

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messenger

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

May 2023



Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Sunday, May 7

On Sunday, May 7, directly following the Divine Service, St. Mark's will be having its Spring Clean-Up. Can we count on you to help?

Chores will include removing the storm windows in the sanctuary and replacing them with screens, washing of the pews, and picking up garbage and small sticks from the grounds. The more hands we have to help with the chores, the faster they will get completed! Please join us!



Please join us as we celebrate the Day of Pentecost on May 28

All are invited to join us for worship and celebration on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday May 28, at 9:30 a.m. On this day, we remember how Jesus, having ascended to the Father, sent down His Holy Spirit on the Church, that we might know the Truth of the Gospel and spread it abroad into the nations. Still today, the Holy Spirit dwells among us, filling the Church with the Good News of Jesus and empowering us to sing His praise. Therefore, we will celebrate this festival day with the highest joy.

We hope you will join us for worship on May 28. We look forward to seeing you there!

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The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
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Sunday

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday

Wed. Nights in Christ for Youth at 5:15 p.m. (Sep. - May)

One Saturday/month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m. (on hold for now)

Handicap accessible

Bible Study



St. Mark's current Bible studies

Even though St. Mark's is currently in a pastoral vacancy, there are still some Bible study opportunities that we hope you will take advantage of. They are listed below.

Adult Bible Class

During the month of May, our vacancy pastor's will be preaching on the scripture readings for that day in the Fellowship Hall, and they would love to have you join them! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith, so please come if you are able! Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m., after our Divine Service.

Read Through the Bible in 2023

For us Christians it is a great joy to read the Bible, for we know that it is the very Word of God, revealing to us Christ for our salvation and encouragement. Therefore, in 2023 we are again reading through the entire Bible in a year! But this time it is a joint effort with other congregations in our Circuit. Will you consider joining us? You can pick up any time. Please visit crafteddaily.com for the reading plan.

Wednesday Nights in Christ Youth Program

St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth invites all kids ages 4 through those in 5th Grade to attend our weekly *Wednesday Nights in Christ* youth program! This program is both educational, fun and free to all children.

Each Wednesday, we serve a simple dinner to kids and their parents from 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. After that, the kids enjoy hearing a different Bible lesson each week as they help our teachers place Bible characters and background decor on a large, felt flannel board. Lastly, the kids will either make a craft, play games, or be taught some life skills by a special speaker.

May's Craft/Life Skill time will include having the kids make something special for Mother's Day, as well as learning about gardening and taking home some planted seeds to care for.

If you know of a youth that would like to attend, visit St. Mark's website at www.stmarkwb.org to sign them up!

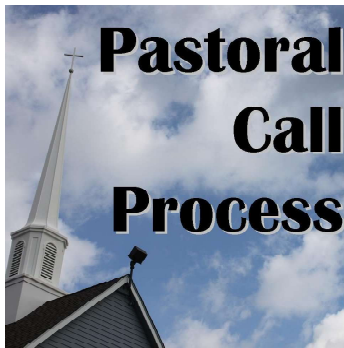
Men's Bible Study Cancelled for May 6 - As St. Mark's leaders work to locate vacancy pastors to cover all of our congregation's needs (until a permanent pastor can be "called" to our church and he accepts), we might have to cancel a few events here and there. One of those is the Men's Bible Study/Breakfast that was scheduled for Saturday, May 6. It is our hope that we will be able to resume the Men's Bible Study program as soon as we are able. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Pastoral Call Process update

St. Mark's has been blessed so far in our pastoral vacancy in that Pastors Pies, Zwonitzer, and Nelson have offered to take turns preaching on Sundays, and also doing the Sunday Adult Bible Studies, for the months of May & June (and probably longer). Pastors Pies & Zwonitzer are both pastors (emeritus) at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hartland. Pastor Nelson just retired as the long-time pastor from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in South Lyon and was also our previous Circuit Visitor. We have also asked the Michigan District for potential vacancy pastors who could provide all of our congregation's other needs such as attending church meetings, visiting Shut-ins, etc.

Our Call Committee has also started to meet. Their first order of business will be to determine the proper pay rates for the vacancy pastors, and then their next order of business will be to start going through the somewhat lengthy call process to help find our next permanent pastor.

What can you do to help our Call Committee? First, continue to CONSISTENTLY attend our worship services, as well as provide your offerings just as you were doing when Pastor Vergin was here. Attendance really dropped off the first few weeks after Pastor Vergin's departure, so if we want to be able to afford to call a full-time pastor, it's important that everyone continues to support St. Mark's as normal. Secondly, pray for our Call Committee as they work through the call process. Please pray that the Lord would send St. Mark's a wonderful and faithful servant as its next pastor. And lastly, please keep the Vergin family in your prayers as Pastor Vergin begins his call at St. John Lutheran, Grand Haven, and as the Vergin family slowly transitions their belongings to their new home (and makes the final move there in June).



St. Stephen, Waterford is offering a helpful seminar

St. Stephen Lutheran Church located at 3795 Sashabaw Road in Waterford is hosting a seminar for everyone on Saturday, **May 13** from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) called *Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Courage, Confession & Love*. The speaker will be Rev. Paul Dare from Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN. Rev. Dare wrote the book of the same name and the Bible study that goes with it, and is a frequent speaker at conferences. Here is a synopsis of the seminar:

Systematic racism, privilege, political correctness, woke, anti-racist, social justice are all common words in the world today. What comes to mind when you hear them? Are you able to accurately define them? Does the world seem to be more divided along the lines of race, gender, religion and income? Would you agree that trust in societal institutions such as religion, education, marriage, media and family is diminishing? Does it seem that young people are often losing their Christian faith while attending college? Do you think people desire to be considered a victim or part of a victim group? To understand our world and answer these questions, a Christian in today's America must understand the new Marxism, which is often called Cultural Marxism.

The seminar is free, but seats are limited and registration is required. To register, visit St. Stephen's website at: www.ststephenwaterford.org by **Thursday, May 4**. If you register and then are unable to attend, please call the church office to cancel at 248-673-6621. There will be a 1-hour break for lunch. You may bring your own lunch or Jimmy John's lunch boxes will be provided upon request for \$12 each. (Sandwich options: ham & cheese, roast beef or turkey.) The lunchbox will include a sandwich, chips, pickle & cookie. Payment for the lunch may be made the day of the event.



Volunteers needed for St. Paul's Dinner

St. Mark's Board of Human Care is seeking volunteers to help provide dinner for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac for their community outreach program on Wednesday, May 31. Please check out the sign-up sheet in the lobby where you can sign up for various ways to help: donating food, preparing food, serving food at St. Paul, etc. Lots of help will be needed, so if you can, please sign up! Any questions about this event can be directed to Karen Kaufman or Leslie Oehring.



Bring your mom to church on Mother's Day

Here at St. Mark's, we'll be celebrating Mother's Day in a very special way. All moms that attend church that morning will receive a carnation in honor of their role as a mother.

You may choose to make a donation to St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund in honor, or in memory, of your mom. The names of these moms will then be included in the Mother's Day bulletin on May 14.

To submit your mom's name, please complete a pink flower slip located in our Sunday bulletins. Then place it and your monetary donation into a pink envelope (found in the pew rack), write "Mother's Day" on the envelope and place it in the offering plate by May 7.



A Memorial Service will be held for Cindy Parks

The family of Cindy Parks invites those who knew her to attend a short memorial service to be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on Friday, June 2 at 1:30 p.m. Cindy was a long-time, very active church member here at St. Mark's and she went to be with Jesus on November 29 of last year. Pastor Vergin will be coming into town to preside over the interment.

If you would like to pay your respects, her family would love to have you there.

The Ascension service will be held at sister congregations

Please be aware that this year, St. Mark's will **not** be holding an *Ascension of our Lord* worship service. Instead, on Thursday, May 18, you are invited to attend an Ascension worship service at either of two sister congregations in our area: Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hartland, or St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Waterford. Both of their services start at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks for your understanding as our leaders work hard to schedule vacancy pastors to cover all our needs.



We are still accepting cans/bottles for Ziah Town Lutheran School

If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them **weekly!** Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing "Joe Boway" on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark's), or visiting the St. Mark's website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

Thank you for your continued support of this very important outreach ministry!

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

Carolyn Achimov—is receiving chemotherapy again.

Gail Arnold—is battling cancer.

Helga Gonzalez—has health issues; is in rehab. for therapy.

Barbara Jewell—is recovering from back surgery.

Julia Ligon—has moved into a memory care home.

Taylor Lockwood—needs extra prayers.

Rose Mielke—is suffering from Dementia.

Rod Oehring—has health issues.

Marlene Steck—has memory/health issues; is in Hospice.

Marilyn Turner—is having health issues.

Art Vermeersch—is having health issues.

Lynne Welty—has health issues; requires blood transfusions.

Carl & Carol Zienert—are having health issues.

Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—being treated for Leukemia.

Friend of St. Mark's, **Allen Geer**—is recovering from a fall.

Friend of St. Mark's, **Jean Pilot**—has cancer; is in Hospice.

Nancy Geer's friend, **Kate Kever**—needs less pain & healing.

The Hyrkas' son-in-law, **Matt Emery**—cancer is in remission.

Barbara Jewell's family & friends:

- Brother, **Fred Schwartz**—had hip replacement; undergoing physical therapy
- Sister, **Marilyn**—recovering from surgery, is receiving therapy
- Friend, **Dick Mason**—has lung cancer
- **Joyce Mason**—caregiver for her husband, Dick
- Nephew, **Steve Lichtman**—having heart surgery soon
- **Tammy Lichtman**—caregiver for her husband, Steve
- Niece-in-law, **Peg Feiler**—is recovering from surgery; receiving therapy
- Nephew, **Carl Feiler**—diagnosed with prostate and spinal cancer and is caregiver for his wife
- Nephew's grandson, **Brently Moses** (age 3)—fell and broke his leg
- Friend, **Pam Perez**—recovering from a hip replacement; 1 finger amputated.

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

The LoCascio's family & friends:

- Acquaintance, **Marti Edens**—is battling bladder cancer, has multiple health issues
- Debbie's father, **Bob Tippett, Sr.**—has Dementia
- Friend, **Chip Cryderman**—is battling cancer, can no longer swallow well
- Friend, **Rhea Thomas**—is receiving chemotherapy
- Friend, **Dale Thomas**—recovering from surgery

Lexi Powell's grandfather, **Dave Grau**—diagnosed with cancers.

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

(continued next column)

diagnosed with a rare cancer.

Lynn Thomas' daughter-in-law, Linda—needs strength as caregiver for her mom who has Vascular Dementia.

Cindy Turner's friend, **John Carlton**—has medical issues; is receiving therapy.

Marilyn Turner's friend, **Sue**—needs extra prayers.

Marilyn Turner's friend, **Tony**—needs extra prayers.

Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, **Marilyn Eipper**—diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

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

The Whitehead's family & friends:

- Larry's cousin, **Andra Bruce**—is having heart issues
- Lori's brother-in-law's sister, **Nita Duggin**—may have lung cancer
- Lori's friend, **Ray Baker**—is recovering from surgery
- Lori's friend, **Fran Schutz**—has had another stroke
- Lori's friend, **Mary Ann Saliba**—recovering from surgery
- Lori's friend, **Lori Saliba**—has cancer of the sternum
- Lori's friend, **Vickie Tucker**—receiving cancer treatments
- Lori's relative, **Callie Weatherford**—diagnosed at 7 years old with terminal brain cancer; continues to receive radiation treatments
- Lori's sister, **Linda Head**—is hospitalized for congestive heart failure
- Friend, **Bruce Collins**—diagnosed with prostate cancer
- Friend, **Leonard Pittaway**—will be undergoing cancer testing
- Friend, **Mary Baker**—is hospitalized

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Joan & John Freeman—they are both having health issues.

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

Barbara Jewell's niece's son, Tim Bridges—recovering from surgery

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

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

Kay Joslin—receiving therapy for her hip

Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Cheryl Tippett—receiving therapy

Debbie LoCascio's brother, Bob Tippett, Jr.—has a lesion on his liver; will be undergoing more tests

The LoCascio's neighbor, Laura Jones—receiving therapy

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

The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—receiving therapy 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—has health issues

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

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



May Birthdays

- 2 Paula Albert
- 3 Brynlee Lockwood,Carolynn Taylor
- 6 Kevin Hurley, Mike Lockwood (Sr.)
- 9 Annetta Lekas, John Sidelinker
- 10 Dante Hilton
- 12 Gail Arnold
- 16 Nancy Salo
- 17 Rick Schmaltz
- 21 Lauren Maier-Gresch, Evelyn Powell
- 22 Taylor Lockwood
- 28 Aaron O'Brien, Art Vermeersch

Pledges needed for Diabetes research

Our church member, Joshua Cook, is seeking pledges for his upcoming One Day Bike Ride Across Michigan event on August 12, 2023. All funds will go to JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), the leading private funder for type 1 diabetes research. If you'd like to pledge, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board below the sanctuary stairs ASAP.

May's special decade birthdays

This month, we wish happy Special Decade birthdays to our church members Paula Albert, Kevin Hurley and Gail Arnold whose birthdays fall on May 2, 6 & 12, respectively.

As always, we can't tell you which decade, but we know all of you will join us in praying that our Lord will continue to bless Paula, Kevin and Gail now and always.



May Anniversaries

- 26 Charlie & Lexi Powell 4th
- 28 Mel & Karen Maier 35th
- 29 Art & Dorothy Vermeersch 55th



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 Steiger family as St. Mark's friend, Thisvi Steiger, fell asleep in the Lord on April 23.

Special Fund Donations

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

- Joe Boway/Liberian Lutheran School:** Gail Fitzgerald, Kay Joslin, Jennie Kaufman, Nancy McInnis
- Remodeling - Sanctuary:** Nancy McInnis



We offer our thanks to these folks

There are many people to thank in this newsletter edition and we were so grateful for their help this past month!

The Farewell & Godspeed Coffee Hour for Pastor Vergin and his family on Sunday, April 16 went great and we are thankful for everyone who brought a dish to pass. The food was amazing! We also thank our Board of Parish Fellowship for overseeing the kitchen for the event.

We also thank Lexi Powell for overseeing the Holy Week music this year. We had some vocalists and several instrumentalists and the music was beautiful and a blessing to our congregation.

Thanks is also given to everyone who donated bags of pre-wrapped candy for our Easter morning Egg Hunt, and to Debbie LoCascio and Lynn Thomas from our Board of Family & Youth who stuffed all the eggs.

The kids in our Wednesday Nights in Christ program enjoyed a fun and informational visit from some staff at Union Lake Veterinary Hospital, as well as two officers from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department who brought two of their "comfort" dogs. The students learned the safest way to approach a dog, how to act around dogs, and basic dog care. Each took home a bag of doggie gifts too! We offer our sincere thanks to the veterinary staff and the officers! They, and the dogs, were awesome with our kids!

And finally, we offer a big thanks to everyone who dropped their loose change into the glass jar at the rear of the sanctuary to help with Keith Elementary's "Invisible Dad Lunch Program." St. Mark's was able to send them a check last month in the amount of \$78.20 from this past year's fundraising effort. Now, we are starting to receive change in the jar for next year, so if you can help, please do!



Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized February 21, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Vergin, Karen Kaufman, Kyle Albert, Darryl Swainson, Trent Johnson, Lori Whitehead, John Reardon, Jim O'Brien, and Nancy McInnis

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. Opening Prayer and Devotion by Pastor – Luke 12:32-34.

Per Trent Johnson – Going forward, the Business Council Meetings will take place once a quarter and we will discuss financial matters in detail at these meetings.

Pastor's Report per Pastor Vergin –

- Ash Wednesday Soup & Supper on February 22 with Divine Service at 7:00 p.m., but there is the potential for an ice storm, so please be cautious if driving.
- Lenten Midweek Services - Will be doing Round-Robin with Circuit Pastors.
- Pastor will be using the Fellowship Hall for a family party on Saturday, March 4.
- Congregational Nominations for Synodical Elections (President, 1st Vice-President and Regional VP)
 - o At church on Sunday, Pastor asked for nominations and he didn't hear from anyone. He doesn't have any names for 1st Vice President or Regional VP, but recommends we nominate President Harrison for President. Council approved the nomination.

BOARD REPORTS

Assimilation/Stewardship per Pastor – continuing to put up the new member photos.

Elders per Darryl Swainson

- Going to start working on contacting out-of-area, long term inactive members.
- Pastor created a new Pastor Evaluation Form to be used in the fall. Pastor will provide us with monthly updates to help with his evaluation.
- Elders will be assisting the visiting pastors during Lent.

Gospel Outreach per John Reardon

- John will be taking over chairmanship for Charlie Powell. John will try to get the board members together to come up with a game plan. The board would like to have a presence at our different events.
- Pastor confirmed that we will not be placing Easter invitations in the neighborhood behind the church.

(Continued next column)

Human Care per Karen Kaufman

- Wednesday night we helped the kids at W.N.I.C. make Valentine cards for a nursing home.
- We have signed up for two dinners at St. Paul's.
- We are still collecting bottles and cans for Joe Boway.
- A church member made a donation to purchase audio Bibles for the Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia. Joe Boway will get them to Liberia soon.

Parish Fellowship per Nancy McInnis – we have the soup and salad dinner on Ash Wednesday, weather permitting.

Family & Youth per Debbie LoCascio's notes

- Wednesday Nights in Christ – Going well with 13 kids attending.
- Kids Devotional Booklets/Family Activities for March through May were distributed to parents with grade-school aged children in mid-February
- Will be starting to work on VBS soon

LWML per Pastor

- LWML is trying to organize a Spring Rally.
- The ladies are still working on quilts.

Properties per Jim O'Brien

- Aluminum siding repair on rear of building: Jim got a bid for repair and submitted the cost to the insurance company. The insurance company cut a check to cover the amount (less \$1,000 for our deductible). The work will be completed within a 6-week window.
- Parking lot cracks: We will probably go with Metro Seal Coating. Their bid was \$1,200. This would come out of the parking lot fund.
- Lobby remodel update – Karen Kaufman has come up with some good suggestions. A meeting will need to be set up with the volunteers to get started.

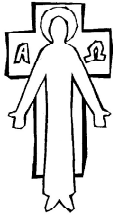
NEW BUSINESS

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Kyle Albert. He created some new reports for Council's use.

Financial Secretary's Report – Pastor came up with a new report that seems to be easier to read.

(See Council Minutes, Page 8)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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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!

Council Minutes

(Continued from Page 7)

Parish Report & Church Calendar – Child, Natalie Dau, was baptized here. Her parents are moving to South Lyon and will be transferring with her to Cross of Christ, South Lyon, soon.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the way St. Mark's reports its finances. This discussion was eventually tabled until the next Council Business Meeting.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

May 2023

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Nights in Christ 5:15 p.m. (Sep. - May)

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	2	3 5:15 Wed. Nights in Christ	4	5 Sec'y. Debbie off today	6
7 The 5th Sunday of Easter Pastor: Rev. Terry Nelson Elder: Charlie Powell 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Spring Clean-Up	8 Sec'y. Debbie off today	9	10 5:15 Wed. Nights in Christ	11 10am Quilting Bee	12 Sec'y. Debbie off in a.m.	13 9am St. Stephen Seminar
14 The 6th Sunday of Easter Pastor: Rev. Dr. Frank Pies Elder: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	15	16 7pm - Council Mtg.	17 5:15 Wed. Nights in Christ	18 The Ascension of our Lord 10am Quilting Bee 7pm Ascension Svc. @ Our Savior & St. Stephen	19 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	20 Armed Forces Day
21 The 7th Sunday of Easter Pastor: Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer Elder: Charlie Powell 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	22	23	24 FINAL NIGHT 5:15 Wed. Nights in Christ	25 10am Quilting Bee	26 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	27
28 The Day of Pentecost Pastor: Rev. Terry Nelson Elder: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30	31 5pm Pack & Serve Meals @ St. Paul, Pontiac			

ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Sidelinker
COUNTERS: Nancy Salo &Carolynn Taylor

GREETERS:	USHERS:	VIDEO TECH:
7 Mary Lockwood	7 Tom Kaufman	Karen Kaufman
14 Sue I./Judy S.	14 Trent Johnson	
21 Ellen Rentola	21 Matt Maier	
28 Carolynn Taylor	28 John Reardon	