



March/April, 2024

Allen AveNews

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Hofman
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442



May 12
Mother's Day



May 27
Memorial Day



June 14
Flag Day



June 16
Father's Day



Special Collections:

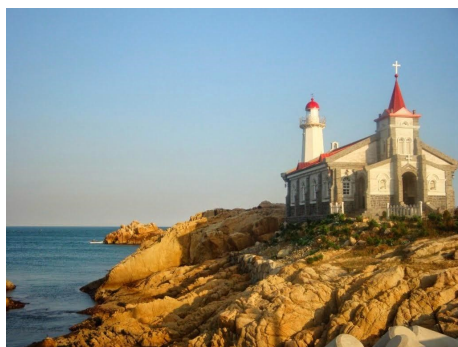
May 5
Bethany Christian Services
June 2
Thrive
Collectively the CRC
Offices of Safer Church,
Disability, Race, Worship,
Justice

My Lighthouse

Lighthouses have been around for a long time. The Egyptians were known for the Pharos of Alexandria, one of the tallest structures in the ancient world. A bonfire on the top of the tower helped ships navigate the port. This ancient lighthouse became the prototype for all other lighthouses after it. It should not be surprising that lighthouses are a symbol for Christianity and the Church. Jesus said in the Gospel of John, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) Many other scripture passages have been interpreted to describe the navigation of pilgrim souls, or the Church as a ship, being guided by the light of Jesus to the eternal shores of heaven.



This summer at Allen Ave, we'll be linking some Lake Michigan lighthouses with scripture passages about how God's light shines in the darkness. From the LORD leading Israel through the wilderness with a pillar of fire, to the army of angels revealed to Elisha and his servant – God's people have seen a great light, and that light was always shining from its source: Jesus our Savior. He's our anchor of hope, our shelter in the storm, and our final harbor home when the sea will be no more.



If your heart swells at the thought of seeing lighthouses this summer, there will also be a few encouraged field trips to lighthouses during this series of sermons. My prayer is that as we hear God's voice speak through these scriptures, we'll even more be able to say with the Psalmist, "the LORD is my light and my salvation!"

~Pastor Mark



Note: If you exchange assignments with someone, let Susan Vanderlaan know so she can have it right in the bulletin. aacrcsecretary@gmail.com or 231.722.6411

Nursery Schedule



May	5	Lis Miedema Karen Alphenaar
	12	Sue Sytsema Tayla Vlasma
	19	Stephanie Hofman Toni Schuitema
	26	Sherrie Wolffis Maelin Vlasma
June	2	Dale Johnson Addie Maat
	9	Nancy Rop, Melissa Vlasma
	16	Becki Fisher Tayla Vlasma
	23	Carol Peterman Maelin Vlasma
	30	Beth VanRees Renee Vlasma

Coffee Schedule



May	5	Deb & Russ Vlasma
	12	Amber Dean Johnson
	19	Renee & Gabe Vlasma
	26	Susan & Bob Vanderlaan
June	2	Sherrie & Jack Wolffis
	9	Marcia & Mike Breuker
	16	Karen Alphenaar Denise Koetje
	23	Laurie & Roger Slorf
	30	Coffee Fellowship ???

UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL



AUGUST 7-10 (Wed.- Sat.)

HERITAGE LANDING

ADVANCE TICKET PRICING (through June 9)

1 day pass \$40.00
3 day pass \$75.00
Family pass \$325.00
Kids 5 and under FREE

Wednesday- Totally FREE

Laurel Taylor
Bryan Terrell
Brandon Heath
Matt Maher

Sean Be

The Band JAREN
The Sound
Consumed by Fire
Tasha Layton
Matthew West

Friday

Jason Fowler
Stars Go Dim
Meredith Andrews
Mac Powell
Zach Williams

Saturday

Seph Schlueter
Natalie Layne
David Leonard
Tenth Ave. North
We Are Messengers

Thursday

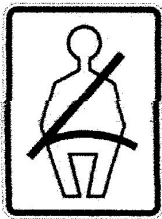
Go to www.UnityMusicFestival.com for more information.

God is My Guide

Journey with Moses

King's Kids Vacation Bible School

July 8-12 6:00-7:30 pm



Monday's road sign: Seatbelts
Theme: Trust in God's plan & protection
God keeps Baby Moses safe in his river basket



Tuesday's road sign: Stop
Theme: Stop and listen to God's Words
God speaks to Moses at the burning bush



Wednesday's road sign: Wrong Way
Theme: Heed God's warning
God sends 10 plagues to Pharaoh



Thursday's road sign: Crosswalk
Theme: Follow God's guiding
God leads his people through the Red Sea



Friday's road sign: One Way
Theme: Obey God's commandments
God shows the Israelites how to live

Congratulations Jasmine and Trevor



Bridal Shower for
Jasmine on
April 13



Prayers over Jasmine

GEMS UP DATE

By the time you read this, our GEMS year will be all wrapped up. It's hard to believe how fast time flies by. We have had another wonderful year with these precious girls. Here's a short recap of the last couple of months. In March we held our sleepover where we baked, made a craft, highlighted and tabbed special verses in our Bibles, completed an obstacle course, went on a scavenger hunt, ate snacks, watched a movie, stayed up late, and ate breakfast. A huge



shout out to Amber, Renee, Charry, Emily, and Maelin who managed the chaos so well! Despite the lack of sleep, we actually did have a great time. The next morning we "sold" all the baked goods after the church service. It was reported that we brought in \$762.00 but more money was added putting the total collected at \$1,012.00!! You sweet tooth people are crazy! But seriously, we cannot thank you enough for your support of our GEMS program. It's very humbling and we're very grateful.

During the year the girls collect GEMMIES (paper "money") for various things like bringing their Bibles, wearing their scarves, participating in discussions, helping in different ways, completing badges, bringing a friend, selling subs and croissants, etc. At the end of the year we hold a GEMMIE auction where the girls can bid on and "buy" items with their GEMMIES. Again this year, that was a fun way to wind up our meetings with the hot items being gummies and chocolate candy.

We still have our Mother-Daughter night which closes out our year. Traditionally we eat supper together and the GEMS are awarded the badges they earned throughout the year. This year, Cylie completed 39 badges on her own! She came to GEMS after being invited by her cousins (the Vlasmas) and now that she's in 8th grade and going to graduate, she completed all those badges. She said she had a fun time completing them and that she learned a lot. She said she has really enjoyed GEMS and will miss us.

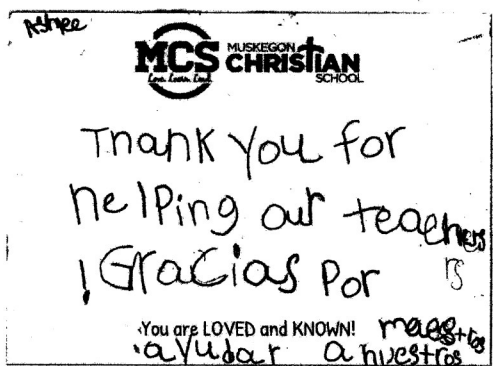
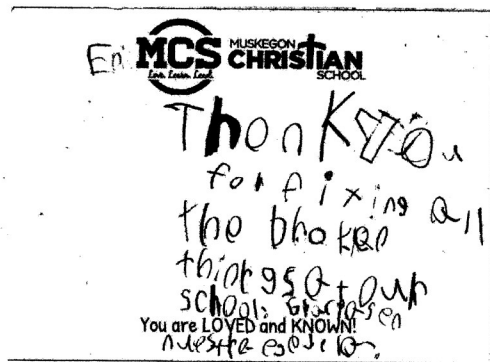
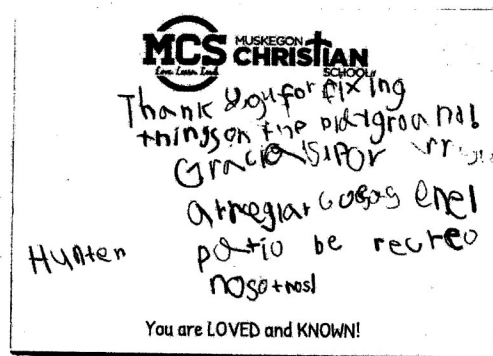
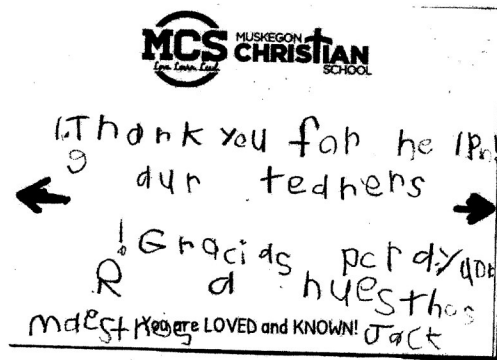


It is our prayer that the girls who come to GEMS will indeed Meet our Savior (the M and S from GEMS), learn about His great love for them, and in response claim Him as Lord of their lives.

Thank you again for your tremendous support for the GEMS ministry. Continue to keep the GEMS girls in your prayers.

—Jill, Charry, Renee, Amber, and Emil

Thank you from Muskegon Christian students to the Friday crew.



This is an article about Emma Peklar, Darlene's granddaughter who has been coming to church for a nice amount of time. Emma is a sophomore at MSU. She is a sweetie and is shining for the Lord

Cru at State

Faithful February

February 13, 2024



MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Praises

- Beyond Conference hosted by Cru! Many MSU students learned about the eternal perspective and the role we have in the Great Commission.
- There are new women checking out Cru for the first time in East neighborhood.
- As of right now about six women from east are signed up to go on a Cru spring break trip (and we're praying for more!).

Prayer Requests

- Protection for Emma in her walk with the Lord.
- God will raise up leaders and specifically women leaders.
- We can seek new students in every tribe, tongue, and nation.
- Students would say yes to opportunities that Cru has to grow in their faith this semester (Spring Break trips, outreach nights, summer mission and more).



Oneness and diversity dinner



PTFS/intern staff team



Emma

Hello wonderful partner!

Thank you abundantly for joining with me on this adventure. It has truly been a blessing to serve in ministry. Thank you again for your partnership and encouragement through this school year.

First off, I want to share with you about a student named Emma and her journey in these past few months of saying yes to Jesus. Emma initially got connected with Cru by talking with Miriam (who is one of the part time staff) at an intramural soccer game. Since Emma lives in the east neighborhood, Miriam organized for the three of us to get coffee together. We met at Blue Owl (a local coffee shop) and had the chance to hear Emma's story. Miriam and I were then able to share the gospel with her and asked her what her thoughts were about it. She expressed interest in wanting to learn more about Christianity, but it was hard to tell if she truly had a relationship with Jesus at that point. At the end of the fall semester, Miriam shared her "As I Go" talk at one of our weekly meetings. These talks allow seniors to share something that they have learned in their time in Cru and what they want to leave with the next generation. Miriam ended up using her time to share the Gospel and led a time of prayer for people to invite Jesus into their lives. Come to find out Emma prayed with Miriam to receive Jesus that night!

Since then, Emma has been committed to Cru but more importantly committed to following Jesus. This semester I have invited her to do discipleship with me and she enthusiastically said yes. In our first meeting I asked her what she is most looking forward to about discipleship and she simply told me, "I don't know, I am just excited to learn and grow". It has been such a gift to see her take steps of faith and grow in her walk with the Lord. Just recently she mentioned to me that she naturally got into a spiritual conversation with her coworker and invited her to Cru. She has such a willing heart and this freshness of faith that has been super encouraging to me and helpfully to you too! There is so much more that can be said about this girl, and it has been such a joy to walk with her in her new faith journey.

Also, there is another quick thing I want to share with you. Last week, we had guest speakers come from Cru headquarters to talk with our movement about oneness and diversity in the Christian body. Preceding this meeting, we organized a dinner for students of color in the movement. During this dinner, people were able to share with each other about their experiences of being students of color at MSU. It was so beautiful to see the diversity of people in the room and being able to connect with one another despite our differences. It was an amazing glimpse of the kingdom of God.

There are many other things I would love to share with you but simply don't have the space. God is moving in all these things and beyond. We still have a lot of things planned for the semester and I'm super excited to see how the Lord moves in those movements. Looking forward to updating you soon!

Your friend,

Morgan Rush

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you." – Isaiah 41:13

morgan.rush@cru.org

1213 Garden City Rd Rm 202,

East Lansing MI 48823

—Submitted by Sue Sytsema

7

If we confess our sins
He will forgive our sins.
1 John 1:9



Adam and Eve

Name: _____

Date: _____

Christian Word Search

Adam	Moses	Hebrews	Cross
Eve	James	Eden	Father
Jesus	Solomon	Heaven	Church
Peter	Mary	Cyprus	Lord
Noah	Romans	Baptism	Christ



M	H	H	N	N	M	Y	Q	N	F	C	R	O	S	S	X	C	F
J	Y	P	S	O	J	O	J	F	A	T	H	E	R	Q	G	P	Y
C	E	L	X	O	A	F	S	L	R	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	C
U	Y	Y	G	I	L	H	R	E	U	O	N	E	D	E	N	O	U
Q	X	P	J	F	X	O	T	Q	S	M	B	A	D	I	W	H	U
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Q	W	P	F	U	S	L	D	O	H	N	P	A	L	R	N	B	E
H	R	D	E	E	S	U	Z	R	N	S	T	M	Y	J	Y	R	V
T	T	S	K	T	E	L	S	D	M	Q	I	J	A	T	Y	E	E
R	E	W	I	H	E	A	V	E	N	R	S	R	A	R	O	W	G
T	J	A	M	E	S	R	J	Y	Y	J	M	I	V	V	Y	S	T
L	M	C	H	U	R	C	H	N	G	R	O	O	R	A	G	R	H

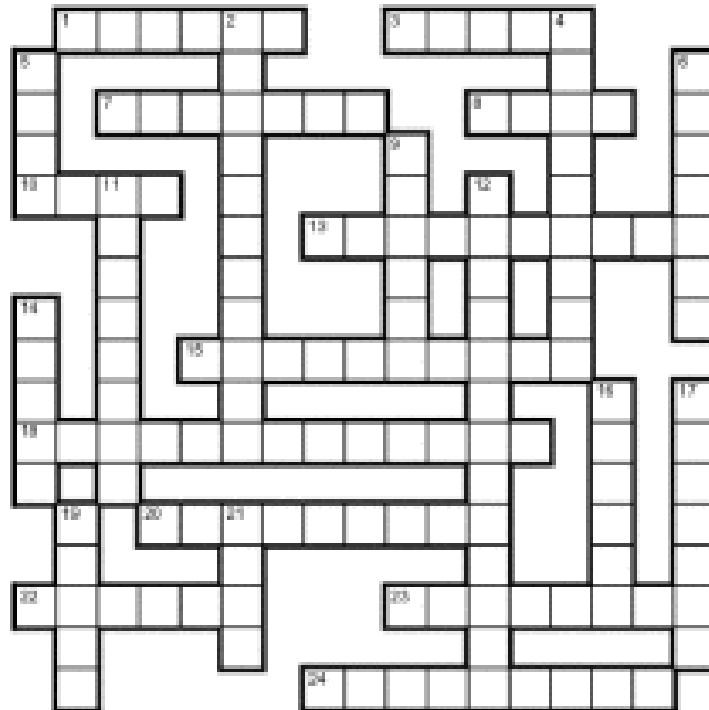
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Across

- 1 Not to be put under a bushel. (6)
- 3 Let yours shine before men! (5)
- 7 Moth and rust will do this to your earthly store. (7)
- 8 If you do this, you will find. (4)
- 10 These should not be done in view of men. (4)
- 13 The eight sayings by Christ at the beginning of his sermon. (10)
- 15 They sound trumpets in the streets when they are being charitable. (10)
- 18 The peacemakers will be called this. (8,2,3)
- 20 They were with Jesus when he gave the sermon. (9)
- 22 You can't serve God and this. (6)
- 23 Fellow believers. (8)
- 24 The earth is this to God. (9)

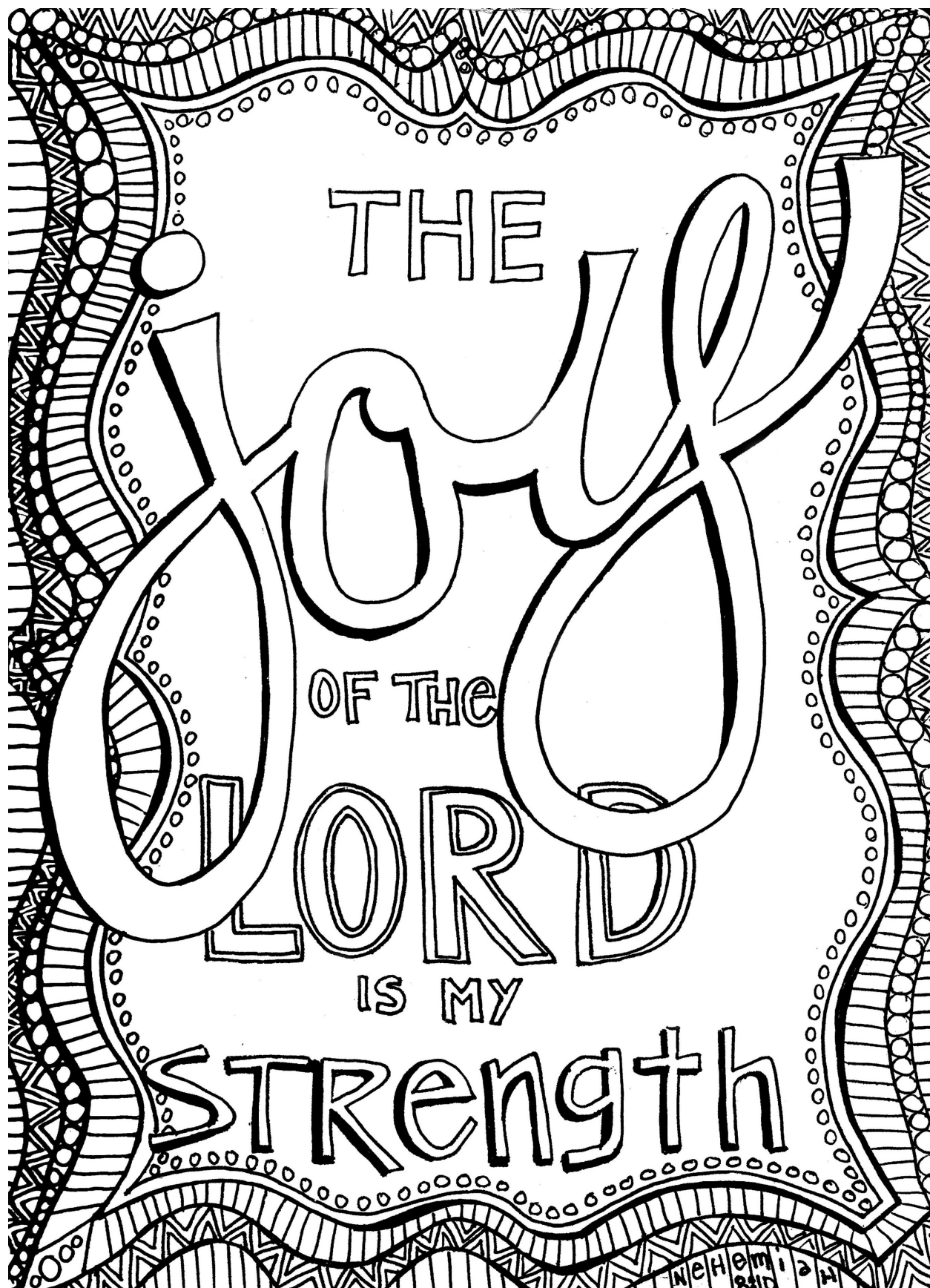
Down

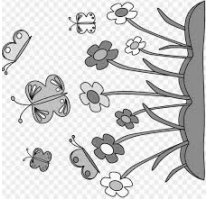
- 2 Jesus gave this as example of how to communicate with God. (5,6)



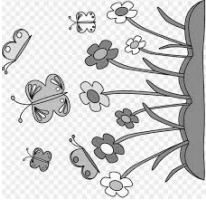
BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 4 Don't lay these upon the earth. (9)
- 5 Whoever says this to his brother shall be in danger of the council. (4)
- 6 Those who are given happiness and good fortune. (7)
- 9 When engaging in this, you should enter into your closet and shut the door. (6)
- 11 Where the sermon was given. (8)
- 12 You should search for this first, before worrying about food and clothing. (13)
- 14 What you should do to your eye if it offends. (5)
- 16 They which do this shall be filled. (6)
- 17 The hypocrites disfigured their faces while doing this. (7)
- 19 If you are forced to go a mile with someone, this is how far you should go. (5)
- 21 The foolish man built his house on this. (4)





May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Ashly Schuitema	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Jim Malda	11 John Baker
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Kari Vergara	22	23 Tayla Vlasma	24 Dave Rop	25
26	27 Mike Breuker	28	29 Maelin Vlasma	30	31	



June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 John Schuitema	4	5 Becky Schout	6 Nora Schout	7	8
9	10	11 Ro VerHeul Molly Patton Butkis	12	13	14	15
16 Stan Rop Steve Rop Joe Vlasma	17	18	19	20	21	22 Denise Koetje
23	24	25 Myla Workman	26 Susan Vanderlaan Brian Schuitema	27	28 Phil Snyder	29
30 Sherrie Wolffis Simon Schout						