

# Reflections



## FINALLY

I knew this day would come sometime. Last September when I made the decision to retire, I knew that sometime the day would come when I would write my last newsletter article for the St. Mark Reflections. Back then it seemed like it was going to be a long way off. Now it is very, very close.

People have said, "What are you going to do when you retire?" For the short term it is easy to answer. Laurie and I, together with my sister and brother-in-law, are going to go to Williamsburg, Virginia and learn about the early colonists - something that has interested me. We also plan on seeing the homes of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. That will happen in June.

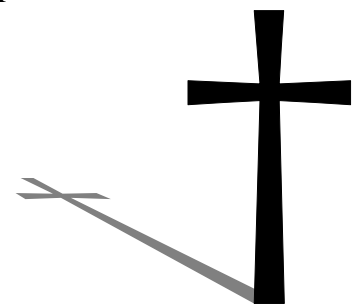
In July, we are going to take a trip that has been postponed for two years. Two years ago we celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary and planned on taking a trip to Alaska. For several reasons, it just didn't work out then. We will be doing that in July this year - just two years late.

In August, we are planning on spending time at my family's cottage on a lake in northern Wisconsin. Laurie is planning on doing some sewing and I'm planning on doing some reading or nothing. We have never really been able to spend all the time there that we wanted, so we are going to attempt to do that this year.

After that? I have said all along that I think God has something in store for me to do yet. I am not yet sure what that is, but I know that He will direct me to that when the time is right. That is the joy of opening up to God and asking Him to use me as He sees fit.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Finally cont.	2
Worship for Shut-ins	2
Call Committee	3
Who's Serving in June	4
School Living Stones	5
We Should Count	6
June Birthdays	7
Breakfast for Two	8
Watch the Bible on TV	8
CAMP Moosefeather Falls	9
June Calendar	10
Congrats to our Graduates	11



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

I have greatly enjoyed my ten plus years at St. Mark. I have had the great privilege of getting to know so many of you and sharing God's work here. It has been a joy serving God with you.

I have also been privileged to share in ministry with a great staff. I have had a great time working with them on a variety of undertakings. This is a great group of servants and a joy to share in ministry with them.

A couple more weeks and I will conclude my full-time ministry at St. Mark. Thank you God, for the opportunity of serving these *living stones!*

Pastor Tom Meyer

### **Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.**

**"Worship for Shut-Ins"**

**Channel 54, DISH Channel 54,**

**Comcast Channel 21, & Direct TV Channel 377**

**11:30am**

**June 5 - Luke 24: 45 "Understanding the Scriptures"** by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church-New Haven, IN The resurrection of Jesus proclaims His victory and the victory He won for us. Trials in life help us to focus on that which is truly important- "The salvation of (our) souls."

**June 12 - Psalm 25:7 "Sins of My Youth"** by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, IN I. These sins occurred, and they can now rise up to haunt us. II. However, be assured of total forgiveness, through faith in Christ. III. Go forward in life as mature Christians.

**June 19 - Matthew 28:16-20 "I Love a Mystery"** by Rev. Karl A. Frincke, Concordia Lutheran Church-Fort Wayne, IN God, His nature & being, is a mystery - one to be appreciated, loved and honored, but finally a God to be in relationship with per Jesus, his Son.

**June 26 - Matthew 10:34-39 "Allegiance to Jesus"** by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church-Decatur, IN By the greatness of Christ (He is God!) and by His wonderful works of love, we are saved. However, there are those who not only do not want to believe these facts of salvation, they are vehemently opposed to them. Sometimes those opposed to us because of Christ may even be members of our own family. In the midst of such opposition and peacelessness we are called upon to cling to and love our Lord above all things.

## Call Committee Update 5/31/2011:

The Call Committee has met once, and discussed the Call process with Pastor Westra (our acting Circuit Counselor). The Self Study has been submitted to the District President and we are awaiting a call list.



We understand that it will be three to four weeks after submitting the Self Study to get a call list from the District. Meanwhile members of the call committee will begin the process of preparing a Community Profile for the Pastor to whom we extend a call.

Several Pastors have been nominated by the St. Mark members. The names have been submitted to the District office, and will be evaluated by the District President. Thank you for your nominations.

Please feel free to contact any of the Call Committee members with any concerns: Joel Bahr, Scott Eden, Fred Fish, Roger Johr, Melissa Knorr, Jenni Krueger, Aaron Oostinde, John Salzwedel, Chris Stodola.

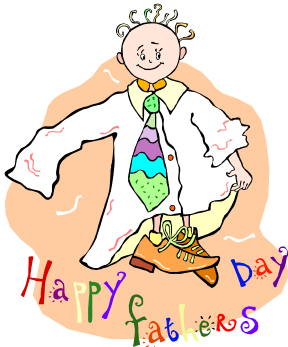
*The Call Committee, in an effort to ensure everyone in the congregation knows the status of the call process, will publish a weekly update to/in/on: St Mark e-mail, News & Notes, Reflections, and Bulletin Board in the Narthex. They will also conduct a monthly Congregational question and answer meeting.*

**Prayer Request:** The Call Committee asks for prayers for the man who will be our next Pastor; that the Holy Spirit would work in his heart and mind to guide



# Who's Serving in June

Sunday	<i>June 5</i>	<i>June 12</i>	<i>June 19</i>	<i>June 26</i>
<b>Elders 8:30</b>	White/Stegehuis	Worch/Hop	Broecker/Schramm	White/Galloway
<b>Elders 10:00</b>	Ambriz/Eden	Rubin/Plainte	Stegehuis/Ambriz	Rubin/Plainte
<b>Communion Elders</b>	Broecker/Galloway		Eden/Hop	
<b>Usher Team 8:30</b>	Weih	Seddon	Symons	Johr
<b>Usher Team 10:00</b>	Ainsworth	McClenathan	Rolf	Ainsworth
<b>Greeter Team 8:30</b>	Symons	Seddon	Broecker	Larson
<b>Greeter Team 10:00</b>	Rubin	Rutty	Vaughn	Rubino
<b>Lawn Care</b>	<i>June 2</i> Worch/Jakiel/Sobol	<i>June 9</i> Symons/Symons/ Veltman	<i>June 16</i> Bond/Seddon	<i>June 23</i> Bond/Seddon
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Vander Tol	Vander Tol	Rabe/Drake	Rabe/Drake
<b>Sound</b>	Worch/Gilcher	Trombley	La/Vigne	Vaughn
<b>Bulletin Folders</b>	<i>June 3</i> Evele/Tafel/Mahon/ Fahey	<i>June 10</i> Frobel/Heldt	<i>June 17</i> Glendenning/Weih	<i>June 24</i> Larson/Domire/ DeHoag
<b>Nursery 8:30</b>	Thompson/Worch	Trombley/ Trombley	Sauer/De Hoag	Klug/Mahon
<b>Nursery 10:00</b>	Evele/Winkler	Berg/Stevenson	VanZweden/Rolf	Munyon/Bahr/Gehrls



Happy Fathers Day to all  
our St. Mark Dads!!!!



## School *Living Stones* and “Reflections”

Looking in a dictionary at the word *reflect*, I find that one of the meanings is “to think or consider seriously”. Reflecting on the past month, these things come to mind..... MEAP results that show more of our students scoring at the advanced level than proficient level in Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies..... Track & Field Days that have our students winning an abundance of ribbons, but also showing them giving their best efforts and conducting themselves in God-pleasing manner.... Upper grades Elective classes experienced and enjoyed..... A great Annual PTL Gala Auction and all those who helped make it successful (over \$20,000 raised) and enjoyable.....Two days of volunteer breakfasts recognizing and appreciating those who generously give their time and energy in support of our school ministry..... A “first-time” PTL Walk-a-Thon that took place on a beautifully blessed day, had students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 walking near two hours, and raising over \$3,000..... 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip to Michigan’s Adventure, Craig’s Cruisers, included a “lock-in”, and a two day experience of Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City..... Preschool’s last days- a great year (a survey that reflects it) and Preschool camps: *Monster Fun* and *Fabulous Food*..... Lane, a kindergartener, baptized by Pastor Meyer at a Chapel service at the end of May (our second chapel Baptism this year)..... A *Salute to America*, a musical tribute presented by students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade..... Thanks to God for the ministry of our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, Llisa McCabe, and prayers for a blessed future..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation (3 of 4 graduates should attend West Michigan Lutheran High) and Celebration Luncheon..... Awards & Recognition Assembly, Closing Worship, and Family Picnic..... Thanks and praise to God for the ministry of Pastor Meyer and the support of the congregation and so many individuals who have blessed our school ministry. ...

Another meaning of *reflect* is “to manifest as a result of one’s actions”, such as *His life reflects God’s love for him*. As Living Stones, may we always be found reflecting THE LIVING STONE, Jesus Christ, upon which the Christian Church, the body of believers, builds and grows. May His love be reflected in our lives, in our words, and in our actions.

Blessings to all!  
Principal

Joel Bahr,



## “We Should Count our Blessings”

This week I found out that my friend, Roger Sassaman, is facing the loss of both his mother and wife to cancer. The prognosis for both of them is terminal and both will likely die within the next month or so. Roger and I both commenced to be deacons in April at St. Mark and I found his wife Joy to be such a loving and caring person; just like Roger. Since that time I have lost my mother, and now Roger is facing a double loss of his wife and mother. At a time like this, I am grateful that Roger and I both have faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus and in His promise of eternal life, because it sustains us through adversity and gives us hope.

This challenging situation has given me time to reflect on those moments when we complain about the negative events that we sometimes face; such as non-life threatening physical ailments, disagreements with a friend or a spouse, financial setbacks, and/or the challenges of raising children and so on and so on. I am not suggesting glossing over our disappointments, but not to dwell on them and carry on a pity party. Moreover, the danger of only focusing on our disappointments is not realizing all the blessings that God had provided us. The simple things that we take for granted, like a roof over our heads, food on the table and living in a country where we can freely worship Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When I think of what Roger is going through it makes me realize how blessed I am to have a wonderful loving family and to be part of a living, vibrant church such as St. Mark.

I just got off the phone with Roger and I am amazed at his remarkable faith and how his greater concern was for me and my family to remain faithful to God's Church. Roger said that I should hug my wife and children and tell them how much I love them; which I did. I now ask all of you to do the same; tell your spouse, child or a friend how much you love them, perhaps daily, because you never know when Christ will call you home.

In your prayers I ask you to include Roger and pray that his faith will sustain him; but also pray in thanksgiving for the many blessings that God has given you. Count your blessings for today, because you never know what tomorrow will bring.

In Romans 5:1-5 the Apostle Paul summarizes very well what I wrote above: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (NIV)

Can you believe how **BEAUTIFUL** our campus looks after the Yardwork Day on May 22<sup>nd</sup>? It's a large property and it takes a lot of people to bring it to its full beauty each summer. Just a small number of people accomplished a lot of work that day!

If you didn't help on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, you can still help on **Saturday, June 4 at 9:00am**, when we'll put the finishing touches on the job prior to welcoming many guests for Pastor Meyer's Retirement Party on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bring your own garden equipment: hoes, rakes, shovels, trimmers (electric, too), and wheelbarrows/carts. If you plan to weed, bring a weed digger or small shovel for that job.



# June Birthdays

6/1 Sean Stegehuis

6/2 R.C. Funk  
Lauren Stegehuis

6/3 Renee Kolzow

6/4 Kristenia Pittman

6/5 Linda Fish  
Nancy Nanzer  
Connor Naklizki

6/6 Macy Coleman

6/7 Jane Evele  
Pati Sheldon

6/8 Renee Ambriz  
Scott Oostindie

6/9 Blake Siewertsen

6/11 Brayden Hunt  
Lisa Hyde  
Cassie Nickles  
Alex Wauben

6/12 Rochelle Baldwin  
Brodie Larson

6/13 Donna Bahr  
Margaret Schlett

6/14 Doris Fahey  
Evan Oosterhouse

6/15 Bill Alverson  
Jessica Duron

6/16 Connor Calvert  
Leanna Munyon

6/17 Linda Campbell  
Lesley Hassenrik

6/18 Nyalam Put  
Bill Holbrook

6/21 Scott Larson  
Tracy Nething

6/22 Paul Colombe  
Roger Johr

6/23 Marlene Sell

6/24 Sarah Galloway  
Michael Gray  
Marsha Thornton

6/25 Connie Armijo Crumpton  
Heather Mahon

6/26 Jackson Gray  
Alec Knorr  
Luke LaVigne

6/27 Katie Fortier

6/28 Brenda Elliott  
Rachael Janusz  
Mark Put

6/29 Jordan Ainsworth  
Brayden Coleman  
Eva Nickles

6/30 Shirley Locklin

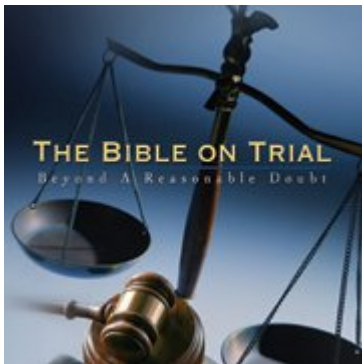
## “Breakfast for Two...Hundred!” on the St. Mark Patio Sunday, July 31 & August 28



We had a great turnout and were told it was so enjoyable and appreciated last summer, that St. Mark Women’s Ministry is planning to host 2 outdoor coffee hours on the Sanctuary patio this summer!

Be sure to mark your calendar to stay after 8:30am worship or arrive early for 10:00am worship on the planned dates, to stay outside for a few extra minutes to enjoy fruit, pastry, juice, coffee and a brief visit with those you haven’t seen much during the summer months.

If you’d like to donate baked goods for one of these events, please call the Church Office (455.5320) to let us know.



## Watch “The Bible on Trial”

The Bible. How could it possibly be accurate? How can you know? What about this book has compelled people to give their lives to defend its claims? The validity of the Bible has been questioned for ages and still remains an intriguing subject. The Bible on Trial, a television program from Lutheran Hour Ministries, takes a unique look at the subject and presents facts about the most widely printed book in history.

Watch it on Saturday, **June 18 at 6 p.m. Eastern** on the Inspiration Network (Channel 259 on Dish Network, Channel 364 on DirecTV; or check with your local cable systems) or Monday, **July 18th at 9 p.m. Eastern** through the National Religious Broadcasters Network (Channel 378 on DirecTV, Channel 126 on Sky Angel, as well as online at [www.nrbnetwork.tv](http://www.nrbnetwork.tv))

Visit [www.TheBibleTrial.com](http://www.TheBibleTrial.com) for more information and broadcast times.



It is really "Time for CAMP"! As school winds down we know CAMP is just around the corner. Less than 11 days!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to lead or help in some way at CAMP! We could not do it without you!

If you are still thinking of helping out at CAMP, please let us know ASAP!

And....if you have not registered your children for CAMP, it is very important that you PRE-register! Campers will have a much better chance of receiving their first cabin choice!

On June, 8, at 7:00pm there will be a meeting for everyone who is helping in any way at CAMP. We will review our Safety and Abuse Prevention Policies and share other important information for those involved. Leaders, if you have your supply lists ready, please bring them to this meeting!

See you at:

**"Meet Yo' Feet"**

CAMP Moosefeather Falls 2011!

June 20-24

6:30-8:30pm

# June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 am SMILS Chapel 7:00 pm SMILS Musical	2 Ascension Day 5:30 pm TOPS	3	4 8:00 am Elder Training
5 Holy Communion 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship w/8th Grade Graduation 11:30 am SMILS Graduation Luncheon	6 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	7 7:00 pm Board of Directors 8:00 pm AI-Anon	8 11:00 am SMILS Chapel SMILS Last Day of School 1:00 pm WMLHS Volleyball Camp 6:00 pm Thrivent So. Kent Co. Board Mtg.	9 1:00 pm WMLHS Volleyball Camp 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Ms. Nobis' Piano Recital 6:30 pm SRTM Service on Thursdays	10 1:00 pm WMLHS Volleyball Camp 7:00 pm Girls 4 God Overnite begins	11 10:00 am Girls 4 God Overnite ends
12 Pentecost 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 11:30 am Pastor Meyer's Retirement Program	13 9:00 am Intensive Confirmation 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	14 Flag Day 9:00 am Intensive Confirmation 7:00 pm School Council 8:00 pm AI-Anon	15 9:00 am Intensive Confirmation	16 9:00 am Intensive Confirmation 5:30 pm TOPS	17 9:00 am Intensive Confirmation	18
19 Holy Communion Father's Day 8:30 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	20 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	21 8:00 pm AI-Anon	22	23 5:30 pm TOPS	24	25
<b>CAMP Moosefeather Falls - June 20-24 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.</b>						
26 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:00 am SRTM Worship on the Beach* 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	27 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous	28 8:00 pm AI-Anon	29	30 5:30 pm TOPS		

# Congratulations to Our Graduates



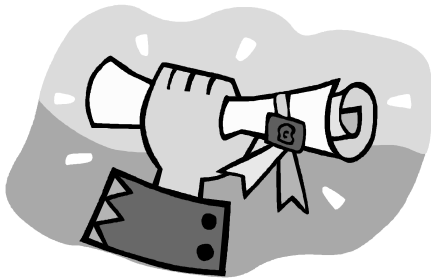
## St. Mark Lutheran School 8th Grade Students heading to:

Jacob Bickel – Forest Hills  
 Alex Carpenter – West Michigan Lutheran High  
 Yonathan Tessema – West Michigan Lutheran High  
 Courtney Klein – West Michigan Lutheran High

## SRTM “8th Grade” Students heading to:

Connor Calvert - Caledonia High School  
 Alex Carpenter - West Michigan Lutheran HS  
 Kayleigh Coccia - Caledonia High School  
 Kevin Elliott - Kenowa Hills High School  
 Chris Frass - Caledonia High School  
 Donald Ivers IV - Unknown  
 Patrick Martin - Unknown  
 Cassidy Ochsankohl - Uncertain  
 Austin Pitts - East Kentwood High School

“For I know the PLANS I  
 have for you, plans to  
 PROSPER you and not  
 harm you, plans to give  
 you HOPE and a  
 FUTURE.”  
*Jeremiah 29:11*



## SRTM Seniors heading to:

Aleya Coleman - East Kentwood - GRCC  
 Adam George - Caledonia - Central Michigan  
 Matt Irons - East Kentwood - GRCC  
 Cassi Nickles - Heritage High - Uncertain  
 Katrina Salzwedel - Hudsonville - Ferris State  
 Felicia Simpson - Unknown  
 Drew Stegehuis - South Christian - Hope College

## College:

**Jackie Mahon** - Graduated from Huntington University in Huntington IN, with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She was Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, Dean’s List, HU Honor. This summer she is helping out at Camp Roger as a counselor, this is her 4th year. Jackie is actively seeking full-time employment.

*“Sharing Christ...  
Transforming Lives”*

**St. Mark Lutheran Church  
and School**

1934 52nd Street SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

*Return Service Requested*

Phone: 616-455-5320  
Fax: 616-455-8487  
School Phone: 616-281-7892  
School Fax: 616-281-1543

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“SHARING CHRIST TO  
CONNECT PEOPLE TO  
GOD AND ONE  
ANOTHER.”

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**Sunday Morning Worship**

Traditional Worship      8:30 a.m.  
**Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m.**

Please note that through the months of June, July,  
and August, the late service switches from 11:00  
a.m. to 10:00 a.m.