

## **Altar Guild 2020 Ministry Report**

Organized and maintained primarily to support the sacrament of the Eucharist, the St John's Altar Guild has morphed during this COVID year of 2020 into an organization on hold—with the addition of a few unexpected under-the-radar duties.

The entire Altar Guild tended its usual Eucharistic duties for the first 10 weeks of 2020. Then came the pandemic close-down.

With the church closed and all activities ceased except those online, the few Altar Guild members who has access to the church for other reasons became, by directive from the rector, its only functioning members. These were Margaret Beare, Sheri Rasmussen, Catherine Turner, and Sandy Welles. Almost entirely, each person's Altar Guild duties involved flowers:

1. Ordering 30 Easter lilies.
2. Retrieving the 30 pots of lilies from their growers at Down Home Ranch near Elgin.
3. Arranging the lilies in the back of the chapel under the St John window for Easter.
4. Buying and preparing flowers and producing two arrangements for the chapel altar each Sunday for 32 weeks.
5. Ordering 30 poinsettias for Christmas.
6. Loading and hauling the poinsettias from Elgin back to St John's.
7. Arranging the 30 pots of poinsettias at the front of the church for Christmas Eve.

The only non-flower duty that any Altar Guild members performed during the latter half of 2020 was

8. Preparing a tray each week with the five items used during the small group Eucharist celebrated outdoors on Sundays at 1:15: chalice, paten, pall, bread box—and a holy rock, well washed and used to keep the pall from becoming airborne.

These mini-services were held a dozen or so times from late September through mid-November 2020.

At the end of 2020, all members of the St John's Altar Guild were awaiting vaccinations, declining COVID rates, and eventual return to their duties as tenders of the Eucharist and other liturgical needs.

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