



Leighton Church

Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ

Rev. David W. Meister

Week of March 12, 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4180 2nd Street
Caledonia, MI 49316
(616) 891-8028
office@leightonchurch.org
www.leightonchurch.org
Office Hours: 9a-3p
Tues/Wed/Thurs

Sunday Worship: 9:30a

The Discovery Place: 10:45a

Classes for children, youth & adults

Board of Elders:

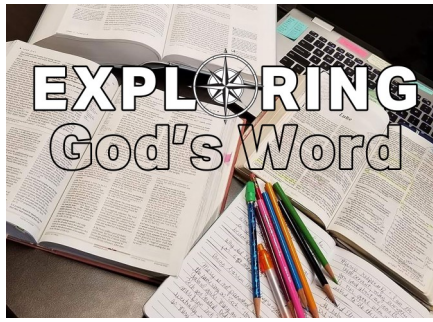
Scott Pollmann (Chairman),
Todd Galloway, Art Hooker,
Wayne Ingersoll, David
Kaechele, Doug Thaler,
Pastor Dave Meister

*Hearing assist system
available from the sound booth
at the back of the Sanctuary.*



@LeightonUMChurch

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 12 | <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Youth Group 4:45-7:00p |
| Monday, March 13 | Gym in Use 6:00-7:00p Men's Basketball 7:00p |
| Tuesday, March 14 | Board of Elders 6:30p |
| Wednesday, March 15 | Kids Musical Practice 5:30-6:15p Family Dinner 5:30p Kids Worship 6:00p Pre-Teen Bible Study 6:00p Lenten Adult Bible Study 6:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p |
| Thursday, March 16 | JOY (Just Older Youth) Lunch At Curley Cone 1:00p Staff Parish Relations Team Meeting 6:30p |
| Sunday, March 19 | Leadership Team/Board of Elders Lunch Noon Youth Group 4:45-7:00p |



The Discovery Place For Children, Teens & Adults

THE DISCOVERY PLACE CLASSES, TEACHERS & LOCATIONS

Toddlers, Preschoolers & Young 5's: Connie Blain & Britney Bredeweg (Room 4)

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Jan Geukes & Terri Farmer (Room 3)

3rd-5th Grades: Jackie Corwin & Annah Smith (Rooms 12/13)

6th-8th Grades: Cindy Herring (Room 9)

9th-12th Grades: Brad & Sarah Geers (Youth Room)

Adults:

Young Adult/Career (Prayer Room): Mark & Ronda Kaechele

Drew Corwin (Rooms 15/16) - Powerful Messages from the Minor Prophets

Bill & Stacey Aman (Rooms 7/8) - The Twelve Disciples

Doug Thaler (Lounge) - Jesus Speaks To Your Church: Studies in Revelation

Jerry & Nancy Slagh (old Library) - Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti

Easter Series Starting in The Discovery Place



"Why Easter Matters"

Sunday Mornings

The Discovery Place

Rooms 7/8

Led by Bill & Stacey Aman

It's something we all struggle with—trusting God and following His ways, yet we often resist. We want to follow Jesus and the instructions given to us in the Scripture, but sometimes we just do what we want anyway.

A 4-week study called "Why Easter Matters" is starting on Sunday, March 19th. In this study, we'll look at 3 people whose lives intersected with Jesus' life in the weeks leading up to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and with Jesus. There's a little piece of them in all of us.

BUT their stories of resistance illustrate the futility of resisting God.

Join us in Rooms 7/8 for this video based study from Andy Stanley led by Bill & Stacey Aman. All ages are welcome.

A group just for Teens!
All students in 6th-12th grades welcome!



SCHEDULE:

March 12: Good to Know

March 19: Echo

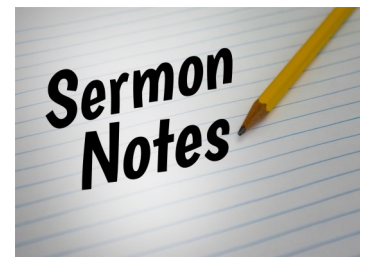
March 26: Echo

Youth Group is held from 4:45-7:00 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Invite your friends to come along!

Questions? Contact Brian Smith, Director of Youth Ministries
youth@leightonchurch.org or 616-881-1488

Hey kids....3rd-8th Grade...



You're growing up and are too old to attend Children's Church, so what do you do during church? How about tuning in to what Pastor Dave is teaching on?

Pick up a clipboard out of the blue tub in the Lobby, fill out the sermon notes paper and turn it in to Sarah Geers or Mark Kaechele after the service to get a prize.

There's a spot for you to write the name of the sermon (hint....watch the screen!), words you didn't understand, what verses were read from the Bible, and the name of a song that was sung during the service.

After awhile, you'll discover how much you've learned about God and how the Bible is important in developing a relationship with Him.



CHANGES TO OFFERING COLLECTION

The offering plates have returned to the table in the Lobby instead of passing the plates during the worship service. This is being done to help stop the spread of COVID and other infectious diseases.

You may place your offering in the plates on your way in or out of the worship service. You may also give safely and securely online at www.leightonchurch.org/give.

If you would like to have your own set of offering envelopes at no charge, please contact Stacey Aman in the church office. (616) 891-8028 or office@leightonchurch.org

Take note of the following meetings that are scheduled for the coming weeks:

Tuesday, March 14—Board of Elders 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16—Staff Parish Relations Team 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21—Leadership Team 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25—Health & Safety Team Training 7:30a-Noon

Sunday, March 26—Church Conference Disaffiliation Vote 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 28—Worship Planning Team 6:30 p.m.



A wide variety of spring flowers are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter morning in honor/memory of your loved ones. Flowers will be available to take home after the worship service on Easter morning, April 9th.

Options include Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, African violets, orchids, azaleas, hydrangeas, and spring bulb gardens.

Order forms are available in the Lobby and will be an attachment to the Leighton News sent by email.

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH, IS THE FINAL SUNDAY TO PLACE YOUR EASTER FLOWER ORDER.

Questions? Contact Stacey in the church office
(616) 891-8028 or office@leightonchurch.org



KIDS

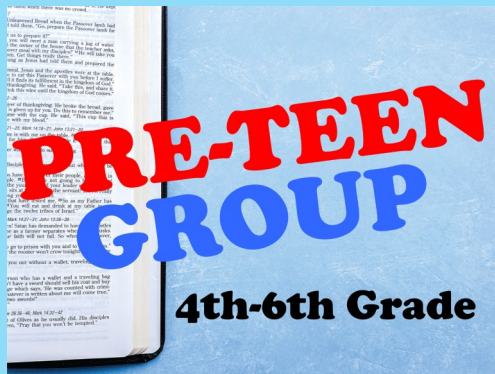


WORSHIP

3 More Wednesday Nights of Kids Worship & Pre-Teen Bible Study

KIDS WORSHIP 6:00-7:00 P.M.

For kids in Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade
A mid-week spiritual pick-me-up for kids with high-energy music, interactive Bible lesson and hands-on crafts.



PRE-TEEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00-7:00 P.M.

For boys and girls in grades 4, 5 and 6
A time to hang out together, do Bible puzzles and play Bible games and learn about a Christian worldview through "FORGED" Bible study.

Wednesday Nights

5:30-6:30 pm in the gym

This is open to the community.

All are welcome!



Take the night off from cooking dinner and doing dishes and gather around the table in the gym at Leighton Church on Wednesday nights

5:30-6:30 p.m. thru March 29

Everyone is welcome! All food and beverages are provided.

There is no set cost, but donations are appreciated to help off-set expenses.

Family Dinner Weekly Menu:

March 15—Corned Beef, Cabbage, Roasted Veggies, Chicken Nuggets, Pie

March 22—Taco Bar, Cake

March 29 (FINAL NIGHT) - Pizza, Ice Cream Sundae Bar



Sunday, March 26th

11:00 a.m.

Disaffiliation Vote

A special church conference is scheduled for Sunday, March 26th at 11:00 a.m. with District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford presiding. The purpose of this conference is the first step in determining the future of Leighton Church; to remain a part of the United Methodist denomination or disaffiliate.

Only members in good standing are eligible and must be present to vote. Watch your mailbox for complete details.

Questions can be directed to Scott Pollmann, Board of Elders Chairman or Pastor Dave Meister.



All women are invited to gather at Jean Bender's home on

Monday, March 20th at 1:30 p.m.

for an afternoon of fellowship, encouragement and refreshments.

Jane Hannan will be sharing a devotional and leading us through a simple work project.

Come and enjoy the company of other women! Friends are welcome!

Jean Bender's home is located at
3050 N. M-37 Highway, Middleville (just north of Adams Road)
(269) 795-3458



JUST OLDER YOUTH LUNCHEONS

Let's get together for lunch!

Those age 50+ are invited to gather for lunch the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00pm at an area restaurant.

March Luncheon:

March 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Curley Cone, 12850 W. M-179 Hwy, Wayland

The ground rules are: everyone pays for their own meal and there will be no discussion of politics or church business. This is an opportunity for seniors to gather together for fellowship and to get better acquainted.

We Care Card Ministry

Receiving a card in the mail is encouraging and can uplift one's spirit.

Stop by the table in the Lobby to sign cards for those who haven't been at church for some time, for those who are recovering from surgery or illness, and for those who just need a word of encouragement. Each week a new set of cards is set out.



Questions can be addressed to Sharon Kaechele
(616) 891-1020



In the event of inclement weather:

- Ministries and events happening Monday-Saturday will be cancelled if Thornapple-Kellogg schools cancels school and/or events
- Sunday morning services will be cancelled based on weather/road conditions.

Any cancellations will be posted on WOOD TV stations. An email will be sent out church-wide and an announcement will be posted on Facebook.

When in doubt, use your best judgment as families come from so many different areas with weather conditions varying in those areas.



WE'RE NEARING OUR GOAL!!!

We are getting so close to reaching our goal of \$16,000 to upgrade the church's digital sign at the corner.

The current sign is over 13 years old and replacement parts are no longer available.

There are 65 giving families in the church. If each family gave just **\$80**, we could easily meet our goal.

Some have contributed about and beyond for which we are very grateful. The goal is in sight! Help us get there so we can share about the many ministries happening at Leighton Church with the large number of people driving by our corner on a daily basis.

If you wish to contribute toward this need, you may make checks payable to Leighton Church and designate your gift SIGN or give safely and securely online and select the Sign Upgrade Fund. www.leightonchurch.org/give.

Questions can be directed to Chris Herring, Board of Trustees Chair. (616) 437-3484 or herring@iserv.net



GOAL = \$16,000

RECEIVED = \$11,500

NEEDED = \$4,500



Leighton Church Funeral Luncheon Policy

1. If a luncheon is desired after a funeral service/graveside service, contact the church office (616) 891-8028
2. The church office will contact the Funeral Luncheon Committee from the Circle of Joy.
3. Standard luncheon consists of:

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|--|----------------------------|
| Meat Sandwiches (typically ham and turkey) | Potato Salad and Cole Slaw |
| Pickles and Potato Chips | Coffee, lemonade and water |

Cakes are furnished by the Leighton Church Family
This menu can be altered if the family has any special requests
4. The family is expected to pay for the cost of groceries and supplies and any special request items. An invoice will be sent from the church.
5. The family is to make a donation to the Circle of Joy for coordinating and serving the luncheon.

Questions on this policy can be directed to Jean Bender, Circle of Joy President (269) 795-3458

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! We needeth thee to reach children in our community thru Vacation Bible School!



**Job Descriptions available
at the VBS Display table.
Contact Cindy Herring
with questions.
(616) 299-0083
bigcowdoc@yahoo.com**

Sunday, June 25-Thursday, June 29
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Recruitment has begun!
There's a spot for men and women and teens (must
be at least 12 years of age) to get involved!

OPEN POSITIONS:

Prayer Coordinator
Sound/AV Coordinator
Games Helper (1)
Security Helper (1)
4 Year Olds & Young 5's Assistant (1)
K-1st Grade Teacher
2nd-3rd Grade Teacher
K-1st Grade Guide (2)
2nd-3rd Grade Guide (1)
4th-6th Grade Guide (2)
Registration/Sign in (2)
AV Assistant (1)
Substitutes (5)

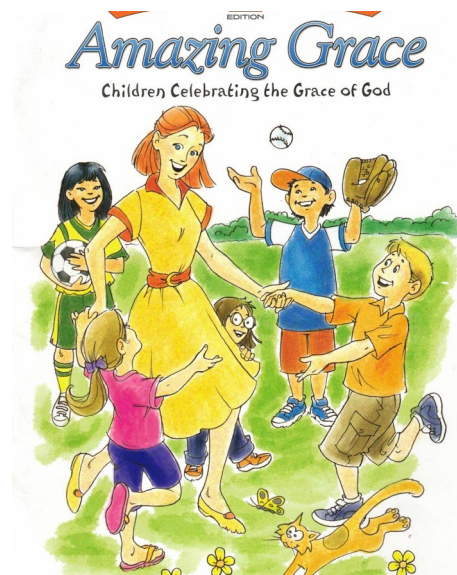
Kids & Youth Musical Practice Underway It's not too late to join!

It's "Amazing Grace" and it's a musical for kids and youth from
ages 5 to 18.

Practices are on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the
Sanctuary.

There are speaking parts and singing parts available.
Practice CD's/MP4 files are available for kids to take home to
practice.

Performance date is Sunday, May 7th during morning worship.
Questions? Contact Jamie Shira (616) 552-2798





Shad & Sarah Deal

Braden & Brice

Ethnos360

In their most recent newsletter the Deal's share this as written by Sarah:

"It was just an average Thursday night. Shad and I were finishing up the most recent season of 'The Chosen' ... The particularly emotional, one hour long episode ended with Peter sobbing and clinging to Jesus, and we sat together in silence for a moment, me still sniffling. Shad broke the silence with a comment: 'Well, that was the most intense one yet!' With that the silence continued as we both began to drift into the next tasks on our to do list for the evening.

Within minutes the silence was broken by a familiar, low cry. I loved over at Shad, whose face was contorted as his cry became slowly louder and his hand began to curl inward. Yes, this was heartbreakingly familiar. I sat beside him as his body crumpled awkwardly, not knowing how to make him more comfortable. I left him for just a moment to grab my phone and call a neighbor. Within a few more seconds, his lips were blue, eyes rolled back. It has been five years, four months since Shad's brain surgery in September 2017. Since that day he came out of the second surgery, when they removed the left temporal lobe and with it seizure focus, he had been seizure free. We celebrate it every year.

But in one night, God chose to start the clock over again for him. For us. It's been a grieving process deep and profound. Ten days later, another seizure rocked Shad's brain, leaving us reeling again.

Where does this leave our future plans? Our plan is to resign from Ethnos360 Training at the beginning of June and from Ethnos360 as a whole by the end of August. Due to the recent seizure activity, we have decided to extend our timeline by one month."

Continue to pray for Shad and Sarah during this difficult time; asking for God to surround them with His peace, give them guidance and direction for their future, and wisdom and discernment as parents of teenagers.

With Shad & Sarah's resignation from Ethnos360 coming this year, Leighton Church is no longer financially supporting them, but we continue to support them in prayer and love.

Your support to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of 14 missionaries around the world.

Thank you for giving!

Providing An Education

Meet Yeny Yamileth Castillo

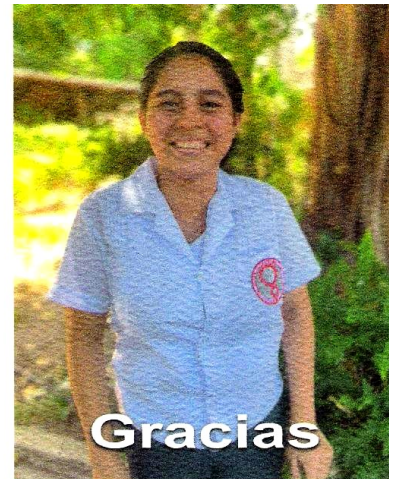
She is a 10th grade nursing student at the Choluteca Vocational School in Choluteca, Honduras.

Yeny is 18 years old.

Leighton Church is sponsoring her education for three years through the Marian Aubil Bequest to Faith Promise.

Pray over Yeny and her education.

It is our honor and privilege to help her get this education for her career path.



Wednesday Nights

6:00-7:00 p.m.

March 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Is your heart heavy with the troubles of this world and the struggles in your own life? Does anxiety and stress rule in your life day-to-day? Learn how to rest in God's love and set your troubles at the foot of the cross through this video-based study by Max Lucado

"HE CHOSE THE NAILS" will take you through the last moments of Jesus' life showing that Jesus' journey to the cross was not by chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of His Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us....the cross. The thorns. The nails. The seamless robe. The empty tomb.

Men and women of all ages and phases of life are welcome to come Wednesday evenings in March from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to:

- Experience Lent as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God
 - Take comfort that Jesus understands everything that you face in life
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven and are welcome in God's presence no matter what you've done.

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave (269) 876-7204



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MARCH 24 & 25

NEW LIFE CHURCH, WAYLAND

New Life Church in Wayland is hosting IF: 2023 on Friday, March 24th from 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 25th 10:00 am-4:00 pm. This is a recording of the original livestream event.

IF 2023 is where women all over the world gather, worship, get equipped and discover the next step in their calling to go and make disciples. IF: 2023 is a time for women to be reminded that God is who we need and God will provide.

IF is for women and girls (middle school on up). The cost is \$45 per person (register before March 24th) or \$50 at the door. This includes the conference, dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday and a few surprises along the way.

Let's have a great group of girls and ladies from Leighton attend! Register at Newlifewayland.org/ifgathering. We don't want anyone to be hindered because of cost. Contact Stacey Aman for more details. (616) 891-8028 or office@leightonchurch.org If you plan to attend, sign the clipboard in the Lobby or online at www.leightonchurch.org/womens-ministries

New Life Church is located at 160 Pine Street, Wayland

SPECTRUM HEALTH HOSPICE VOLUNTEERING

Compassionate caring hearts and helping hands are needed for Spectrum Health Hospice patients receiving end-of-life care. Volunteer opportunities are available for:

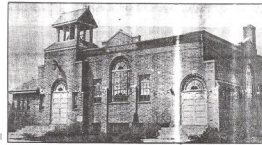
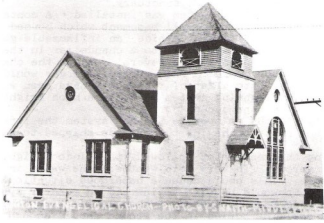
Licensed Cosmetologists, Singers, Instrumentalists, Visiting Pets, and for those who can offer friendly visits and caregiver relief.

Consider offering your gift of time, care and presence to patients during this critical time in their life. Spectrum Health Hospice serves patients in 11 counties throughout West Michigan in both home and facility environments. The program is flexible.

The next volunteer orientation sessions are March 21 and 28 from 9a-1p (must attend both). Contact hospice. Volunteers@spectrumhealth.org or 616-391-4240 to learn more.



Celebrating 160 Years of Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ 1863-2023



2023 is the 160th Anniversary of Leighton Church. Several people are attending Leighton Church now that were not here 10 years ago for our 150th celebrations which included year-long, weekly oral presentations of church history. Therefore, this year we will be having historical reports printed in the weekly news bulletin to inform (or remind) people of our church's beginnings and events.

WHO WE WERE—WHO WE ARE: A FAITH JOURNEY—Part 10

When the first church building on the corner of 2nd and 142nd was reconstructed in 1910-1911 there were several changes. The cloakroom, the bell tower, and the two entrances were completely removed and the sanctuary was extended to the east. A wing was added to the south side of the sanctuary and a bell tower was built at the south-east corner of the sanctuary. The new entrance was located in the lower part of the bell tower. All the window panes were stained glass. Tan brick had been used for the exterior of the original church and that same kind of tan brick was used in the reconstruction.

The new south wing was separated from the sanctuary by a partition which could be rolled up or down. This wing provided extra seating space for overflow crowds as well as for extra Sunday School classes. It was also used for meetings of church organizations during the week. A stove was used for auxiliary heat so it was no longer necessary to heat the entire building when small groups were meeting. The main heating plant was a one register furnace.

In the original building, light had been provided by kerosene lamps that were in wall brackets throughout the sanctuary. With the reconstruction, a new carbide lighting system was installed. This new system provided a much brighter light than kerosene lamps. It cost \$15.84 the first year to operate. This included having the carbide shipped to Moline.

After several years, this indoor lighting system became dangerous. In very cold weather, the water in the carbide would freeze which could be hazardous. So it was decided to install an outdoor system. A much larger tank was used and buried in the ground deeply enough that the water in the carbide would not freeze. This larger system was more economical because carbide could be purchased in larger quantities and at a lower price. There was less freight charge and there was no longer a need to keep a fire in the furnace to prevent the freezing of the carbide. The new plant could be purchased at cost which was \$197.00 including installation.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on January 28, 1913, to present the final statement of the reconstruction cost. The total cost was \$3,653.69. It was all completely paid and even had a balance of \$92.73! In spite of all the confusion, inconveniences and pressures created by the building project, all the regular services and activities of the church had continued. This was a great accomplishment and **another example of God's faithfulness to His people and their faithfulness to Him.**

(To be continued....) by Luann Snyder

Service in Action

How do I get involved?

| | |
|---|---|
| GREETER MINISTRY: March 12: The Syswerda Family March 19: Jan Geukes & Kim Bender March 26: Clay & Luann Snyder | Get involved: Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianepor93@gmail.com |
| Intercessory Prayer: March 12: Kim Bender March 19: Mike & Sandy Shanahan March 26: Debi Warren | Get involved: Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks. |
| Nursery: March 12: Cindy Herring & Britney Bredeweg March 19: Christine & Ava Syswerda March 26: Scott & Terri Farmer | Get Involved: Sarah Geers (616) 299-6898, sarahgeersbb@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done. |
| Coffee Bar: March 12: Chuck & Jane Hannan March 19: Colin Mead & Lori Haselden March 26: Servers Needed | Get Involved: Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar |
| Treats for Coffee Fellowship: March 12: Sarah Geers & Ronda Kaechele March 19: Christine Syswerda & Judy Hanlon March 26: Robbin Hilton/Cookies in the Cupboard | Get Involved: Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567 |
| Acolytes: March 12: Hollie Lepeak & Amelia Geers March 19: Makiah Geers & Abbi Pollmann March 26: Emily Acker & Amelia Geers | Get Involved: Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com |
| Children's Church: March 12: Robbi & Anabelle Hilton, Makiah Geers March 19: Rebecca Shanahan, Valerie & Hollie Lepeak March 26: Diane Norris, Christine & Ava Syswerda | Get Involved: Sarah Geers (616) 299-6898, sarahgeersbb@gmail.com |
| Kids Worship: March 15—Lesson: Valerie & Hollie Lepeak Crafts: Britney Bredeweg & Rebecca Shanahan March 22—Lesson: Valerie Lepeak & Rebecca Shanahan Crafts: Britney Bredeweg & Rylee Norris | Get Involved: Valerie Lepeak (616) 366-1162 babspoiled9@yahoo.com |
| Praise Team March 12- Sound: Mark Kaechele Media: Jenni Pollmann Vocals: Jill, Annah & Amanda Smith, Ava Syswerda Instruments: Jerry Slagh (guitar), Josh Aman (drums) Brian Smith (bass), Connie Hooker (piano) | Get Involved: Contact Jerry Slagh if you are interested in joining the sound, media, and/or praise team. jdsmusic@aol.com |