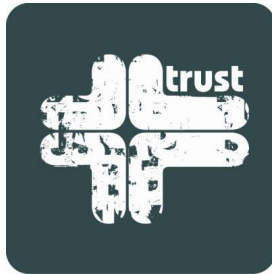


Reflections



A Time of Trust

I think that the more seasons of Fall I experience, the more I enjoy them. I mean, I don't enjoy the cold weather that comes with it, (I'd much rather have the heat of the summer), but I really enjoy this time of the year. My brother got married at the end of September, and it was a beautiful day for it. The day before, had been a little cold and rainy, but when the actual day came it was perfect. They got married in the butterfly house at the Detroit Zoo, and although it was warm inside and I was sweating at the end, it was still a beautiful day. There is something to say about having your wedding in the early fall... I remember my wedding day two years ago, and even though it was Labor Day weekend, it was extremely hot, and was hard to not break a sweat just standing outside for pictures. Had we waited a few more weeks, the weather may have been a little more generous.

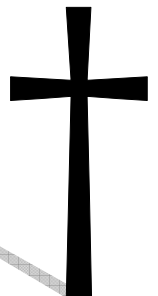
Besides the change in the weather, I think this time of year brings ministry back to "normalcy." Everything is kicking back into gear, and this season marks another year of experience and another year of maturity. This is my fourth season of fall in the ministry, and even though I'm 29, (and yes, some of you reading this will think to yourself, "he's old enough to be my grandson," and I'm okay with that) I continue to grow as a person, as a husband, and as a pastor. I certainly never thought I'd see myself in the position that I am, but my plans aren't God's plans.

And that is something I want to focus on the rest of this article. I talked last month about how we're all kind of going through this seasonal change together, and that no matter what God is with us always.

So, let me expound on my personal experience a little more. When the decision was made in December of 2010 to essentially release me of my call from Family of Christ at the end of March, it was a tough period in our life. Andrea and I knew that it was the right decision to be made for the future of the congregation, but it was still tough for everyone involved. In January, I met with the District to start going through the process of being on Call lists, and I think that we were hopeful of being able to get a Call quickly. Again, my plans aren't God's plans. I think for us the toughest part was that, because we did not know what our

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Time of Trust cont.	2
Call Committee	3
Free Spirits	3
Dresses For Africa	4
God is Good	4
Infant/Toddler	5
Child's First Bibles	6
Joy	7
Rock or Sand	8
Coming Attractions	9
Pregnancy Resource	9
Rear View Mirror	10
Rear View Mirror cont.	11
DMA	11
Girls of Grace Conf.	11
Free is Good	
October Calendar	
Fruit of the Spirit	
Fruit of the Spirit cont.	
Long Term Care	
October Calendar	



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

future held, we just wanted to move on with our life as quickly as possible, start fresh and new wherever that would be, and be settled and find a place to call “home.” When you talk with people who know your situation, they try to give you words of encouragement. I think the one we got a few times was “You know, when you look back on this, you’re going to see how God took you through it, and how He made everything work out the way it was supposed to,” or something like that. Of course, when you’re actually going through these “trials,” that is the last thing you want to hear, because I don’t want to think about down the road after it all; I want God to make something happen NOW! Let me tell you again, wait, let me tell you from God directly, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD, Isaiah 55:8. And one more for good measure, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” Jeremiah 29:11. I can tell you as a pastor, it is hard to just give up the fight of wanting God to change your life now, (we can call that patience), and just living life how God wants you to, and letting Him work the way He works, which is in His own time.

These last few months, I’ve done some looking back. I’ve seen not only the growth and maturing that God has done in my life, but I’ve seen that, SURPRISE, God WAS with me every step of the way, and He DID take care of everything, and it IS working out the way I think that He wants it to. And let me tell you, life is much more fulfilling living the way God wants me to and not worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34). And as far as that idea of “home” being somewhere else: Home isn’t about places and buildings, home’s about who you’re with. And with God walking with me on one side, and Andrea on the other, I’m always home.

I wanted to share this with you, because this month is a big month for the congregation. You may have been waiting patiently for this time to come, for progress to be made, or you may have been like me and wanted things to happen NOW. As the Call Committee continues to work diligently on your behalf, they will make their decisions, and then you will make yours. At the same time, God is working diligently also... in His way, to prosper you, and give you hope and a future. God is shaping you, and He is shaping the future pastor of this congregation. When will all that happen? We don’t know, who that will be? Again we don’t know, but it will be a great day for all of you. Now it’s easy for me to say that, but I think it may just work out the same way for you, also: “When you look back on this, you’re going to see how God took you through it, and how He made everything work out the way it was supposed to.” Trust me, I’ve been there, because God IS good and He never fails.

In Christ,
Pastor Glenn



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has completed phone interviews with four candidates. Of these four, we have determined the need to conduct second interviews with three candidates, if possible on October 4th. All three pastors meet the standards set by the "Congregational Survey", conducted earlier this year. Based on the paperwork and the interviews, the decision will be very difficult. Praise be to God that we have the Holy Spirit to guide us.

After the second interviews are completed, the Call Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors, after which the candidate name(s) and bios will be released for review, followed by a congregational Call vote before the beginning of November.

The Call Committee asks that you continually pray for the Holy Spirit to impart wisdom and discernment on each Call Committee member. Pray for peace and patience, as well, for each member of St. Mark, as we all wait in joyful anticipation of who and what God has in store for us.

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 Oostindie, John Salzwedel, & Chris Stodola.



FREE SPIRITS (55 AND UP)

**SAVE OCTOBER 12TH
FOR AN EXCITING TRIP TO LANSING**

WE WILL BE TOURING THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER AND THE MICHIGAN STATE CAPITAL BUILDINGS.

WE WILL LEAVE ST. MARK AT 9:00AM AS OUR FIRST TOUR (MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER) BEGINS AT 10:30 AND SHOULD TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR, DEPENDING ON QUESTIONS. **COST IS \$4 FOR MUSEUM, \$1 FOR PARKING (FISH'S JUST RECEIVED INFO OF THE CHANGES, AND ARE SORRY FOR THE COST!)

LUNCH IS AT THE HISTORIC CLARA'S LANSING STATION (WE ARE EACH ON OUR OWN FOR LUNCH), AND THE TOUR OF THE CAPITAL BEGINS AT 2:00PM AND WILL TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR, DEPENDING ON QUESTIONS.

PLEASE CALL ST. MARK OFFICE (455-5320) TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION(S), ALSO, PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DRIVE.

“Little Dresses for Africa”

We need help and donations!! The Women’s Ministry of St. Mark, (which is every women member of our church), is sponsoring “Little Dresses for Africa” Nights, October 5 & October 19, (Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm).



We need all women to help. If you can’t sew, we will need people to cut and pin. Many hands will help us reach our goal of 25+ dresses. So far we have made 20 dresses and they have turned out so adorable.

Donations are needed: *(Please put donations in the box marked “Little Dresses for Africa”)* Pillow cases (new) any color, any size; Seam binding any color, 1/2 inch size; Lace or ric-rack, any size; Elastic 1/4 inch size.

God is Good...All The Time!

LOTS of good things going on in 52nd Street Ministries! By the way, 52nd Street Ministries is the umbrella name for our Children and Youth Ministries! 60+ kids are coming on Wed. nights, (we have room for more...hint hint)! Supper Club is seeing 48 people! Plus, we’ve added salad to every meal. Our Crosswalk Ministry for 5th & 6th graders have really taken off...the kids are absolutely loving it! 16 guys came to our first Flame Proof overnighter; 12 gals came to Girls 4 God overnighter; and about 50 students and adults are receiving my daily encouragement texts! And one Sunday morning, someone “complained” that our music is too loud and the kids are singing too loud. LOL Gotta love it! I have the privilege of baptizing Taylor Shumate on Oct 2nd (one of our high school seniors) which makes my heart leap for joy! Taylor has been attending St. Mark and involved in SRTM since 4th grade...GOD IS GOOD! It’s great to celebrate!

52nd Street Ministries
Children & Youth

And while we’re on the have some bittersweet news... was the best one yet and are you going to top that?” And our answer is: We can’t! Hundreds of hours of prep work goes into “Celebrate” and we’ve decided to take a year off. But instead, we will be doing four Murder Mystery Dinners on the weekend of November 4th-6th! It will be a great time of food, community, and mystery! And you will still be able to celebrate what God is doing in and through our ministry! Mark your calendars and watch for more info to come!

subject of celebrating, we last year’s “Celebrate SRTM” many of you commented “How

As always, I consider it a privilege to be youth minister at St. Mark, and to help our students take the next step in their faith! May the good LORD continue to bless your family, as well as our St. Mark family! Tom Chester, Youth Minister

Infant/Toddler Ministry



The fall and winter season has begun. There is a song that we sing in church with the title of “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling.” Verse one says “Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, “Who will go and work today?” Verse two talks about leading the little children to the Savior’s waiting arms. Verse four says “Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do.” These words are so important. We have an important ministry at St. Mark. It is called the “Nursery.” Oh, how important this “Nursery” is to St. Mark. It allows parents to worship. It allows parents to attend special Bible classes. It allows visitors to put their children in a safe place while they learn about all St. Mark has to offer and it allows visitors to worship with friends and families, knowing their children are taken care of.

We are again in need of volunteers to work in the Nursery. We also encourage youth to help. We are urging anyone who places children in the Nursery to volunteer periodically. You know how important it is for you to have that safe haven for your children. We cannot have the Nursery open for each service on Sunday without the extra help. I have put an article in the “Weekly News” and I am going to repeat this article in Reflections, because I feel it is very important.

To All Parents Who Use the Nursery: Volunteers are needed to work in the Nursery, especially during 11:00 a.m. worship when we have a greater number of little ones present. Without at least one adult and a helper in the Nursery during the service, the Nursery will not be open.

If the Nursery is not staffed with an adult (at least 18+ years of age), you may not leave your child. If you’re not sure how old a volunteer is, please feel free to ask if they are at least 18 years old. This safety pre-caution is to protect your child.

If you use the Nursery, we need you to help periodically. You do not have to sign up on a monthly schedule, but we do need you to volunteer. You’ll find a list on the Nursery bulletin board, showing when help is needed and you can sign up.

If you don’t use the Nursery, but would like to help, please call Sandy Pillsbury, Director of Infant/Toddler Nursery (891-8551 or e-mail her (spills8566@aol.com)). We encourage youth (14+ years old) to volunteer.

We would like to staff the Nursery on Wednesday nights during activities/classes, if we have a volunteer. Please let Sandy Pillsbury know when you will be able to help with this important ministry for young families

We have many more special functions that we would like the Nursery open. This list is always on the Nursery bulletin board, or you may contact Sandy at any time.

Who will answer, gladly saying “Here am I. Send me, Send me”?

Sandy Pillsbury, Director Infant & Toddlers Nursery



Your Child's First Bible

The Bible is the Living Word of the Living God. It is where we see God's faithfulness to His people, His promises to us, His children, and His plan of salvation for all. The Word is where we grow in knowledge and relationship with God.



As parents, we want our children to know and love God's Word, so that it will become the foundation for their lives. St. Mark is offering classes for parents of first and third graders for "First Bible Presentations," so children will have an age-appropriate Bible for use at home.

Sunday, October 16 & Sunday, October 23

Parents of First & Third Grade Children

During Learning Hour (9:45-10:45am), we invite parents of children in first & third grades to attend a class where you will learn about your child's spiritual development, how to foster lifelong use of the Bible, and tools and tips on how to spend time in the Word with your Child, to help your Child become a student of the Word and help them build a personal relationship with our great God.

****Please note that both Sundays will have the same content. You may choose to attend the Sunday most convenient for you!**

Sunday, October 30 - Parents of First & Third Grade Children

During Learning Hour (9:45-10:45am), you will have an opportunity to mark special verses, write personal messages in your child's Bible, and wrap the Bible for presentation. Parents and children will gather at the altar for the "Blessing" at the 11:00am worship service. This will be a special day in the faith life of your child, your family, and in the family of God.

Classes will be held in the Media Center. **Bibles will be provided by St. Mark.**

****Please contact the Church Office (455-5320) if you plan on attending the First Bible Class. We would like to have an accurate count for purchasing Bibles.**

Chris Stodola, Director of Children's Ministry



JOY

How do you get *Joy*? Many have learned that “J-O-Y” can be an acronym for Jesus, Others, and You. In this order, we find Jesus’ answer to the question: *Of all the commandments, which is the most important?* (as recorded in Mark 12:28-31). His answer, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.....and love your neighbor as yourself.”

In a Christmas sermon in 1998, Pastor Phil Toole of Mountain Valley Community Church in Scottsdale, Arizona put it this way, “The ‘J’ stands for Jesus, The ‘Y’ stands for you. Do you know what the ‘O’ stands for? It stands for zero. Just what it says- nothing. What I’m saying here is the way to stay close to Jesus and keep joy in your heart is let nothing stand between Jesus and you.”

Joy is listed second in *The Fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22&23), our school year theme) and will be our focus as “Fruit of the Month” in October. As the Holy Spirit works through God’s Word, we pray for an increase as we read, listen, study, and learn the Bible.

True joy comes from God and He will be with us and bless us in the days ahead. So we look forward to October and what follows. Some school activities and events that may bring us Joy in October include: School/PTL/Church Staff led *Fall Festival* on October 29th, 7th & 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington, D.C., Kentwood Fire Dept. visit to lower grades for Fire Safety Week, K-Grade 4 students singing in the late service on 10/30, 5th – 8th Grade All Area Youth Event at West Michigan Lutheran High on 10/28, more girls’ basketball games and tournaments, more field trips, School Picture Retakes, and MEAP testing (you can have joy in MEAP tests? Sure, if you’ve done as well as we have in the past).

On Sunday night, March 24, 1895, the well-known preacher Charles Spurgeon prepared a sermon for his congregation that contained this portion about joy..... “There is a marvelous medicinal power in joy. Most medicines are distasteful; but this, which is the best of all medicines, is sweet to the taste, and comforting to the heart. The blessed joy is very contagious. One dolorous spirit brings a kind of plague into the house; one person who is wretched seems to stop all the birds from singing, wherever he goes.....(But) the grace of true joy is contagious. Holy joy will oil the wheels of your life’s machinery. Holy joy will strengthen you for your daily labor. Holy joy will beautify you and give you influence over the lives of others.”

The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians, only four chapters long, is often referred to as an epistle of joy. Chapter 1 speaks of the joy in living. Chapter 2 talks about a joy in serving. Chapter 3 discusses a joy in sharing. And Chapter 4 speaks to a joy in resting. In this last chapter, we read the familiar verse (4), *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

May God bless you with an increase in Joy, causing you to rejoice greatly!

Joel Bahr, Principal



"Rock or Sand?"

There's a great kid's song that says "Jesus, You're my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure. Jesus, You're my firm foundation, I put my hope in Your Holy Word."

As a minister of the Gospel, this is my goal...to give our kids a firm foundation so that when they are older, they will be firm in their faith, committed to their Lord, and serving others as they fulfill the purpose God has for their lives.

This foundation starts at their Baptism and continues to be built upon their whole lives. It starts in the home, (the greatest influence,) and is definitely supported at church, youth group, and Christian schools.

So, my question for all of us is this: "Are we giving our kids a firm foundation?" I believe the first part of doing this is attending Bible class and worship.

Growing up, Bible class and worship were an expectation. We went to church on Sundays, because it's what God commands, and more importantly, because we wanted to grow in our faith and be a part of our faith community and church family. I never questioned that. I knew it was expected and I enjoyed going. I also enjoyed attending youth group and other foundation-building ministries at my church.

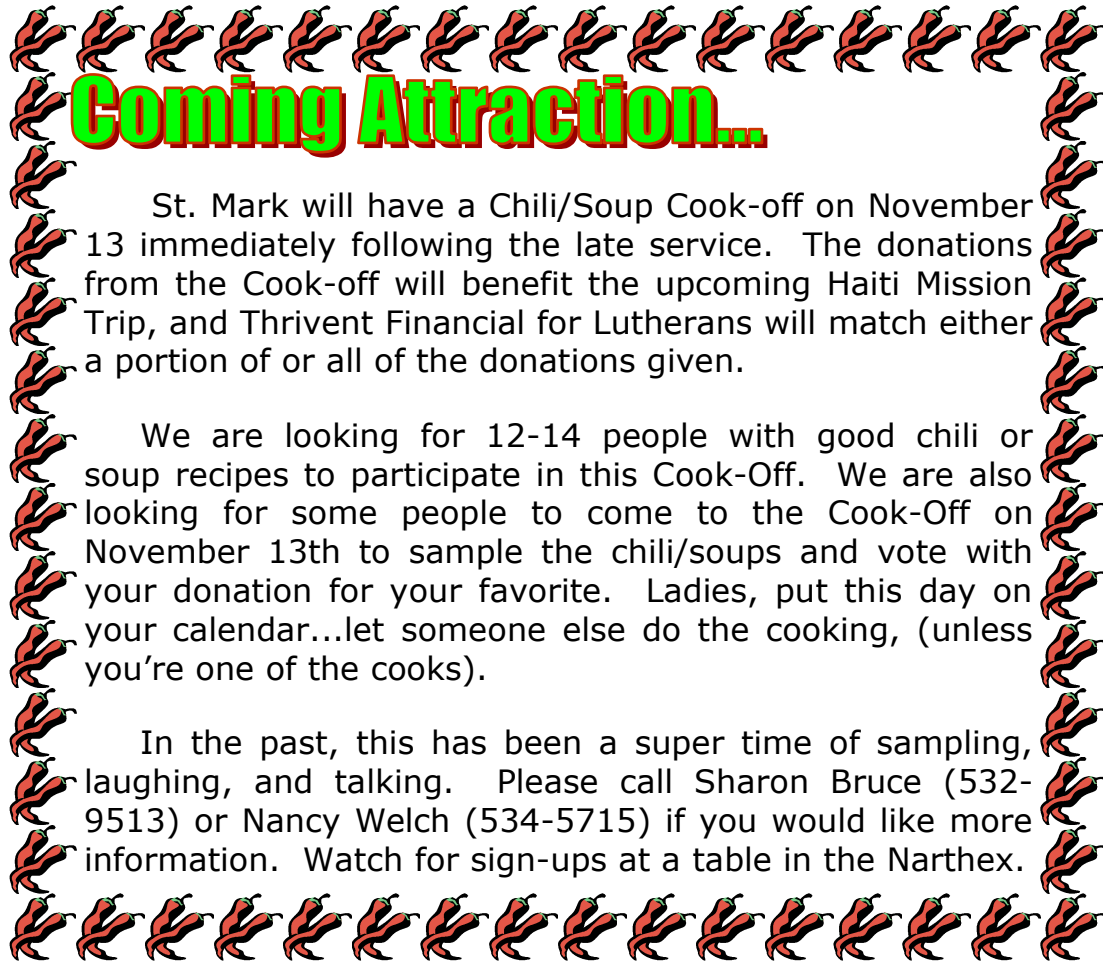
There are so many, and I emphasize "so many," other good things to be involved with, but, like the Bible says not all good things are beneficial. And those "so many" things distract us from the very thing that we really need.

I can't thank my parents enough for the firm foundation they gave me, and I know I've made them proud, going into the ministry. And I want the same thing for your (our) kids! When they are 20 or 30 or 40 years of age, I pray that they will have a strong faith and realize the foundation that God began in them. Because without it, they will be like the house built on the sand, and when the storms came, it was washed into the ocean.

What things are really important for our kids? And, do we want their lives built on the Rock or on the sand? I hope to see you in Bible class and worship this Sunday!

God is good...all the Time!

Tom Chester, Youth Minister



Dear St. Mark Congregation,

This letter is to thank the congregation of St. Mark Lutheran for the generous gift of baby items delivered to our Family Support Services office on September 19. This gift from your church is very needed! More than 79,600 items were distributed in 2010 to families in need.

Thanks again for partnering with the Pregnancy Resource Center. May God bless you as you continue to serve our community for Christ.

James E. Sprague, MSW

Executive Director, Pregnancy Resource Center



Rear View Mirrors

By now you have probably noticed the car themes running through the Children and Youth Ministries at St. Mark. If not, I invite you to read our brochures, and visit the hallway and our classrooms. They are beginning to take on their own identity as **52nd Street Ministries**. Our Children's Ministry is based on the verse from Luke 2:52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."



As I mentioned in church, this is our goal, our prayer for your children. So, it is with our "car" theme in mind that I write these thoughts.

Rear View Mirrors

My husband and I are in the "rear view mirror" stage of parenting. We have two children that are pretty much on their own now. One is in graduate school, in his own apartment, and with his own life separate from ours; the other, beginning her third year of college, so almost on her own...interpret that to mean she really only needs us for MONEY!!

As I look in my rear view mirror, I see the mistakes, the regrets, and the outright failures of our parenting. I also see that by the grace of God, we did some things right and our kids still love us. But my point is this; my husband and I are no longer looking through the windshield of influence in our kids' lives. We, of course, still model all that we hope we have taught, but, at this point, our kids are making their own decisions about their life and their **faith**.

Luke 2:52 encourages us to:

Help our children grow in wisdom-Intellectual growth!

It encourages us to help our children grow in stature- Physical growth and development!

And in favor with God and man-Spiritual growth!

Today, we place so much emphasis on the first two areas of growth, and the spiritual growth is our afterthought, when it should be our first priority. There will be a time when the foundation you have laid is the only influence you have. So, before you are looking in the rear view mirror, ask yourself these questions:

Am I giving my child every opportunity to grow, IN FAITH?

Do I pray daily for and with my child?

Do we attend worship regularly as a family?

Do we serve together?

Does my child see me studying and growing in the Word?

Are you bringing them to Learning Hour and attending Learning Hour yourself?

To those of you who are looking through the **windshield** to the road ahead, or through the **side windows** as life is rushing by, please **stop** at the stop sign, **look both ways**, and **ponder the direction** you are taking and will take. You will not travel this road again.

Chris Stodola, Children's Ministry Director

D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age)

**Grab your Stetson and your boots,
we're heading down the trail to Robinett's Orchard.**

Wednesday, October 19th

**Hay Ride \$5.00; Lunch in Chuck Wagon (Cafeteria) at your own
expense. Great time with friends....priceless.**

****Meet at church at 12:15pm to carpool, or meet there at 1:00pm**

Girls of Grace 2011 Conference

Saturday, November 12th

Grand Rapids First Church

9:00am - 4:00pm

\$35 each & \$5 box lunch

Girls in grades 5-12 & their moms are invited....

**Please RSVP to Robin (455-5320)

by **Friday, October 21st**, (the next Girls 4 God meeting)

*“Sharing Christ...
Transforming Lives”*

St. Mark Lutheran Church,
School & Preschool

Return service requested

1934 52nd Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49508

Phone: 616-455-5320
Fax: 616-455-8487

School Phone: 616-281-7892
School Fax: 616-281-1543

churchoffice@stmarkkentwood.org

SHARING CHRIST TO
CONNECT PEOPLE TO GOD
AND ONE ANOTHER.



FREE is GOOD!

You can help out the ministries of St. Mark by collecting/
bringing in the following items:

Campbell Soup Labels for SMLS

Box Tops for Education for SMLS

Pop tabs for dialysis for SMLS

Pop Cans/Bottles for SMLS/SRTM

Used Cell Phones for SRTM

Used Printer Ink Cartridges for SRTM

Family Christian Stores Library Stamps for SRTM

Paper, boxes, etc. for Paper Gator which is a "slush fund" for
all the ministries.



Thanks for your support!

Who's Serving in...



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>October 2</i>	<i>October 9</i>	<i>October 16</i>	<i>October 23</i>	<i>October 30</i>
Early Elders	Broecker/Galloway	White/Stegehuis	Seddon/Eden	Oosterhouse/Galloway	Galloway/Hop
Late Elders	Ambriz/Eden	Rubin/Ambriz	Plainte/Hop	Ambriz/Eden	Schramm/Stegehuis
Communion Elders	Hop/Schramm		Schramm/Stegehuis		
Early Ushers	Seddon	Symons	Johr	Weih	Seddon
Late Ushers	Rolf	Ainsworth	McClenathan	Rolf	Ainsworth
Early Greeters	Seddon	Broecker	Larson	Symons	Seddon
Late Greeters	Rubin	Rutty	Vaughn	Rubino	Rubin
Sound Early	Trombley	Vaughn	Sauer	La Vigne	Worch
Sound Late	Trombley	Vaughn	Gilcher	La Vigne	Knorr
Coffee Hour	Pillsbury/VanZee/ Glendenning	Rutty/Krueger	Rubin/Sauer	Tafel/Heldt/Frobel	White/Baldwin
Altar Guild	Vander Tol	Rabe/Drake	Rabe/Drake	Kain/Vander Tol	Kain/Vander Tol
Bulletin Folders	Evele/Tafel/Mahon	Frobel/Heldt	Glendenning/Weih	Larson/Domire/DeHoag	<i>VOLUNTEERS Please!!</i>
Lawn Care	<i>October 6</i> Bond/Seddon	<i>October 13</i> Weih/Hopkins			
Tellers	Fish/Hopkins	Smith/Bellah	Fish/Rubin	Felt/Seddon	Fish/Hopkins



October Birthdays



10/2	Bailey Eden Morgan Ennis Taylor Shumate	10/9	Cora Evele Kaileigh Hafke Amber Jakiel Adeline Romkema Sarah Trombley	10/17	Donald Knorr Lisa Pitts	10/26	Bev Edwards
10/4	Shelley Coccia Jenny Miller	10/11	Larry Busse	10/18	Carmen George	10/28	Barb Astuccio Will Ennis Amy Vaughn
10/5	Taylor Coleman Ed Koehler	10/12	John Anderson Nathaniel Mueller Cynthia Schram	10/19	Nicolette Arntz DJ Plender	10/30	Adam Laube Patrick Losey Jeff White
10/6	Sandy Hop	10/14	Debbie Rolf	10/20	Brooklynne Siewertsen	10/31	Kristin Felt Samantha Gehrls Zoie Webster
10/7	Teresa Crapser	10/16	Nina Breiner	10/21	Greg Coccia Kristen Hafke		
10/8	Kevin Coch Cameron Quatro			10/22	Dan Coch Gerard DeHaan		
				10/25	Joseph Janusz		

Fruits of the Spirit Need to Be Demonstrated by the Senior Pastor and the Congregation

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

I find it very fitting that our congregation is now hearing a sermon series on the Fruits of the Spirit, at the same time that our church is in the process of finding a Senior Pastor. I suggest that the qualities found in Galatians 5:22-23 should be the qualities that we demonstrate as a congregation, and should also be important qualities demonstrated by our future Senior Pastor. This is not to say that any of us always exhibit these spiritual qualities, because we are imperfect human beings, sinners as such; but nevertheless, important to being frequently demonstrated by us as a congregation, and also by our future spiritual shepherd: our next Senior Pastor. This certainly should not be the only criteria used in the selection process. Other factors have to be taken into consideration and I can see that the search committee is doing their very best to keep us informed and are conducting thorough and well-prepared interviews.

The reason I draw the importance of our congregation and our future Senior Pastor in demonstrating the Fruits of the Spirit is the following:

Love: Without love in our hearts for God and humanity; how can anyone serve a God who is all about love, mercy and forgiveness? He gave up his only Son Christ Jesus to suffer and die in our place for our sins, and then, through His gracious love, offers us eternal life. A passionate heart for God and His people is necessary for anyone who serves God in ministry, especially our congregation and our future Senior Pastor.

Joy: I am often amused that some Christians, and this includes some pastors, seem to lack an inner contentment and seem to walk around as if the whole world is on their shoulders. If a visitor to our church; who may be searching for a relationship with God, sees our congregation and our future Senior Pastor as lacking joy, carrying their burdens with them, will they come back to our church? Our congregation and our future Senior Pastor need to embrace the fact that we can unload our burdens at the cross and live with joy because of that.

Peace: The Bible says that, through faith in a loving God, we have a peace that surpasses all understanding. If that is the case, then the environment in our church as reflected by the congregation and our future Senior Pastor should be one of mutual respect, where disagreements can be lovingly resolved and turmoil kept to a minimum.

Patience: Knowing that we are all far from perfect, we all need to exhibit a willingness to understand that God created us all differently and we do not all respond to situations in the same manner. Jesus demonstrated this in dealing with his twelve disciples and, in spite of the challenges of dealing with their distinct personalities He continued to train them on the ways of God. Our congregation and our future Senior Pastor need to do the same. The Senior Pastor serves as the shepherd of the flock, although challenging because the flock will want to scatter and go in different directions. Therefore, patience is critical for our future Senior Pastor in leading our church in the ways of God.

Kindness: It is difficult to demonstrate God's love when we show no consideration for others. Consoling people who are having problems, even if it is simply being a good listener, is important in building a Christ-Centered environment that is based on kindness to each other. This life-supporting environment should be led by our future Senior Pastor and embraced by our congregation.

Goodness: The Apostle James was correct when he said faith without works is dead. If we do not show goodness in our behavior towards others, how can we say we have faith in a loving God? An inner goodness is revealed by our loving actions and should be the inner core-focus of both the congregation and our future Senior Pastor.

Faithfulness: The core value of Christianity is faith. The promise of eternal life is based on a faith in the death and resurrection of our Savior, Christ Jesus. Christ was faithful to his Father and to us; therefore, we should exhibit our faithfulness in all of our relationships, marriage, parenting, friendship and ministry. It is critical for both the congregation and our future Senior Pastor to demonstrate faithfulness to the ways of God if our church is to grow.

Gentleness: I cannot imagine someone wanting to come to our church if we were rude and crude to each other. Warm welcomes and true expressions of fellowship such as handshakes or even hugs can go a long way in supporting an inner evangelism and should be endorsed by our congregation and our future Senior Pastor.

Self-Control: This fruit of the Spirit can be a challenge to many of us, because we fight the battle between spirit and flesh every day. Pastoral Ministry can be difficult because dealing with our own demons is difficult enough, without having to take on the issues of other church members. We have to understand that a pastor, even though ordained, faces the same challenges we do in living a life that requires denying the self. Jesus demonstrated self-control in dealing with the challenges of the religious leaders, the apostles, and certainly the people, without losing sight of His mission. Certainly, our future Senior Pastor and our congregation must demonstrate self-control in order to fulfill Christ's Gospel mission for His church.

The spiritual criteria for both congregation and our future Senior Pastor are the same, because the two work hand in hand. The expression, "United we stand, divided we fall" comes to mind. The Senior Pastor will provide the spiritual leadership, vision, and direction, and we as a congregation, must embrace it and involve ourselves in carrying it out. Both the congregation and the Senior Pastor must be committed to serving God in truth. We need to pray for spiritual discernment for both the congregation and the search committee; asking God to reveal to us the man He wants to be Senior Pastor at St. Mark.

In God We Trust,

Deacon Chris Rubino

LONG TERM CARE SEMINAR

On Tuesday, October 18th, at 7:00pm, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be hosting a Long Term Care Seminar at Maple Creek, with special guest speaker, Tracey Raedle, Regional Vice President with Genworth Financial-LTC.

The address location is: 2000 32nd Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. Enter through "The Terraces" doorway that is east of the Clocktower, toward the Breton Road side of the complex. We'll be meeting in the Leisure Enrichment Room.

To RSVP, please contact Rick Rolf at (616) 248-4600 or Email at: rick.rolf@thrivent.com

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

October 2011

2 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship w/Communion 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship w/Communion	3 10:00 am Women's Bi- ble Study 6:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 6:30 pm WIM Planning Mtg 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous	4 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Practice 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 8:00 pm Al-Anon	5 6:30 am Men's Bible Study* 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm WKSJ (K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (5-6) 6:30 pm Full Throttle (7-8) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Dresses for Africa	6 3:30 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 4:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice	8 9:00 am HABITS Retreat Board of Directors Mtg
9 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship and Children's Church 12:30 pm Flame Proof	10 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm School Council	11 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Practice 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 8:00 pm Al-Anon	12 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 9:00 am Free Spirits Lansing Trip* 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:00 pm Thrivent South Kent Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm WKSJ (K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (5-6) 6:30 pm Full Throttle (7-8) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team	13 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	14 4:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice No Elementary School	15
16 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm SRTM D3	17 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous	18 SMLS/P Picture Retakes 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30-7:00 pm Blood Drive 4:00 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Game 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 8:00 pm Al-Anon	19 SMLS/P Picture Retakes 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 1:00 pm DMA-Robinette's* 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm WKSJ (K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (5-6) 6:30 pm Full Throttle (7-8) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Dresses for Africa	20 3:30 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm WMLHS Volleyball Game 6:30 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	21 6:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 6:30 pm Girls' for God	22
23 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship and Children's Church	24 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous	25 1:00 pm Quilters 4:00 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Game 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 8:00 pm Al-Anon SMLS/P - Vision/hearing Screening	26 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm WKSJ (K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (5-6) 6:30 pm Full Throttle (7-8) 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27 3:30 pm SMLS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	28 7:00 pm Chick Flick	29 Fall Festival?
30 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (K-Grade 4 Sings)	31 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm WMLHS Volley- ball Practice 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous					