

# Reflections

## PARTING WORDS FROM PASTOR MEYER

"I DO NOT CEASE TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOU..."

EPHESIANS 1:16

THOSE WORDS FROM ST. PAUL CERTAINLY FIT MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW. I CELEBRATE THE TEN PLUS YEARS I HAD THE GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE YOUR PASTOR. IT WAS A TREMENDOUS JOY TO SHARE GOD'S WORD WITH YOU AND TO BE A PART OF YOUR LIFE IN SO MANY WAYS. TO SHARE THE JOYS AND SADNESS, BUT ALWAYS TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD WITH YOU. YOU HAVE MADE MY POSITION THE GREATEST ONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

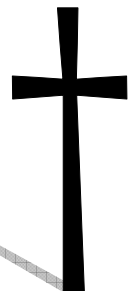
AND WHEN IT COMES TIME TO THROW A PARTY, YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO DO IT - I JUST WANTED TO SLIP QUIETLY OUT OF TOWN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE TREMENDOUS RETIREMENT PARTY THAT YOU HAD FOR LAURIE AND ME ON JUNE 12. THANKS SO MUCH FOR ALL OF THE KIND WORDS YOU SHARED AND THE REMEMBRANCES THAT YOU WROTE. THE GIFTS WERE MOST GENEROUS AND CERTAINLY NOT EXPECTED. THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL THAT YOU DID TO MAKE THAT A VERY SPECIAL DAY. I WAS A PASTOR FOR 39 YEARS AND ONE DAY AND THE ONE DAY WAS THE BEST.

I COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR A MORE ENJOYABLE MINISTRY FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS THAN THE TIME I SPENT AT ST. MARK. THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. I AM SURE THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU IN ALL THAT YOU DO.

WHEN I ANNOUNCED MY RETIREMENT IN SEPTEMBER, I INDICATED THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO WHEN I RETIRED, BUT I KNEW THAT GOD WOULD HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME. GOD OPENED A DOOR. I HAVE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED AN OFFER TO SERVE A PART-TIME POSITION ON THE STAFF OF COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA. I WILL BE WORKING WITH A TASK FORCE ON STARTING A SATELLITE MISSION IN SAN MARCOS AND MENTORING A YOUNG MAN WHO IS GOING THROUGH A PROGRAM TO BE A PASTOR AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IN IRVINE. I WILL ALSO BE HELPING THE PASTOR

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A monthly publication reflecting on past events and promoting upcoming events in the St. Mark faith community.

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1934 52nd Street SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

OF COMMUNITY, BILL VOGELSANG, WHO WAS A GOOD FRIEND FROM OUR DAYS IN CALIFORNIA, WITH SOME OF HIS DUTIES. WE WILL NOT BE STARTING UNTIL NOVEMBER, SO IT ALLOWS US TO DO SOME THINGS IN WEST MICHIGAN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS YET. THE POSITION IS FOR 14 MONTHS AND AFTER THAT TIME WE WILL ALL EVALUATE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

AGAIN, THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU IN THIS WAY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS US ALL.

PASTOR TOM MEYER & LAURIE TOO!

### Living Stones Crusader Cross

The new stainless steel cross (main church entry) is a Crusader Cross. During the Crusades, knights placed a sword in the ground - tip down - to form a cross. This marked "The Place of Worship." Surrounding the cross are the stones with names of members who participated in the "Living Stones" emphasis (Spring 2010). The cross is a farewell gift to St. Mark from Pastor Tom & Laurie Meyer, in memory of Laurie's parents, George & Helen Masch. Thanks to Randy Oosterhouse & Dave Hop for the installation and Premier Metal Products for fabrication.



# July Birthdays

- |                          |                      |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 7/1 Austin Pitts         | 7/13 Missy Knorr     | 7/22 Pete Broecker   |
| 7/2 Tony Babinski        | Noah Hoch            | Colin Nichols        |
| 7/3 Mary Ann Doublestein | Aubrey Hyde          | Ruthann Rabe         |
| David Harder             | 7/14 Kathy Dallen    | 7/23 Mary Henke      |
| 7/5 Katelyn Frass        | Margie Evele         | Rachel Sheldon       |
| 7/6 Kevin Nanzer         | Kacey Naklizki       | 7/24 Judy Teichert   |
| Phyllis Harder           | Mark Sheldon         | Bryan Vaughn         |
| 7/7 William Seeloff      | 7/15 Jackie Mahon    | 7/25 Brianne Elliott |
| 7/8 Allison Felt         | 7/16 Ryan McKendry   | Doug Schram          |
| Elizabeth Mueller        | 7/17 Jan Erlandson   | 7/26 Scott Eden      |
| Judi Peters              | 7/18 Tom Leggett     | Todd Frass           |
| 7/9 Patricia McClenthan  | 7/19 Katie Ainsworth | Gary Jakiel          |
| Dorothy Broyles          | Tammy Quatro         | Katrina Salzwedel    |
| 7/11 Angie Chester       | Carolyn Rubin        | Ryan Simpson         |
| 7/12 Joshua Sobol        | 7/20 Mike Mahon      | Kelsey McKendry      |
| Janelle Courson - Marutz | 7/21 Rob Gilcher     | Brooke Beukema       |
|                          |                      | 7/28 Denise Bond     |



- |                 |
|-----------------|
| 7/29 Amy Larson |
| Tonya Nanzer    |
| Shannon Hageman |
| 7/30 Mike Evele |
| David Ware      |
| 7/31 Mindy Dale |
| Tammy Koehler   |
| Jacob Koehler   |

## Let Me Introduce Myself

What can you say about yourself that makes people get an idea of who you are? That is the struggle that I face in describing myself. Well, first let me tell you my name... Glenn Worcester, and I will gladly tell you how to pronounce my last name if you'd like to know, so for now feel free to call me Pastor Glenn.

I'm 28 years old currently, was born in Detroit, went to College at Concordia Ann Arbor, and graduated from the Fort Wayne Seminary in 2008. I have been asked to serve as your Vacancy Pastor upon Pastor Tom Meyer's retirement. The reason why I am able to be a part of your ministry here is because Family of Christ in Comstock Park, where I had been called to right out of the Seminary as Associate Pastor, was forced to downsize due to financial circumstances, and I was the one who was released. I had an amazing three years there, and did not want to leave, and the congregation did not want me to leave, but understood the tough decision that had to be made. It has certainly not soured my view of the church or the ministry, which is why I look forward to being a part of St. Mark.

I say that I'm looking forward to it, but I really mean WE, because I haven't told you about the second most important part of my life. (The first is myself, if you hadn't figured that out yet... just kidding... Although I certainly am selfish because I'm a sinner like everyone else and I like to put myself first, I try and make God first in my life, but I'm only able to do that through His help, His guidance, and His love). Let me tell you about my wife Andrea. She is the love of my life and I love her just as much, if not more, than I did on our wedding day. She is originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, so if any of you like hockey, she'll gladly tell you how happy she is to get her Jets back. She is currently working in the office at Trinity Lutheran in Conklin, and is starting the process of going back to school to pursue Occupational Therapy. We celebrate two anniversaries, because we were married twice. The first time was to start the immigration process and there were 10 people in attendance, and the second was for the extravagant wedding with all our family and friends in Winnipeg. Upon marrying me, she gave up her career as a DPS (Director of Parish Services, it's like our DCEs), which shows me how much she loves me, because she was willing to give up her life and move far away from all family and friends to come and be with me. And as much as I like myself, I certainly am humbled by anyone who is willing and wants to be around me every day of my life. She is a great blessing to me and I thank God that He has placed her in my life. And she will be with me on Sunday mornings, so you will get the chance to get to know her more as well.

As we begin this journey together, only God knows how long we will be together, so my prayer is that I can show all of you God's love in all of our interactions, and that we can get to know one another and grow together as God works in this church. I hope I didn't bore you with all of this introductory information, but I thought it was the easiest way to start. I'll try and make it more interesting in the future! God bless and we'll see you soon.

In Christ, Pastor Glenn

## “We Need to Keep our Focus on God”



**Philippians 3:12-14** “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I **press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind** and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

Paul describes the Christian life as a constant straining forward, toward the goal of eternal life that Christ gives us through his grace. Throughout his life, Paul had experienced “the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings”, but knew he had not yet “attained” perfection. He pressed on toward living a holy and God-pleasing life, yet with the firm realization that he will never become perfect until we reach heaven. By “**pressing on**” we grow and mature in our faith — living for Christ instead of living for ourselves.

Recently Pastor Meyer’s retirement became official and all of us at St. Mark will very much miss him and his wife Laurie. Pastor Meyer served our church well in the role of a shepherd and has led the congregation to being active in our faith; keeping us in alignment with the ways of God. I believe that our congregation is in a state of mourning, and rightly so. However, like the loss of a love one, those who mourn - the congregation - have to stay focused on the living mission of God’s Church. Our congregation cannot stop in its mission/ commission to spread the Gospel to everyone.

Our trust in God cannot waiver as we search for a new Pastor, and we must stay unified and support one another during this transition time. Ten years ago, God gave us Pastor Meyer, and I am sure that some in our congregation had doubts about him at that time, but we now realize what a terrific selection God made for us. There is no reason to believe that God will not help us now to find a new shepherd. We need to stay focused on a sound doctrine that is linked to God’s Word, and continue our many ministries of outreach to the community. The devil hates what we are doing and wants to cause division within our congregation; the expression “united we stand, divided we fall” is a reminder to us of the importance in staying focused on our unity in Christ, in facing the challenges of a sinful world. The Apostle Paul in Philippians speaks to the need for unity:

**Philippians 3:17-18** Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. (NIV)

Currently, Pastor Glenn Worcester is serving our church as a vacancy Pastor and I believe that he has been chosen by God to be our temporary shepherd, and we need to support and pray for his ministry here at St. Mark. As a deacon I pray that God will help me to assist Pastor Glenn and the rest of the church staff as they continue their ministries that make St. Mark an active, God-driven church. Continuing our focus on God and his mission for us is pleasing to our Lord, and I am sure is pleasing to Pastor Meyer as well.

Like the Apostle Paul we, as a congregation, must continue to press ahead and keep our focus on God's mission for us, and not let anything prevent us from being good disciples, active in our faith. We must remember we all serve the same triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and we all have important roles to play in active ministry for God.

In God we Trust, Deacon Chris Rubino



**St. Mark Family Camping Weekend**  
at Camp Concordia - July 22-24

Plan a terrific time for your family with other St. Mark families by joining the group that's going! This is a great way for all of us "Living Stones" to get acquainted with fellow "Stones" you haven't met yet!

To sign up, please contact Camp Concordia directly and let them know you're with the St. Mark group: 616-754-3785, [director@campconcordia.net](mailto:director@campconcordia.net), or [www.campconcordia.com](http://www.campconcordia.com).

## Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

**"Worship for Shut-Ins" - 11:30a**

Channel 54, DISH Channel 54, Comcast Channel 21, & Direct TV Channel 377

**July 10 - Psalm 25:7 "Sins of My Youth"** by Rev. James L. Elsner, Prince of Peace~Hudson, IN

When the Word of God penetrates our hearts it begins to produce faith and trust in Jesus.

**July 17 - Romans 8:18-27 "Wait With Patience"** by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN

The suffering of people can seem overwhelming. Yet, in Christ, we have hope. Therefore we wait "for what we do not see" with patience.

**July 24 - Romans 8:28 "For Our Good"** by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN

Consider three questions: I) Why do all things work together for our good? II) What are the "all things" which work together for our good? III) What effect will this truth have on us?

**July 31 - Matthew 14:13-21 "The Lord Provides"** by Rev. Karl A. Frincke, Concordia Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

Jesus provided what the crowd needed, and He did so in abundance. He also involved others in this miraculous provision.



# CAMP, CAMP, CAMP!!!

What a great week we had at Camp Moosefeather Falls this summer! I know that I say that EVERY year, but in all honesty, I think this was one of the BEST, if not the BEST camp ever!

Why you ask?

1. We really used our theme effectively. The campers knew we were here to "Meet Yo' Feet"! The campers "got it" every night and knew exactly what our camp flag would say each evening.
2. We had great cabins this year. Enthusiastic leaders and creative ideas made every cabin FUN!
3. The music was AWESOME! I don't think I have ever heard our campers sing with such joy and enthusiasm as they did this year. We rocked this place!
4. Our mission project of bringing "old shoes", to fund sharing the Good News in countries around the world through World Missions, was a huge success. We had a huge pile of shoes!
5. Kody and Pola and their fun skits were some of our best. They helped us understand God's Word and helped us apply it to our daily lives. They made us laugh and they made us think.
6. The Bible events we shared illustrated our message clearly and effectively.
7. We had FUN! Everywhere you went at CAMP, you saw children having fun.
8. Our teen helpers were outstanding! They worked hard and with joy.
9. We ate almost 500 hot dogs at the camp picnic! The parking lot, playground, sidewalks and grassy areas were covered with people.
10. We were overwhelmed with compliments and expressions of thanks.

God blessed the hard work of so many people as they used their talents to serve Him!

Chris Stodola, Director of Children's Ministries



## It's time for **CAMP**

Yes, I know we just finished *CAMP*, but it will soon be time for *CAMP* at Redeemer! We will assist Redeemer with their **Carnival on Wednesday, July 13**, and with their **CAMP July 25-28**. Both the *CAMP* and the Carnival are from 6:30-8:30pm each night. Join us for a "local mission trip", where we minister to children and families from the inner-city.

### **BREAKFAST FOR TWO....HUNDRED!**



### **SUNDAY, JULY 31, BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES**

**EVERYONE** IS INVITED TO BE WITH US ON JULY 31 ON THE SANCTUARY PATIO (WEATHER PERMITTING), TO VISIT WITH MEMBERS YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN ALL SUMMER, TO WELCOME VISITORS TO ST. MARK, AND TO ENJOY A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST OF PASTRIES, JUICE, FRUIT, AND COFFEE.

THIS WOULD BE A GREAT SUNDAY TO INVITE SOMEONE YOU'VE BEEN MEANING TO INVITE TO WORSHIP, SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE WHAT A FRIENDLY, LOVING CONGREGATION ST. MARK IS!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE PASTRIES FOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (455.5320) TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'LL BE BRINGING.

*THIS EVENT IS BEING SPONSORED BY ST MARK WOMEN'S MINISTRY.*

## Home, School, and Church at its Best...

Devin Jacobs enrolled in the 7th grade at St. Mark, Kentwood. Previously, he had attended public school and religion classes; prayer during the day, and chapel were all new to him. After a few short weeks, he stated that he desired to be baptized. This opened the door to conversation among home, school, and church. The decision that Devin would be baptized during a chapel service was made after instruction and preparation.

The day turned out to be a great experience for everyone. It just so happened that the 7th & 8th graders were designed to lead chapel that day, and Devin was participating in the service. Teachers led discussions about baptism, students asked parents about their own baptisms, and two other students, not yet baptized, began to show interest. Prayers continued that the Holy Spirit will guide them to do so. St. Mark students, faculty, and members thank and praise God for His blessings as Devin continues to grow in his faith.

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*“Sharing Christ...  
Transforming Lives”*

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# Who's Serving in July



Sunday	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
<b>Elders 8:30</b>	Worch/Broecker	Schramm/Stegehuis	White/Galloway	Worch/Broecker
<b>Elders 10:00</b>	Rubin/Hop	Ambriz/Eden	Rubin/Plainte	Schramm/Stegehuis
<b>Communion</b>		Plainte/Hop		
<b>Usher Team 8:30</b>	Seddon	Symons	Johr	Weih
<b>Usher Team 10:00</b>	Rolf	Ainsworth	McClenathan	Rolf
<b>Greeter Team 8:30</b>	Seddon	Broecker	Larson	Symons
<b>Greeter Team 10:00</b>	Rutty	Vaughn	Rubino	Rubin
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kain/Vander Tol	Crapser	Crapser	Trombley/Broecker
<b>Sound</b>	Trombley	La Vigne	Vaughn	Knorr
<b>Nursery 8:30</b>	Trombley/ Trombley	Sauer/DeHoag	Klug/Mahon	Mahon/Shumate
<b>Nursery 10:00</b>	Berg/Stevenson	VanZweden/Rolf	Munyon/ Bahr/Gehrls	Ambriz/Galloway/ Gehrls
<b>Bulletin Folders</b>	<i>July 8</i> Frobel/Heldt	<i>July 15</i> Glendenning/Weih	<i>July 22</i> Larson/Domire/ DeHoag	<i>July 29</i> Volunteers Needed...Please
<b>Lawn Care</b>	<i>July 7</i> Symons/Symons/ Veltman	<i>July 14</i> Bond/Seddon	<i>July 21</i> Weih/Hopkins	<i>July 28</i> Worch/Jakiel/Sobol

Dear Volunteers at CAMP Moosefeather Falls,

My kids had another amazing week this year at CAMP! Thank you for all of the time, energy and creativity you pour into this VBS each year. I love the enthusiasm of each volunteer - it is a joy to drop my kids off to such friendly, inviting, loving people.

In addition, my son has a severe peanut allergy and you made me (and him) feel very safe there, even including the allergy info on his name tag, (I LOVE this!)

My kids are still singing "uh huh, oh yea, Lord, I want to follow You." I love it! Thank you for your Godly example of "letting the little children come to Me." We look forward to coming to CAMP next year!

Happy Camper's parent

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>July 2011</b>				1	2
3 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	4 Independence Day Church & School Offices Closed 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	5 8:00 pm Al-Anon	6 6:00 pm Thrivent So. Kent Co. Board Mtg.	7 5:30 pm TOPS	8 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	9 3:00 pm Wedding
10 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	11 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	12 8:00 pm Al-Anon	13 6:00 pm Thrivent So. Kent Co. Board Mtg.	14 5:30 pm TOPS	15 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	16 3:00 pm Wedding
<b>SRTM Holy Sweat Service Camp - July 10-16</b>						
17 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	18 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	19 8:00 pm Al-Anon	20 Redeemer Carnival*	21 5:30 pm TOPS	22	23
24 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	25 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous 7:00 pm Flame Proof Overnite begins	26 10:00 am Flame Proof Overnite ends 8:00 pm Al-Anon	27	28 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm SRTM Sr. High Whitecaps Game*	29	30
<b>CAMP Moosefeather Falls at Redeemer Lutheran Church July 25-28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</b>						
31 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:30-10:00 am Summer Coffee Hour 10:00 am Contemporary Worship						*off-campus