



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messenger

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

August 2022



All are invited to attend our Family Outdoor Movie Night on August 19

On the evening of Friday, August 19, we will be holding our annual Family Outdoor Movie Night! Here, we will gather outside to watch a family-friendly movie on our outdoor screen. This year we plan to watch the film *Encanto*, a highly-rated, animated movie about a Columbian family with magical powers.

This is a great opportunity to gather together with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and get to know the people of our community! Snacks and other refreshments will be provided. The movie will begin at dark. Don't forget your camp chairs and picnic blankets! And bring along some friends! We look forward to seeing you there!



Seeking volunteers to join St. Mark's Quilting Bee

St. Mark's Quilting Bee will resume meeting every Thursday at 10 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall beginning Thursday, August 4. This group always welcomes new volunteers to join them as they create beautiful quilts for those who are destitute and living on the streets both in the U.S. and abroad. You don't have to know how to quilt in order to help! Just show up on any Thursday, and our quilters will show you what needs to be done.

If you have any questions regarding the Quilting Bee, please feel free to talk to Jennie Kaufman or Lynn Thomas.

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Bible Study



Please join us for Bible Study!

Are you currently attending one of our Bible study classes listed below? If not, we encourage you to do so! These classes provide an in-depth study of God's Word allowing you to gain a better understanding of his love for us and also his desire as to how we should live as his children.

Please consider attending one or more of the classes listed below!

Adult Bible Class: The Book of Genesis

In the month of August, we will be resuming our study of the book of Genesis in our Adult Bible Class!

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin.

We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m., after our Divine Service.

Men's Bible Study Will Meet on August 6

Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, August 6. We will gather from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will continue our study of the book of Revelation.

We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

7979 Commerce Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Phone: (248) 363-0741; Fax: (866) 649-6870

Website: www.stmarkwb.org

Pastor: Rev. Aaron Vergin

E-mail: pastor@stmarkwb.org

Editor: Debbie LoCascio

E-mail: debbie@stmarkwb.org

Sunday

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45 a.m. (September through May)

One Saturday/month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Handicap accessible

Pastor's Page

Passing On God's Mighty Works to the Next Generation: A Blessed Duty for the Church

My friends, as I write this, we at St. Mark's have just concluded our VBS week for 2022. And what a blessed week it was! By the grace of God, we averaged over 60 children per day, and they all had a great time learning about Jesus, singing songs, making crafts, enjoying snacks, and doing all kinds of other activities. Of course, I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to all our volunteers and donors, as well as to the Board of Family and Youth that organized the program. But most of all, we praise the Lord who has equipped us and blessed us in Christ for such fruitful service! May all the glory be to Him!

But as I reflect on this past week, it's got me thinking about the role of the Church and of all faithful Christians in passing on the faith to the next generation. Indeed, whether it's parents (or grandparents!) teaching their children at home, Sunday School teachers leading a weekly lesson, or church members proclaiming Christ during Vacation Bible School, this remains true: *The teaching of children is a critical component of the Church's mission, just as important as sending the Gospel out into foreign lands.*

Consider a story from the book of Joshua, chapter 4. Here, God has just brought the hosts of Israel across the Jordan River by a great miracle. Even though the river was in its flood stage, God had His priests step into the waters while carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as the soles of their feet touched the water, the river ceased flowing, pooling far upstream, so that the people of Israel could cross into Canaan on dry land. Then, once all Israel is safely across (the priests still standing with the ark in the midst of the riverbed), God commands Joshua: "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight'" (Joshua 4:2-3).

And why did God command them to do this? To help instruct their children in the works of God for generations to come. As Joshua then says, "When your children ask you in time to come, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever" (Joshua 4:6-7).

Now, this story is instructive for us in two ways. First of all, it reminds us how important it is to God that we be teaching the faith of Christ to our children, both as parents

and as a Church. With those twelve stones, God was making a point: He wants children to know His works, from generation to generation. He doesn't want His salvation to be forgotten. He wants parents to teach their children, and for the Church to join in with this blessed task. Those stones were a sign to the people, a memorial forever. They were a real-life tool, by which the children of Israel were to be taught the works of God. By giving this command, God was emphasizing the importance of such teaching.

And this remains true today. What a blessing we have in the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ! In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul rejoices, saying, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:4-5). As Paul says, the knowledge of Christ is to us true riches. It saves our souls and brings us into God's kingdom, for it reveals God's mighty works for our salvation: the sacrificial death of Christ, His glorious resurrection, and our participation in this eternal redemption through baptism and faith by the forgiveness of our sins. Indeed, there's nothing greater than knowing that!

And, just as God deemed it important to pass along His works among the people of Israel, so also God deems it pivotally important that we pass along the knowledge of Christ to our children today. God commands fathers to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Jesus Himself said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). And Peter says of Baptism, "The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself" (Acts 2:39). Therefore, let us always remember: The work of passing along the faith to the next generation is exceedingly important, both for parents and for the Church at large. After all, "How are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14).

But even more, this account from Joshua also reminds us that teaching the faith to children is worth the difficulties and challenges it brings! Think again about those stones. Certainly, these weren't small stones. They weren't baseball sized, grab-them-with-one-hand, stones. They weren't stones you could just throw up onto the bank with a little bit of oomph. No, these were great boulders, which these twelve men had to heave up onto their shoulders (Joshua 4:5). After all, they needed to stay in place and remain conspicuous for generations. Now can you imagine how hard that must have

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(See Pastor's Page, Page 6)



A report on Vacation Bible School

St. Mark's Vacation Bible School program was held from July 18-22 and it was a wonderful event for both students and staff! A total of 79 kids were registered; however, the average daily attendance was 61. This was the first year that we actually had to close registration in order to keep our student to teacher ratio manageable! Praise be to God for sending us so many kids to teach about His love for them!

Of course, this program wouldn't have been doable without the help and support of so many of our church members. We especially thank our Board of Family & Youth for planning and implementing VBS this year: Mandy Vergin, Debbie LoCascio & Lynn Thomas. We also thank our teachers and their assistants: Storytelling - Jennie Kaufman & David Drake; Crafts - Lynn Thomas, Carolynn Taylor, Marianne Crawford and Asese J.; Snacks - Mandy Vergin, Ellen Rentola, Jean Swainson & Elena Y.; Opening, Closing & Music class - Pastor Vergin & Lexi Powell; Bible Challenge/Games - Debbie LoCascio & Julie Kosmalski; Classroom Guides (moved the children from station to station): Preschool - Kim Olsen & Mirai Q.; Kindergarten & 1st Grade - Mary Ann Lockwood, Gail Fitzgerald & Tyler C.; 2nd & 3rd Grade - Sandy Krus, Anna L.; 4th & 5th Grade - Darryl Swainson, Christian L. & Jack A. And lastly, we thank all those who donated food for snack time (especially Jennie Kaufman who made dozens of heart & flower-shaped sugar cookies), as well as all of you who gave monetary donations to help cover the cost of VBS expenses. Great job, everyone!

Young Adult Gathering will be on August 6

All young adults are invited to gather at Trent & Jennifer Johnson's house this Saturday, August 6 at 4:00 p.m. for some fun and fellowship. If you have any questions regarding the event, or need the Johnson's address, feel free to give Trent a call at (260) 452-8573.



Young Adult Ministry



Outdoor Service and BBQ was held on July 24

On Sunday, July 24, St. Mark's held our annual Outdoor Service and BBQ. Although the service and BBQ had to be held inside due to thunderstorms, we still had a blessed day in Christ!

The service served as a culmination of our VBS program, including readings selected to support the week's themes. Also, the children from VBS performed one of the week's songs during the service, to the glory of God.

We also rejoice that everything went well with the BBQ afterwards! About 30-40 people gathered downstairs in our Fellowship Hall to enjoy some burgers, hot dogs, and other delicious food! Thanks to the elders for leading the organization of the BBQ, to the ladies who helped run it, and to all those who donated food! It was a joyous time of Christian fellowship!



Read through the Bible in 2022

The Apostle Paul, referring to the Scriptures, once said, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Therefore, so that we might learn the Scriptures better and might abound in hope in Christ, St. Mark's Board of Elders is leading a Bible reading program, in which we will be going through the entire Bible in a year. Reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary, and weekly readings will be printed in the bulletin. The readings in August will begin at Isaiah 60. Please consider participating! You can pick up any time!

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

Carolyn Achimov—has medical issues.

Joan Freeman—has medical issues.

John Freeman—is at home recovering from a broken leg.

Chris Gerard—is recovering at home following a lengthy hospital stay.

Helga Gonzalez—is having some medical issues and is in rehab to get stronger.

Barbara Jewell—is having a lot of back pain and some other issues.

Nancy McInnis—is recovering from chemotherapy.

Rod Oehring—has medical issues.

Cindy Parks—is recovering from Influenza B; is undergoing tests.

Marlene Steck—has memory & health issues; Hospice has been called in.

Art Vermeersch—is having health issues.

Carl & Carol Zienert—are having medical issues.

Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—diagnosed with Leukemia at age 4; is undergoing treatments.

Joe Boway's wife, **Glendora**—is having health issues.

Cathy Fitzgerald's friend, **Randy Collins**—is very ill.

Friend of St. Mark's, **Allen Geer**—is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Nancy Geer's friend, **Kate Keever**—prayers for decreased pain & healing, and the stress of having to move.

Barbara Jewell's niece's son, **Tim Bridges**—is recovering from back surgery.

Barbara Jewell's niece-in-law, **Peg Fieler**—keeps falling.

Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's sister, **Carol**—is undergoing radiation.

Glenn Jewell's insurance agent, **Vicky**—had cancerous tumor removed & is receiving chemotherapy.

Jennie Kaufman's nephew, **Jeff Balhoff**—is receiving cancer treatment.

Olivia Krog's mother, **Julie Shrivnen**—is being treated for cancer.

Debbie LoCascio's father, **Bob Tippett, Sr.**—is suffering from Dementia.

Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Betty Ebejer**—is struggling with COPD.

Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Judy Miller**—is in rehab following a hospital stay.

The LoCascio's friend, **Steve Cronk**—is receiving radiation for cancer.

The LoCascio's friend, **Rhea Thomas**—is receiving chemotherapy.

The LoCascio's sister-in-law's mom, **Dotti Raczkowski**—suffers from Dementia; is recovering from hip surgery.

The LoCascio's sister-in-law, **Mary LoCascio**—broke her ankle in 3 places; is undergoing therapy.

Mary Ann Lockwood's uncle, **Nick Zazula**—his cancer is worsening; Hospice has been called in.

Cindy Parks' friend, **Linda**—is battling breast cancer

Cindy Park's mom, **Rose Mielke**—is having health issues.

Stephanie Reynolds' mom, **Pam Williams**—has health issues.

Stephanie Reynolds' son, **Emmett Reynolds**—has Autism.

Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.

Lynn Thomas' good friend, **Kristy Fresh**—has been diagnosed with a rare cancer.

Mandy Vergin's sister, **Bethany Goers**—has been diagnosed with breast cancer; is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy.

Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a brain bleed.

Larry Whitehead's cousin, **Leonard Pittaway**—is battling bladder cancer.

Lori Whitehead's great niece, **Morgan Duggin**—needs extra prayers.

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Joan Freeman's brother, Ernie Sampson—has medical issues

Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—is having health issues

Friend of St. Mark's, Erika Williams—needs guidance prayers

Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law, Phyllis Tharp—is battling lung cancer

Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home

Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having health issues

Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—is having medical issues

Barbara Jewell's friend's brother, Johnny—diagnosed with cancer

Kay Joslin—is receiving therapy for her hip

Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission

Debbie LoCascio's brother, Bob Tippett, Jr.—is having liver issues; is undergoing tests

Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Cheryl Tippett—is battling cancer

The LoCascio's neighbor, Laura Jones—is battling cancer

Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—having health issues.

Cindy Parks' sister, Jeane Schaefer—is awaiting back surgery

The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—is recovering from a stroke; receiving therapy

Jean Swainson's friend's son, Connor Donahue—is in an intensive inpatient rehab center recovering from being hit by a car

Mandy Vergin's father, Bruce Ketcher—health issues have gotten worse.

Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has several medical issues

Lynne Welty—is having health issues

Larry Whitehead's daughter, Tracy Whitehead—prayers for wisdom and guidance

(continued next column)



August Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Kari Kosmalski |
| 3 | Jay Anderson |
| 10 | Connie Burnett |
| 11 | Sue Ingram |
| 20 | Joan Freeman, Angela Peters |
| 23 | Evy Vergin |
| 29 | Leo Dwyer |

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations in **June**:

Joe Boway/Liberian Lutheran School:

Lynn Thomas

Memorials for David Turner: Connie Burnett, Elizabeth Kamish, the Somerset Collection

Remodeling - Sanctuary: Nancy McInnis
VBS: Judy Schassberger, Cindy Turner



Please remember these folks in your prayers

Those shown below have lost a loved one this past month. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

† The Hoffman family as Pastor Hoffman's (St. Stephen's Pastor) father, Bob Hoffman, fell asleep in the Lord on 7/13.



August Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 2 | John & Joan Freeman | 47th |
| 10 | Kevin & Tammy Hurley | 21st |
| 25 | John & Juanita Reardon | 49th |
| 26 | Brian & Sandy Krus | 33rd |

Nuptial Funnies

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy 'fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "...for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word message started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"

Pastor's Page

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been? To carry such stones up out of the river and all the way to camp must have been a horrendously painful task! And yet these men did it, for the sake of the instruction of the children, in obedience to the commandment of God.

And in the same way, instructing children in our day does bring many difficulties and challenges. It isn't always easy. It can mean diligent and painful work. It's a lifelong commitment. I just think about how tired we can be after only a week of VBS! When it comes to the instruction of children in the faith, there are certainly crosses to bear. And yet, we can be sure: it's worth all the pain and hardship. Just as it was worth it for those men to bear those great boulders out of the river and into camp, so also its worth all our effort and all the attendant hardships to train up children in Christ. For there we are giving them the greatest blessing imaginable: eternal life through faith in Jesus.

So let's set ourselves to this work with care and with fortitude. Let's rejoice that those before us passed on the faith to our generation, so that we might know Christ and His salvation. And now let's make sure the next generation also knows. This is a pivotally important part of the Church's mission. And yes, it may be difficult. But it's certainly worth it. So, remembering that the results belong to God, rejoicing in His forgiveness of our failures, let's set ourselves to this work. My friends, let's pass on the faith to the next generation.



Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized July 26, 2022

Attendees: Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, Trent Johnson, Karen Kaufman, Kari Kosmalski, Charlie Powell, Jim O'Brien

Called to Order by Tom LoCascio at 7:01 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Joshua 4:1-7 by Pastor Vergin, "Crossing the Jordan". 1) Remember who God is: He keeps his promises; 2) Pass on knowledge of who God is to children; 3) Who God is is worth the difficulty of remembrance.

Agenda submitted by Tom LoCascio. Agenda approved as submitted.

Previous Minutes distributed by Tom LoCascio. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Vice President's Report per Trent Johnson

- Next Young Adults Meeting – Saturday, August 6, 4:00 p.m. at Trent & Jennifer's house

Pastor's Report per Pastor Vergin

- Outdoor Worship Service was held indoors due to inclement weather; Church BBQ went well. Large, white tent to be taken down after Bible Class on 7/31.
- Men's Bible Study on Saturday, August 6 from 9-10:30am
- Upcoming Mission Planning Workshop on Sept. 17
- Pastor is beginning his service as a Circuit Visitor for Kensington Circuit effective immediately
- Pastor Chris Jung (from St. Paul, Pontiac) will be filling in here on Sunday, August 14 for Pastor Vergin

Treasurer's Report per Kari Kosmalski - Expenses are on budget. Income is lower than needed.

Financial Secretary's Report per Tom for Debbie Sidelinker

BOARD REPORTS (as needed)

Elders per Darryl Swainson

- Sponsored Outdoor BBQ on July 24

Family & Youth per Pastor for Mandy Vergin

- VBS went great. 79 kids were registered and we averaged 61 kids/day. We had just enough staff and also received all of the food donations we needed. VBS monetary donations will go toward buying more catechisms for

Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia. Thanks to all who helped!

- Will be meeting soon to plan Sunday School which resumes on Sunday, Sept. 11

Gospel Outreach per Charlie Powell

- Movie Night on Friday, August 19 starting at dusk. Will be showing the animated movie "Encanto."

Human Care per Karen Kaufman

- Will be serving dinner at St. Paul's, Pontiac on Wed., Sept. 21. We are expecting a good turnout at St. Paul's for it.

LWML per Tom LoCascio

- Quilting Bee will resume starting Thursday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Parish Fellowship per Tom LoCascio for Ellen Rentola

- Helped elders with Church BBQ on July 24
- Will help with Movie Night on August 19. We normally serve popcorn, small bags of chips, water, juice, pop.

Properties per Jim O'Brien

- Jim reported no feedback from the asphalt contractor, but recommends having the parking lot cracks filled if it's in the budget.
- Trent reported that the projector is set up and working in the basement. Must still hide cords and set up instructions and controls.
- Tom reported a white, Ford van was spotted on our security camera behaving suspiciously.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment at 7:36 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

(continued next column)

(See Minutes, Page 8)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Phone: (248) 363-0741
Fax: (866) 649-6870
Email: info@stmarkwb.org
Website: www.stmarkwb.org

Address Service Requested

For the latest church news, visit our website

What types of information can you find on St. Mark's website (www.stmarwb.org)?

- Monthly church calendars
- Sunday bulletins
- Weekly announcements
- Monthly newsletters
- About St. Mark's
- Event Registration Forms
- Those on Duty (scheduled to help out at church)

...and more! Check it out for all of your worship/church needs!



September's upcoming events

You might want to mark your calendars now for these upcoming events during the month of September:

- 9/5 - Labor Day (church office closed)
- 9/11 - Sunday School restarts
- 9/17 - Mission Planning Workshop for all leaders to plan events for 2023
- 9/21 - Serve dinner at St. Paul Lutheran in Pontiac



Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m. (Sep. - May)

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast - One Saturday per mo. 9 a.m.

August 2022

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

For live, up-to-date versions of ANY St. Mark's calendar, visit our website at:
www.stmarkwb.org.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Pastor's Day Off	2 7pm - Bd. Of Elders Mtg.	3	4 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	5	6 9am Men's Bible Study 4pm Young Adults Gathering
7 8th Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	8 Pastor's Day Off	9	10	11 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	12	13
14 9th Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 7pm - Council Mtg.	17	18 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	19 Office Manager, Debbie, out of the office DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES 8pm - Movie Night	20
21 10th Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	22 Pastor's Day Off	23	24	25 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	26 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	27
28 11th Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	29 Pastor's Day Off	30	31			

ALTAR GUILD: Gail Fitzgerald

COUNTERS: Ellen Rentola & Nancy Salo

GREETERS:

 7 Mary Lockwood
 14 Ellen Rentola
 21 Sue I./Judy S.
 28 Carolynn Taylor

USHERS:

 7 Trent Johnson
 14 Matt Maier
 21 Tom Kaufman
 28 John Reardon

VIDEO TECHS:

 7 Karen Kaufman
 14 Debbie Sidelinker
 21 Charlie Powell
 28 Karen Kaufman