has upended our schedule moving forward. We are now planning to read “Beginner’s Grace” by Kate Braestrup after Christmas. A start date will be announced in upcoming publications and emails.

For Advent and Christmas, we will read “*Expecting Emmanuel*” by *Joanna Harader* beginning Tuesday, November 28.

Amazon offers this description:

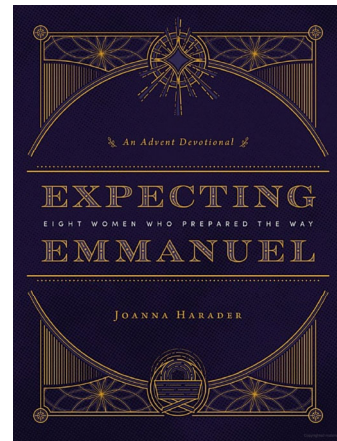
Journey through Advent and Christmas with the women of Jesus' family line.

Christmas is about so much more than twinkle lights, sugar cookies, and perfect family photos. It's about the world-changing, transforming, and sometimes messy reality of "God with us." As we dive deep into the biblical accounts of Jesus' female ancestors and reflect on God's presence in their complicated lives, we can begin to release our expectations of a "perfect Christmas" and instead seek the experience of a holy season.

This Advent and Christmas season, step into the true power of the Incarnation as we journey together to the manger and encounter the omnipotent God who has come to us in the vulnerable Christ-child.

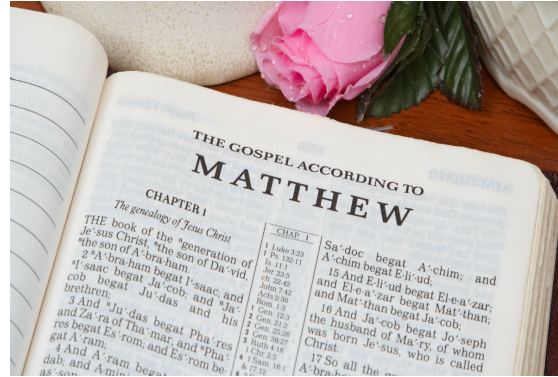
Like most people, I worry about adding one more thing to my schedule at this time of year. Even if it means one less batch of cookies, or one less gift to wrap, let's add reading together and "seek the experience of a holy season."

There are 2 copies available to buy in Kerrin's office.



Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

Please join us for Bible study on Thursday mornings at 9:30. In December we will begin a study of Matthew, coinciding with the Advent and Christmas seasons. We meet upstairs in the Owl Room and you can also Zoom in from afar. We will not meet on December 28. The Zoom link can be found in Marty's Monday email. We look forward to seeing you!



If you have any questions, or would like to receive more communication about our study groups, contact anyone in the church office.



Our always-popular **Advent Fest** is almost **here!** Join us after our beloved Music Sunday worship service on **Sunday, December 10**, as we enjoy the delicious brunch provided by the Fellowship Committee and the crafts and activities coordinate by our Board of Christian Enrichment.

As an added blessing, participate in our cookie exchange! Bring a tin of your favorite Christmas cookies to share and take home an assortment of those brought by others. Advent Fest is always a wonderful way to celebrate the season. We hope that you will join us.

MODERATOR'S NOTE

As our church year enters the busy Christmas season, I would like to provide the congregation with updates on Midweek Manna, the 2024 budget and the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Marty gave a wonderful explanation of the changes to **Midweek Manna** in his November newsletter article. I just want to remind everyone of the key changes that will begin in 2024. Starting in January, the service will be held on the third Wednesday of every month. There will always be a meal at 6:00 PM followed by the service at 6:45 PM. The theme of the service will be unique and not tied to the Sunday service in any way. Marty and the Diaconite Board will be providing more details in the coming weeks.

The **2024 budget** process began back in September when the boards submitted their proposed budgets to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee reviewed the requests and created a proposed 2024 budget for the Council to review at the October meeting. After much discussion, the Council approved a proposed 2024 budget with a 2% increase over the 2023 budget.

Copies of the proposed 2024 budget will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 3. Kerrin will be sending out an email on Monday, December 4 that will include the proposed 2024 budget. In addition, the Budget Committee will host a meeting on December 6 after Midweek Manna for members who might have questions on the proposed 2024 budget. A Zoom link will be provided for those who can't attend the meeting in person. The proposed 2024 budget will then be presented at the Congregational Meeting on December 17 and put to a vote for approval by the congregation.

A **75th Anniversary Celebration** committee has been formed consisting of Marty, myself, Katherine Gregory, Sharon Hall, Ginny Kannenberg, Jeff Leypoldt, Amy Petersen and Becki & David Schimpf. All interested members are welcome to join the committee or provide information in the form of pictures, documents or memories regarding events in the history of the church. The committee looks forward to going back to the founding of the church in 1949 and taking the congregation on a 75 year journey that both honors our past members and inspires our current members.

In closing, Kim and I want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas.

Bob Erdahl - Moderator





NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF MILWAUKEE

Annual Giving Tree

It's the most wonderful time of the year for giving! Watch for the online link to reserve your tag. Each tag will fulfill a boy or girl's Christmas wish. In addition to online sign-up, there will be a limited number of ornaments placed on the Giving Tree in the Narthex. Important: please remove the back side of the ornament and place it in the container next to the tree. This is needed for tracking purposes!



- * Purchase one or two items from the tag for the child.
- * Wrap the gift(s).
- * Important: be sure to include a "to/from" sticker with the child's name on each package and please write legibly!
- * Bring gift(s) to church and place under the tree in the Narthex no later than Sunday, December 10.



The Neighborhood House was founded to help strengthen children and families in some of the city's most under-served neighborhoods. It reaches more than 4,000 people annually through wrap-around services, including quality early child care, after school programs for youth and teens, adult education for refugees, parenting support, and a food pantry. Questions?! Contact Becki Schimpf (rschimpf@wi.rr.com, 262.707.5223) or Sheri Scharnweber (sscharny@att.net, 262.352.3675). Thank you!

HOUSE OF PEACE & ST. BEN'S COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAMS

Blankets Needed!

These programs regularly distribute blankets to their guests who use them as protection from the cold while homeless. The recent drop in temperatures has caused a run on their supply, and they have completely run out. If you have any blankets to donate to the cause, please bring them to the church office. Recently 25 blankets from church members were dropped off, and we hope to collect more!



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Chancel Choir</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun</p> <p>11:00am Fellowship</p> <p>11:10am Memoir Group (Upstairs Classroom)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm 75th Anniversary Team</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Prayer</p> <p>7:00pm Growth Team (Owl Room)</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Book Group (Zoom)</p> <p>10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p> <p>1:00pm LX Club</p> <p>7:00pm Director of Music Search Committee</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:00am Chancel Choir</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun</p> <p>11:00am Fellowship</p> <p>11:00am Repairers of the Breach - Bag Lunch Express</p> <p>11:10am Memoir Group (Upstairs Classroom)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am PEO AM</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Prayer</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Book Group (Zoom)</p> <p>10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p> <p>1:00pm LX Club</p> <p>5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>6:00pm BCE (Youth Room)</p> <p>6:00pm Deacons (Owl Room and Zoom)</p> <p>6:00pm Stewardship Board (Upstairs Classroom)</p> <p>6:00pm Trustees (Library)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Chancel Choir</p> <p>10:00am Music & Movement and Godly Fun</p> <p>10:00am Music Sunday Worship</p> <p>11:00am Advent Fest Fellowship</p> <p>4:00pm KidsConnect</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Prayer</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Book Group (Zoom)</p> <p>10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p> <p>1:00pm LX Club</p> <p>7:00pm Director of Music Search Committee</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Chancel/Handbell Choirs</p> <p>9:30am Carol Sing-Along</p> <p>10:00am Worship with Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski</p> <p>Preaching</p> <p>10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun</p> <p>11:00am Congregational Meeting followed by Fellowship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Prayer</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Book Group (Zoom)</p> <p>10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p> <p>1:00pm LX Club</p> <p>4:00pm Loaves and Fishes</p> <p>7:00pm Council</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p> <p>9:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed - Merry Christmas</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Worship with Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski</p> <p>Preaching</p> <p>11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed - Happy New Year</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Prayer</p> <p>8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Book Group (Zoom)</p> <p>10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>10:30am Yoga</p> <p>1:00pm LX Club</p> <p>5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge)</p> <p>6:00pm BCE (Youth Room)</p> <p>6:00pm Deacons (Owl Room and Zoom)</p> <p>6:00pm Stewardship Board (Upstairs Classroom)</p> <p>6:00pm Trustees (Library)</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 6:30pm Midweek Manna	30 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	1 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	2 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge 11:00am Ladies' Advent Brunch
6 6:30pm Midweek Manna - The Stories Behind Our Favorite Carols 7:30pm Budget Q&A (Chapel or Zoom)	7 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	9 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
13 10:00am WCA Clergy (Friendship Lounge) 6:30pm Midweek Manna w/ Rev. Rob Fredrickson	14 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	16 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
20 8:30am Quilters 6:30pm Midweek Manna	21 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 7:00pm Chancel Choir	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	23 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed 9:30am Yoga	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	30 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
3	4 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:00pm NSCC @ Milwaukee Admirals 7:30pm RR Historical Society	6 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge



Wednesday, December 6 - Midweek Manna, 6:30pm

Join us, prior to the budget Q&A, for a **special Midweek Manna** service. We will **sing some of our favorite carols** while listening to brief snippets of the story behind them. Join us in Friendship Lounge at 6:30 (cookies and hot chocolate will be provided!).

Sunday, December 10 - Music Sunday, 10:00am

A full service of Lessons and Carols will be shared with harp, cello, organ and choir leading our anthems and congregational singing. *Be sure to stay after the service for our annual Advent Fest!*

Sunday, December 17 - Carol-Sing, 9:30am

You choose the carols and we all sing-along! Join us beginning at 9:30am and we will continue to sing right up until the start of worship at 10am. Bring your voices, your choices, and your Christmas cheer!

Sunday, December 24 - Advent 4, 10:00am

Join us for our normal **10am service** on **Sunday, December 24**, as we gather to celebrate the **fourth Sunday of Advent**.

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Be a part of our **Christmas Eve candlelight services at 4pm and/or 9pm**. There will be pre-service music for the 9pm gathering beginning at 8:30pm and, *new this year, there will be pre-service prior to the 4pm gathering that will begin at 3:45pm.*

Holiday Office Hours

The **office will be closed between Christmas and New Years**. Marty will be available by cell phone in the case of a pastoral emergency but will be out of town and otherwise unavailable during that time. Kerrin will return to the office on Tuesday, January 2. ***If you have any year-end items that you need to address with the office staff, please make sure to do so by Thursday, December 21.***



Christmas Decorations and Dedications

Your Decorating Committee is once again making plans to adorn our beautiful building for the upcoming Christmas season. We always look forward to seeing our sanctuary in all its glory as we worship at this very special time of year. Donations to our flower/decorating fund, which is made available to fund plantings and decorations placed around the church building and campus throughout the year, will be gratefully accepted. We are also always looking for more helping hands and creative ideas, so please consider joining us in this special endeavor.

Thank you, Jeannie George.

This is an opportunity to remember or honor someone, or something, by contributing and having your message printed in the order of worship on Christmas Eve. Please return the section below to the church office, with your check made payable to North Shore Congregational Church, by Monday, December 11.

Name _____

I\, We would like the wording in the Christmas Eve bulletin to appear (select one):

In honor of

In memory of

In celebration of



Soprano Elizabeth Jonas grew up in Michigan, majored in Vocal Performance at Wheaton College, and met her singing husband Scott while earning a MM in Voice at Northwestern University. Before NSCC, Elizabeth sang at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, North Shore Presbyterian Church, and Plymouth Church. Elizabeth lives in Shorewood and spends a lot of time playing with their 20-month-old granddaughter. In addition to making and listening to music, Elizabeth enjoys hiking, cooking, baking, and movies.

Mezzo soprano Andrea Goetzinger began her singing career with The Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee. She has sung with numerous groups in the greater Milwaukee area. Andrea works independently as a Licensed Practical Nurse doing home care. She is also program assistant with the Bel Canto Senior Singers. Andrea lives in Wauwatosa.

Soprano Dr. Sarah Richardson is the voice instructor and Performance Coordinator at Alverno College. She is an active performer in the Milwaukee area and also enjoys presenting vocal workshops for area high school, community, and church choirs. Sarah holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from UW-Madison where she worked with baritone Paul Rowe and appeared in recitals, concerts, scenes, and full opera productions. Her dissertation project centered on the commission, premiere, and recording of a song cycle to honor her upbringing on a dairy farm and feed mill in north-central Wisconsin. As well, Sarah received her Master of Music degree from UW-Milwaukee and Bachelor of Music degree from Viterbo University. Sarah and Elizabeth Jonas are sharing the soprano section leader role this year.

Tenor Nicholas Lin is based out of the greater Chicago-land area, growing up in Lincolnshire. He studied vocal performance in college. When not singing with the Florentine Opera Chorus or Milwaukee Symphony's Chorus, Nick works with a company called Peckham Media Productions which takes him to Chicago to produce

recordings and videos for individual artists, smaller artistic organizations like storefront opera companies, and institutions like Chicago Public Schools. In addition to videos and audio recordings, he has begun shooting professional headshots! Mr. Lin moved to Milwaukee in the summer of 2022 after his partner got hired by the Florentine Opera in their education department. Nick considers himself a mediocre piano player and spends his free time teaching himself the guitar, how to cook, and driving on I-94 to the next gig!

Colin Han, bass-baritone, is an active performer in the Milwaukee area, appearing as a featured soloist with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra and in local ensembles Chant Claire and Aperi Animam. Mr. Han was an apprentice artist with Milwaukee Opera Theatre for their 2019 production of *La Clemenza di Tito*. Additional operatic credits include *Il Commendatore* (Don Giovanni) and *Dapertutto* (Les Contes d'Hoffmann) in scenes with UWM Opera Theatre, and as an ensemble member in productions of *Dido and Aeneas* and *La Périchole*. He graduated in 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a B.S. in information science and technology along with a music minor. At UWM, Colin performed in numerous ensembles including Concert Chorale, Men's Chorus, and University Chorus. Colin has studied voice with Dr. David Hoffman and at the Madison Early Music Festival.



Midweek Manna is evolving as we head into 2024!

Weekly Manna services will continue through Wednesday, December 20, at which time they will shift to a monthly offering (dinner at 6:00pm, worship at 6:45pm) starting on Wednesday, January 17. We look forward to this new phase of our Manna worship taking shape in 2024.

LOAVES AND FISHES

November 19, 2023



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Anderson	Wauck
Barsch	Arnold
Slagle	Dowsett
Slagle	Wermuth
Doty-Webb	Nelson
Wininsky	Zganjar
Petersen	Hadcock, M
Block	Lemorande
Gregory	Callaway
<i>Half recipe, single pan</i>	<i>Single batch ~30</i>

DRIVERS

Osborne	Wauck	-----
---------	-------	-------

SERVERS

Slagle	Anderson
Slagle	Anderson
Slagle	Wauck
Slagle	Barsch
Dallman	



- ♦ **December 3 - Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making -** During Godly Fun, the kids will assist with making the monthly lunches for Repairers of the Breach. They will learn about the organization and learn how their helping hands make a difference.



- ♦ **December 10 – Advent Craft Fest** - Save the date for the annual Advent Craft Fest! Join Ms. Laurie as she leads the kids in wonderful Christmas crafts to treasure for generations.



- ♦ **December 10 – KidsConnect** – Christmas Edition! Kids in grades 2-6 are invited to join in some holiday merriment from 4-6pm on December 10. We'll play hide and seek! We'll decorate cookies! We'll eat pizza! We will make crafts! RSVP [here](#): or by scanning the QR Code.



- ♦ **December 24 – Christmas Eve Services** – There will be **NO Godly Fun during the 10am, 4pm, or 9pm services**. We encourage children to join with their families and guardians and share in the special wonder of Christmas Eve together. The worship bags located in Noah's Ark in the Narthex will be stocked with holiday themed activities and crafts.



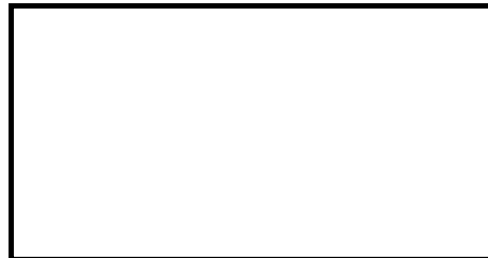
- ♦ **December 31** - There will be **NO Godly Fun on New Years Eve**.

414-352-6123

North Shore Congregational Church

7330 N. Santa Monica Boulevard

Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217



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*A member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

MINISTERS

All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Senior Minister

Kerrin White, Office Manager

Rick Kieffer, Music Director

Kesley Molinari, Children's Ministries

Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Meike Pampalone and Heide Hongsermeier, Organists

Becca Hall, and Haley Krueger, Children's Ministry Assistants

Jay Hall, and Megan Hall, Sunday Custodians