



**Cross
Trails
Ministry**

Annual Report 2022



And We Will!

“Ready, Set...Go!” was our theme for Summer 2022. We focused on faith practices such as prayer, reading the Bible, worship and gathering in community and service. As always, we sent all of our campers home by telling them to “Go in Peace and Serve the Lord”. And, as always, they responded loudly with “Thanks be to God! And We Will!”

Generations of summer campers have been shouting “And We Will!” For decades, youth, adults and families at retreats have been sharing the call. There is something wonderful about the way that summer camps and retreats gather people together and so they can step away from the everyday and encounter God in new ways. There is also something wonderful about everyone going home from camp with a shared mission to give thanks and serve the Lord.



Leaders are gathering and taking time to vision and grow together. Then they go home ready to serve the Lord.

Adults and families are gathering and spending faith-filled time together away from the day to day distractions of life. Then they go home giving thanks to God.

Youth are gathering, meeting new people, learning new skills and gaining a bigger view of their mission in God’s world. Then they go home shouting “And We Will!”

At Cross Trails, we are deeply grateful to be a part of the faith formation and growth of thousands each year through short, but powerful, time together with God. Our hope is that all who leave our sites and programs can shout in their hearts, “Thanks be to God! And We Will!”

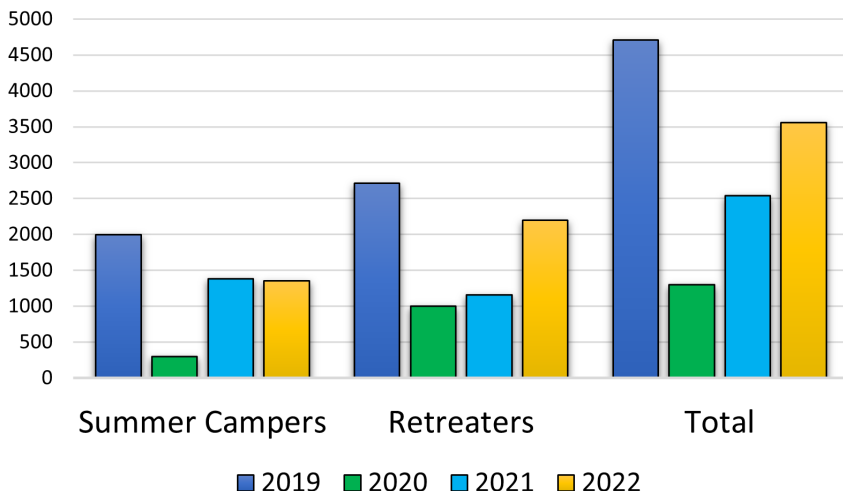
Growing Back

In 2022, our overall total participant number grew by 38%! We are grateful for the steady increase in guests as the pandemic recedes more completely.

Our summer camper numbers were on track to show significant growth, but ended up staying steady. This was because for the first time, we had known COVID exposure in our camps. We had to cancel a week of camp at Camp Chrysalis and two Day Camps due to the mandated COVID exposure protocols. Some on-site campers were able to switch weeks, but it resulted in no growth in our summer camper numbers compared to last year.

Thankfully, retreating grew by 85%! While numbers are not quite to pre-COVID levels, large groups have started returning, adult retreaters increased by 54%, and more groups are staying for long weekends or multiple weekdays.

Thanks be to God!



CAMP CHRYSALIS & EBERT RANCH

2022 Income & Expenses

As we grow back to our pre-pandemic levels, we are deeply grateful for the donated support that we have received. In a typical year the fees we charge cover about 70% of our costs. We also offer financial aid “camperships” to youth, adults and families who need financial help to pay for one of our programs. This means that we need to raise funds to cover the difference. Since we have not yet grown completely back to pre-pandemic levels, we are very grateful that our gift income has increased.

In 2022, congregational, individual, synod and organizational giving all grew! We are also grateful for the folks who established estate plans through the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. The income from these legacy plans has made a tremendous difference in the last few years.

We also received funds from the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) in 2022. This, in addition to the increased donations, helped us to make up the difference in lost retreat fees due to COVID cancellations. We are so grateful.

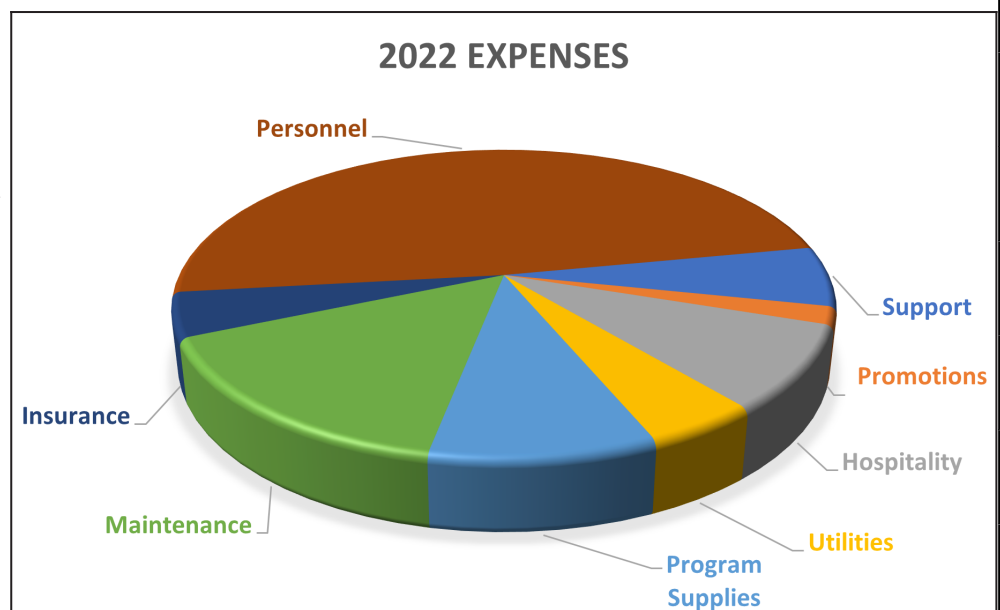
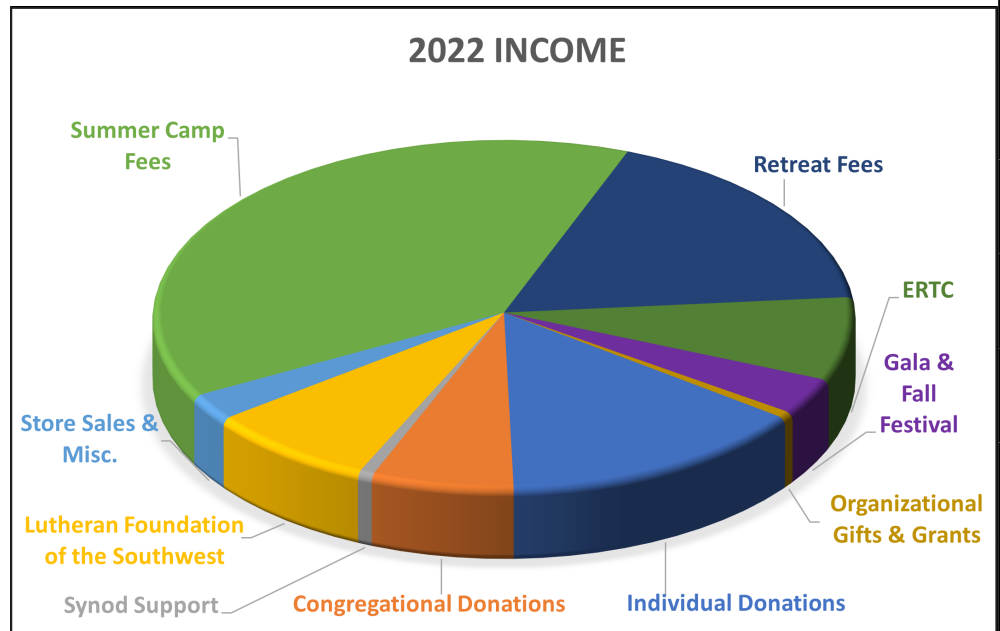
In addition to operating costs, sometimes there are capital improvement projects to be completed. In August, an anonymous donor saw the need for a new water play and swimming option at Ebert Ranch Camp and offered to match any funds we raised by the end of the year up to

\$50,000. We passed our goal and raised \$105,918! These funds put us well on our way to adding a 1-2 acre natural-looking swimming, fishing and nature play pond. We are continuing to raise funds for this project, but these gifts cover a major portion, and we hope to fully fund it soon. These types of capital improvements will be more in focus in the next few years as we begin to make larger site and program updates.

Our expenses last year increased in proportion to our occupancy. We also increased our spending on deferred maintenance and personnel. In 2022, we were able to return to full leadership staffing! This will help us to serve those coming now, and grow as we expand our programming options in the near future.

According to our 2022 audit, 91% of our expenses went directly to providing program.

That means that most of our income goes directly to providing the faith-filled retreat and summer camp experiences that so many youth, adults and families need.



Our 2022 Trailblazers - Leadership Donors

These Trailblazers gave leadership level financial gifts in 2022. We are extremely grateful for these donors who gave of their resources to keep the ministry going!

Red Oak (\$10,000 & up)

Individuals & Families

Anonymous

Anonymous

Congregations

St. Martin's Lutheran, Austin

St. Peter's Lutheran (Ander), Goliad

Live Oak (\$5,000 & up)

Individuals & Families

Chris & Sara Bunch

Mary Ann Christensen

John & April Poe

Lyle & Lois Schroeder

Organizations & Businesses

Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA

Pecan (\$2,500 & up)

Individuals & Families

John & Cindy Buford

Erick & Deanna Christensen

Mitch & Jill Dorn

Lois Holek

Dr. Violetta Lien

Beth Luckenbach

Kevin & Melissa Nolan

Mark & Alicia Tezel

Joel & Cathy Vale

Rev. Daniel & Deborah Zellmer

Congregations

Bethany Lutheran, Fredericksburg

Christ Lutheran, Georgetown

Christ Lutheran, San Antonio

First Lutheran, Floresville

Gethsemane Lutheran, Austin

Holy Ghost Lutheran, Fredericksburg

St. John's Lutheran, Goliad

St. Paul Lutheran, Yorktown

United Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran, Shiner

Prickly Pear (\$1,000 & up)

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Rev. Richard & Charlsie Bremer

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Robert & Velera Gaertner

Grant Gee

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Billy & Erin Shipley

Kurt & Suzanne Stricker

Rev. Kelly & Beth Tankersley

Louis & Ronda Wenzel

Nita Gail Wenzel

Carol White

Machaela Zellmer

Congregations

St. John Lutheran, Boerne

Zion Lutheran, Kerrville

Immanuel Lutheran, Alice

Joy Lutheran, Richmond

St. John Lutheran, Westhoff

St. Paul's Lutheran, Karnes City

First Lutheran, San Marcos

Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Seguin

Grace Lutheran, San Antonio

Abiding Love Lutheran, Austin

Hutto Lutheran, Hutto

Salem Lutheran, Port Lavaca

First Lutheran, Burnet

Triumphant Lutheran, Garden Ridge

Grace Lutheran, Bandera

St. Andrew Lutheran, Canyon Lake

St. Paul Lutheran, Nordheim

Organizations & Businesses

Edmund Jenschke Inc.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Zion Lutheran, Kerrville Women

Purple Sage (\$500 & up)

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Rev. Tim & Jennifer Bauerkemper

Leslie Blalock & Martha Noblett

Mark & Shaun Danney

Gene & Janet Davenport

Deacon John Dellis & Johnnie Jordan

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Travis & Lisa Springs

Halli Szarzynski

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Marc & Camille Williamson

Florine Winkler

Jonathan & Deanna Zitelman

Congregations

Christ Lutheran (Cherry Springs),
Fredericksburg

Christ Lutheran(Elm Creek), Seguin

Emanuel's Lutheran, Seguin

Grace Lutheran, Lockhart

Immanuel Lutheran, La Vernia

Immanuel Lutheran, Pflugerville

Living Word Lutheran, Buda

Love of Christ Lutheran, Weslaco

Our Savior Lutheran, Mc Allen

Preston Meadow Lutheran, Plano

St. Paul Lutheran, Mason

Organizations & Businesses

Bethany Lutheran, Fredericksburg Women

Cross Trails Summer Staff 2021

Faith Lutheran, Beeville Women

Grosenbacher Custom Homes

The Estate of Verline Schroeter



Trailblazers - continued

Bluebonnet (\$300 & up)

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Dinah Halopka-Ryson
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Alvin & Dorcella Sunday
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David & Cindy Thomas
Sylvia Van Antwerp
Ryan & Darcey Wagner
Brent & Rev. Katie Wegner
Terry & Vernetta Westbrook
Keith & Eileen Whited

Congregations

Faith Lutheran, Beeville
St. James Lutheran, Harper
Zion Lutheran (Arneckeville), Cuero
Zion Lutheran, San Antonio

Organizations & Businesses

A Home Work Solution
Bethlehem Lutheran, Quihi Women
Zion Lutheran, Fredericksburg Women



Friends of Cross Trails

Friends of Cross Trails gave a gift in 2022 of up to \$299 to help to fund the ministry and impact people through summer camp and retreats. Thank you to these individuals and families, congregations, organizations and businesses who helped make this ministry possible.

Individuals & Families

Susan Abbey
Werner & Denise Afflerbach
Ryan Agrella & Maggie Boos
Brenda Albrecht
Brian & Mary Evlyn Alg
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Gerald & Margaret Wilke
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Kathleen Wright
Amy Youn
John & Odelle Zarsky
Joseph & Elizabeth Zarsky
Karen Zarsky
Randy & Kimberly Zaruba

Congregations

Ascension Lutheran, Austin
Christ the King Lutheran, Universal City
Christ the Victor Lutheran, Victoria
Grace Lutheran, Harlingen
Immanuel Lutheran, Comfort
St. John Lutheran (Denhawken), Stockdale
St. John Lutheran, Wilson
St. Peter's Lutheran, Marble Falls
St. Stephen Lutheran, Portland
Trinity Lutheran, San Antonio

Organizations & Businesses

Emanuel's Lutheran, Seguin Heritage
Bible Class
First Lutheran, Gonzales Women
Immanuel Lutheran, Comfort WELCA
Immanuel Lutheran, Pflugerville WELCA
NI
St. James Lutheran, Harper WELCA
St. Mark's Lutheran, Corpus Christi
WELCA
Women's Big R



Gifts in Kind

Thank you to those who gave non-monetary gifts in 2022 to help us raise funds and cut our costs. Our Gift of Faith Gala, Fall Festival and Summer Staff Support rely heavily on these type of gifts.

Individuals & Families

Dale Anderson
Anonymous
Mike & Jennifer Bauer
Peyton Blackstock
Leslie Blalock & Martha Noblett
Mark & Denise Blomquist
Darren & Shannon Brehmer
Patsy Brehmer
Jo Ann Brewer
Cash Brown
Allan & Betty Buchmeier
Chris & Sara Bunch
Casey & Tessa Burns
Rev. Evan & Deacon Katharine Cameron
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Tollie & Beth Taylor
Bob & Kay Tergerson
Ryan & Darcey Wagner
Brent & Rev. Katie Wegner
Louis & Ronda Wenzel
Rev. Jerry & Krista Wirtley

Congregations

Bethlehem Lutheran, Quihi
St. James Lutheran, Harper

Organizations & Businesses

Alamo Mailing Company
Bethlehem Lutheran, Quihi Women
Capital Cruises
D3 Design
First Lutheran, Floresville Quilting Buddies
Hemlock & Heather
Hohertz Ceramics
Kendra Scott Jewelry
Kitty Keller Designs
Marta Lou Glass
Shelia Louis Photography
St. Peter Lutheran (Walburg), Georgetown
Ladies Aid

Thrivent Choice

Thank you to these Thrivent members who designated Cross Trails Ministry for their Choice Dollars.

Max & Lisa Antwerp-Rangel
Clark & Lisa Beach
Mark & Denise Blomquist
Rev. Richard & Charlsie Bremer
Shirlynn Buck
James & Elizabeth Cook
Dennis & Donna Cordes
Harold & Wendy Crater

Gary Ehrhardt
Terry & Vana Frisbie
Rev. Gary & Maxine Goodson
Garrett & Jodi Harmon
William Harris
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Kathleen Heath
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Victoria Hoppes
Henry Howe & Peggy Ogden-Howe
Rusel Jagim
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Rev. Paul & JoAnn Krupicka
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Jackie Porter
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David Steubing
Alvin & Dorcella Sunday
Sylvia Van Antwerp
Julie Van Antwerp-Borg
Sandra Vetter
Keith Vinyard
Elnora Wolfe



In Memory & In Honor

Some of our donors choose to gifts in honor of or in memory of the people and institutions that have made a difference in their lives. We are grateful to be a part of honoring these special people.

In Memory Of:	Given By:	In Honor Of:	Given By
David Blank	Rev. Paul & JoAnn Krupicka William & Barbara Maddox Billy & Erin Shipley Melissa Shugarman Alvin & Dorcella Sunday Rev. Ray & Deborah Tiemann Ryan & Darcey Wagner Jonathan & Deanna Zitelman	Susan Abbey's birthday	Susan Abbey Brenda Albrecht Princess Atunrase Doreen Brown Becky Hagens Kacie Marie Christopher Brown & Kayla Cates-Brown
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Wayne Zellmer		Rev. Katie Wegner	

Ebert Pond Challenge

In August an anonymous donor saw the need for a new water play and swimming option at Ebert Ranch Camp and offered to match any funds we raised by the end of the year up to \$50,000. We passed our goal and raised \$105,918! Thank you to these donors who gave to get us on our way to a pond at Ebert!

Ryan Agrella & Maggie Boos Trevor Baese Rev. Tim & Jennifer Bauerkemper Robert & Donna Beckmann Patrick & Jackie Blackman Albert & Sheri Boos John & Cindy Buford Chris & Sara Bunch Erick & Deanna Christensen Mary Ann Christensen Peter & Leah Clark Eric & Stephanie Cox Mark & Shaun Danney Jeremy & Michelle Davenport Jim Dodrill & Kym Oltrogge Misty Dush The Estate of Verline Schroeter David & Jill Freeman Grant Gee Patricia Hayden	Harvey & Nan Hengst Daniel & Katie Hofmann Lois Holck Bruce & Peggy Hoppes Betty Huebner Laine Huebner Norman Hummell John D. Hurst Rev. Drew & Leigh Ingram Robert & Dee Jackson Todd Jackson Darron & Inger Jurajda Buffy Kerkhoff George & Marissa Klein Stephen Kowalski Kevin & Debbie Krause Rev. Paul & JoAnn Krupicka Martha Landry Joel & Audrey Lehman Beth Luckenbach Jonathan & Lauren Lys	Marissa Makar Mike & Janet Maluschka Jeremy & Christina Martin Py McKenzie Dale & Patsy Meyers Jay Miller Jim & Karla Miller Rev. Paul & Marie Miller John & Kate Mueller Alan & Kristi Murdock Mark & Milli Myers Randy & Linda Nicholas Jeff & Sarah Nichols Kevin & Melissa Nolan David & Lisa O'brien Rev. Bob & Sherrie Palan Mary Petermeier Mike & Adrienne Quire Jon & Kathy Schmidt Diane Schroeder Blythe & Kaitlyn Schultz	Billy & Erin Shipley Melissa Shugarman Ken & Amy Singer William Spreen Aaron Steger & Kiesha Priem Kurt & Suzanne Stricker Michael Stricker Cecilia Suknaic Alvin & Dorcella Sunday Beth Svetlik Russell & Brenda Svetlik Rev. Kelly & Beth Tankersley Mark & Alicia Tezel Rev. Ray & Deborah Tiemann Joel & Cathy Vale Ryan & Darcey Wagner Brent & Rev. Katie Wegner Kathleen Wright Rev. Daniel & Deborah Zellmer Jonathan & Deanna Zitelman
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Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Charitable estate gifts given through the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest provide funding for our ministry year after year. The endowments below combined to provide funds of over \$112,000 in 2022.

Abiding Savior of Corpus Christi Endowment Fund	John & Norma Barr Endowment
Alfred L. & Elizabeth R. Pfenning Endowment	LaNell Ressmann 2009 Endowment Fund
Anne Dolores Johnson Endowment	Lee H. & Mary Eloise Bollmeyer Endowment Fund
Arthur K. & E. Maxine Leatherwood Endowment	Lee H. & Mary Eloise Bollmeyer Endowment Fund #2
C.O. & Rosina Baldwin Endowment Fund	Lee Roy & Vera Willima Coffman Endowment Fund
Carl & Emely Sundbeck Endowment Fund	Leif Johnson Common Fund
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Dora B. Klaus Endowment	Lois L. & Ralph Pfluger Endowment Fund
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Elizabeth Rogers 2009 Endowment Fund	Messiah Lutheran Austin Endowment Fund
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Hein Designated Endowment	Pietsch Endowment Fund # 2
Henry & Frances Schulte Endowment Fund	S and J Thompson Donor Advised Endowment Fund
Hilmar A. & Pearl Glenewinkel Lange Endowment	Shirley J. Olson Endowment Fund
Hilmar A. & Pearl Glenewinkel Lange Endowment #3	Synod #1 Managed Asset
Jack W. & Oleis Heineke Arlitt Endowment	Zach & Carolyn Swenson Legacy Fund

Volunteers

So much of what we are able to do happens through our volunteers! In 2022, some were able to come in person, while other volunteers worked virtually to help the ministry keep going.

David Abraham	Philip Drake	Leon Henk	Sean Krupicka	Jon Richter	Beth Taylor
Kathy Albrecht	Mary Drotos	Landree Henke	Stephen Krupicka	Margaret Richter	Dorothy Taylor
Ray Albrecht	James Ehler	Lane Henke	Zachary Krupicka	Ashley Rizo	Tollie Taylor
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Jennifer Bauer	Khristiyle Garcia	Lorgan Antonia	Beth Luckenbach	Elizabeth Rodriguez	Mark Tezel
Adelynn Bazaldua	Destiny Garza	Elizabeth Hill	Robert Lynch	Rene Ruiz	Bob Thonhoff
Christie Bazaldua	Nur Syarafina	Garth Hillman	Donald Mabry	Kayla Sanchez	Francesca Tiedt-Phillips
Emmalyn Bazaldua	Garzareck	Penny Hilton	Diane Markert	Madison Sather	Grace Tiedt-Phillips
Ty Bazaldua	Austin Gay	Daniel Hofmann	Beverly Martin	Sophia Saucedo	Jade Trevino
Valdemar Bazaldua	Crystal Gay	Craig Hohertz	Jimmie Martin	Alan Schmidtberger	Joel Vale
Marcus Bigott	Chris Gold	Matthew Hohertz	Sabrina Rae Martinez	Evie Schmidtberger	Harold Vanicek
Denise Blomquist	Sable Golden	Margaret Hoppes	Brad Matejowsky	Gregory Schoener	Alyssa Varenhorst
Avre Boos	Cassandra Gonzales	Laine Huebner	Adam Melivs	David Schulte	Andrew Walker
Sheri Boos	Evelyn Gordon	Leigh Ingram	Jackie Mitchell	Stefanie Schutz	Whitney Watson
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Jo Ann Brewer	Samuel Gordon	Justin Jaks	Nancy Nance	Amy Singer	Hannah Wilson
Brandi Brinkman	Eva Nell Griffith	Linda James	Evie Neal	Cailin Ann Sniff	Drake Woods
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Mary Ann Christensen	Kathy Hacker	Paityn Johnston	Neuenschwander	Britany St.Clair	Maevyn Wunsch
Leah Clark	Hannah Hansen	Jeff Jones	Vestal Odom	Christopher St.Clair	Trace Wunsch
Shaun Danney	Heather Hansen	Brooke Kalinec	Caroline Grace Olson	Lukas St.Clair	Justin Youngblood
Monica Davidson	David Haug	Alice Keelin	Frank Pennington	Natalie St.Clair	Karolynn
Shelby Derilek	Jacey Haug	Martha King	Suzie Perez	Alphee Strand	Youngblood
Gregory Dew	Kelli Haug	Anne Kolmeier	Mary Petermeier	Michael Stricker	Lindsey Youngblood
Joseph Diana	Micah Haug	Jerry Kolmeier	April Phillips	Cecilia Suknaic	Logan Youngblood
Debbie Dougherty	Jessica Henderson	Katherine Krause	Charles Phillips	Lawrence Sulser	Abigail Zamora
Patrick Dove	Harvey Hengst	Kelly Krupicka	Aaron Pyle	Dale Sump	Jonathan Zitelman
	Angela Henk	Kyle Krupicka	Charlotte Richter	Beth Tankersley	

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