

SERMON NOTES:

Sermon: "Peter & John vs Annanias & Sapphira"

Scripture: Acts 4:13-5:11

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442



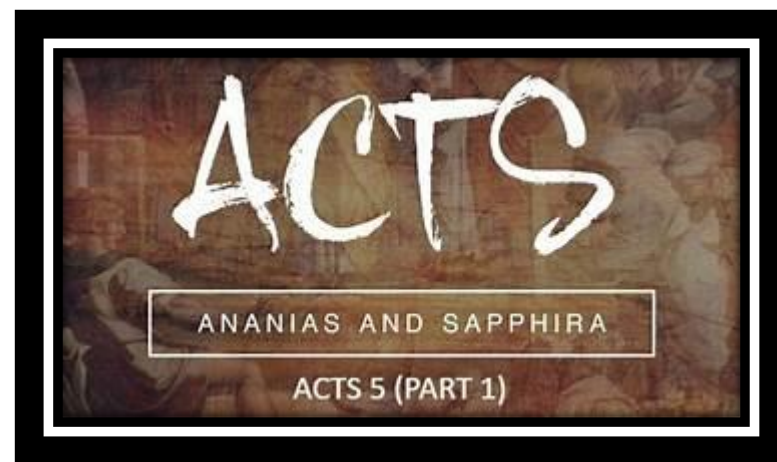
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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
WORSHIP 10:00AM

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Pastor Mark Hofman

Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (from Psalm 85)

Leader: Surely God's salvation is near those who fear him,

People: that his glory may dwell in our land.

Leader: Love and faithfulness meet together;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

People: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,

and righteousness looks down from heaven.

Leader: The LORD will indeed give what is good,

and our land will yield its harvest.

People: Righteousness goes before him

and prepares the way for his steps.

*Songs of Praise *Lord, You Have Lavished on Your Land* LUYH 65:3,4

All Are Welcome LUYH 269:1,2,4,5

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession ~ Deuteronomy 26:1-10

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Giver of every good gift, offering you the first fruits of what I make, and produce is a good spiritual discipline. Confessing my daily failure to trust, help my heart wriggle free from the grip of my possessions and rest with contentment in you. Keep me in that freedom, a radically generous life which joyfully furthers the good of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon ~ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Song *We All Are One in Mission*

W & R 552

Children's Message

Betty TenBrink

Children's Blessing

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

May his blessing be upon you.

May his love surround you.

May his joy fill you.

Go in Peace.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

God Speaks

Song of Preparation *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

LUYH 746

Scripture

Acts 4:32-37

Pew Bible Page #1555

Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord."

People: "Thanks be to God."

Message Profiles in Mission: "Peter & John vs Ananias & Sapphira"

*Song *May the God of Hope Go With Us On Our Way* LUYH 941

Sent Out to Serve

Offering

General Fund & Reframe

(offerings may be given online

or placed in the baskets at each entrance)

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *There's No God as Great*

LUYH 275

*Postlude

We Live to B.L.E.S.S.

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.
Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



9/7: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Dale Johnson
Children in Worship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan and Beth VanRees
Coffee Fellowship: Rog and Laurie Slorf, Kelly Dauser
9/14: Nursery: Deb Anderson & Maelin Vlasma
Children in Worship: Barb Malda and Sherrie Wolffis
Coffee Fellowship: Education & Congregational Life Committees' Kick-Off
9/21: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Tayla Vlasma
Sunday School
Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Marcia Breuker, Kellie
9/28: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Becky Schout
Children in Worship:
Coffee Fellowship: ???



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

***Pray for the * Missionary this Week**

Eric & Judith Tuls – Operation Mobilization
Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries
Pastor Jeffery Hough – Angel Community Church
***Paul & Charlotte Mpindi–Mission French Africa**
Charles & Hensel Oh – Japan



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Betty TenBrink | 4) Lois Grinwis |
| 2) Joel Stefanits | 5) Ro VerHeul |
| 3) Wilma Doctor | 6) Jim Doornbos |

*Please call or send a card to **"Care List Member," Wilma!**
3637 Whispering Woods Dr., Muskegon, MI 49444

Dear Care List Members, Every time we think of you, we say a prayer that the day will be a gentle one for you...a day that brings you plenty of comfort, reasons to smile, and lots & lots of reminders how very loved you are!

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests & Members!



"This is the day that the Lord has made...let us rejoice and be glad in it!" If you are seeking love, joy, friendship, & encouragement in your Christian walk, you have come to the right place here at Allen Avenue. This Sunday we are beginning a new sermon series on "Profiles in Mission" from the book of Acts.

September 7 – Acts 4:13-5:11 "Peter & John vs Annanias & Sapphira"

September 14 – Acts 8:9-40 "Philip vs Simon Magus (the Sorcerer)"

"September 21 – Acts 18:18-28 "Priscilla & Aquila vs Apollos"

After worship, please join us in the lower level for a time of gathering, celebrating, and conversation as we live to B.L.E.S.S. and share life as brothers and sisters in Christ!

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

The special offering this Sunday, September 7, is for ReFrame (formerly Back to God). ReFrame creates contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church throughout the world in ten major languages.

Please join us for our "fall kick-off & church picnic combo" which will be held next Sunday, September 14, right after the morning worship service. We will be cooking out on the patio (weather permitting) and enjoying delicious food and time together. Please sign-up by the coffee window and indicate if you would like a burger, a hot dog, or chicken. Everything will be provided by your Education/ Congregational Life Committees...you just have to bring yourselves!!!

Last year, the deacons hosted a summer food drive for Love INC. We contacted Love and they said their biggest need is in their baby pantry so we would love to help with that. **The deacons are sponsoring a baby pantry drive on Sunday, September 7, and Sunday, September 14.** The supplies received at church will be brought to Love INC for the need in our community. The following has been suggested by Love INC:

*****Diapers (especially sizes 4, 5 and 6), Baby wipes, and Formula.*****
Let's find all the deals and fill the front of the church with supplies for our neighbors in need.

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

Council Meeting Notes from August 27 -- We reviewed several reports from committees and had a lot of discussion on several topics including:

- Potentially cleaning the carpets in our sanctuary.
- Potentially pursuing air conditioning for our sanctuary.
- Potential use of the parsonage after the Hofman's have completed their move.
- Ongoing security issues. How to be open and inviting, yet provide a safe environment for worship in the challenging world we live in.
- Discussion on a schedule for Council nominations and a new budget for 2026.

We passed three motions:

- Approved spending \$6,000 for additional cameras and installation, providing a more comprehensive upgrade to our current system. This will give us a more reliable, effective and easily managed security system.
- Approved spending \$1,500 to replace the TV screen in front of the sanctuary, (used by the worship team) with a new large screen TV mounted near the back of the sanctuary.
- Approved increasing our future ministry shares pledge for the Christian Reformed Church in North America. This will be reflected as a 1% increase in the 2026 Budget.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECT group will start up again this Sunday at 4:00pm...**all are welcome!**

Thank you to everyone who has partnered in prayer for our students, teachers, and principals this past year! Such an amazing ministry that you are all excellent at! We have the opportunity to begin again as our students start a new school year. If you have a student, you will find a table in the Fellowship Room that has a short form that we would appreciate you filling out. Then in a few weeks for will set up our 2025-2026 Prayer Partners.

It's Allen Avenue's turn to assist the residents of Christian Care with their worship and Lord's Supper on Wednesday, September 17. If you are able to serve with Pastor Mark in this meaningful way, please talk to him.

Advanced Notice: The deadline for the fall edition of **The Allen AveNews** is **Sunday, September 21**. Get your newsworthy items to Sandy Volkers by then!

Ladies Bible Study will kick-off on **Thursday, October 2, at 1:30pm**. Please sign up today downstairs, so books can be ordered...invite your friends!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

The 45th Annual Muskegon Crop Hungry Walk is Sunday, October 5.

We will be walking to raise money to help the hungry around the world and for four local agencies. Please consider walking with us - or donating to this important cause. See Deb and Russ Vlasma to sign up or for more information.

We are excited to announce the upcoming presentation from ***Protect Young Eyes*** that will happen here at Allen Avenue CRC on **Tuesday, October 14, from 6:00-8:30pm**. (Childcare will be provided.)

Here is the live link for online registration which is required:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/protectyoungeyes/1750404>

If you would like to hear more about it, here is the link for a promotional video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dTpUlaXc06goFRmj9OEajJnE7oyUoDA3/view?ts=68af73b6>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sherrie Wolffis at slwolffis@gmail.com or 231.744.5455.

The **Muskegon County Right to Life** chapter is hosting a "Focus on Life" Benefit Dinner on **October 28, 2025**, at Bella Maria's Event Center in Norton Shores. Randy Heckman, Executive Director of The Grand Awakening, will be the main speaker. Individual Allen Avenue members are encouraged to attend or combine to sponsor a table. Please contact Ron Friday with any questions or check out the flyer on the fellowship hall bulletin boards.

A while back the Mission Committee encouraged our congregation to contact our missionaries by writing letters, sending cards, or sending emails of encouragement and praying for them for those months. We are going to repeat that for this September/October. Please check the bulletin board for your district.

District 1: Eric and Judith Tuls 817 Central Ave Spring Lake, MI 49456 (Operation Mobilization) Eric 1-616-251-8780 , eric.tuls@om.org
Judith 1-616-251-9003 judith.tuls@om.org

District 2: Charles and Hensel Oh (Resonate Global Mission) Best to use email because they are moving to Japan in July after 11 years in the Philippines
- coh@crcna.org

District 3: Paul and Charlotte Mpindi (Mission French Africa)
- 2221 Ridgewood Ave S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546
contact@missionfrenchafrica.org P.O.Box 120191 Grand Rapids, MI 49528-0104

District 4: Jeffery Hough 1064 Wood St., Muskegon, MI 49442 (Angel Community Church) 1-231-215-3510 pastorjah@angelcc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Dear Prayer Warriors and Friends, we have traveled through many prayer outlines and Tuesday night prayer times since April of 2018. You have been faithful, and we have seen how God works in every situation—with love for His children, Allen Avenue CRC, and His Kingdom that will be eternal.

This Sunday, we will have a special announcement during church--an invitation offering a **Tuesday 1 pm – 2pm Google Meet Prayer Time**. The nights seem to get busy with all the school activities that we do need to participate in. Supporting God's children is so important, **so we will discontinue the 7pm** time to try something new!

After Church, we will have a **place set up in the basement** for you to give us your email address/phone number to sign up to receive prayer request/updates and praise text messages on MONDAY nights. The prayer outline can then be assembled on Tuesday Mornings and be ready for prayer at 1 pm. **If you are already receiving these messages, you DO NOT need to respond as we will keep you on the lists. More information on Sunday! Thanks-Peg Rop**

Thank you, God, for a **Spirit-filled, harvest-rich month of messages**, prayers, songs, singing, instrumentals, drums, children's messages, videos, scripture/memory verses, and the wonderful readings done during Sunday's services. We pray that all these things will increase our love for the harvest Jesus has supplied us through the Spirit and may we answer our calls to go out and let God use us to share His saving message to others.

Thanks and joy for those who have answered the call to **Iowa's Disaster Response's Mission Trip** (flooding). We are grateful to have the faithful leadership of **Steve Rop** as God is using Him to coordinate, organize, offer devotions for this group through **World Renew** through the CRC. We are thankful to have the open and working arms God has provided us through a team of dedicated helpers who travel on Saturday. They are: **Jennifer Darling** travels from TX. **Sue Sytsema** as she plans meals as well as others who help her. **Jill and Brian Schuitema, Bob Botting, John Kortman, Al Calderon (first time!), Jack DeJonge, Stan and Steve Rop**. Current plan involves siding, dry wall and painting. We pray for safe travels, the skills to do our work well and that we will be effective witnesses.

Thanks for all the wonderful programs, sports, music, theater, bible studies, meetings, GEMS, Cadets, Sunday School, Catechism, CONNECT group, Small groups starting back up!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Pastor Mark-Update on my mom, Heidi Hofman whose kidney biopsy confirmed the IgA nephropathy. Treatments include medications for immune-suppression (steroids or novel drugs) and ongoing monitoring, which have positive trial outcomes. Grateful prayers for the procedure and for a clear treatment plan going forward.

Mike Fongers-please keep Mike in prayer as he continues to deal with urinary issues. He is frustrated with the doctor's treatment plans in not having this under control yet. He is so thankful for our prayers for healing and offers of encouragement. Thanks.

Sandy Volkers and Ron Friday- TJ is at home and is getting therapy for his back. His speech is getting much better following his stroke. He is unable to work so he lost his job.

Matt & Kenzie Vlasma-(Ron's son and Kristin's brother) please keep this couple close in prayer as they have suffered a miscarriage. Please pray that they may feel God's love and peace during this difficult time.

Praises and thanks for a new school year, for a beautiful Labor Day weekend to end the summer, and for all the "newness" for parents, children, teachers, and school staff.

Nate Schout-MCS Praises for such a wonderful first week of school!!

Chris Ruiter-WMC This year has started well. Our theme this year is "Rise Up to Courage". We will focus in on John 16:33-"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Prayers for all of **our college kids** as they start college: Yeabsira Vlasma – Grand Valley State University, Tekalegn Vlasma - Palm Beach Atlantic Christian University, Emily Synder - Grace Christian University, Emma Peklar – Michigan State University Dan Maat - Cornerstone University, Luke Maat - Calvin University.

Council- thankful for the meeting last week and all that was accomplished. We pray for each council member, their position and their districts. (See previous Council Meeting Notes from August 27...) Prepare our hearts and spirits as we undergo another nomination process. (Forms will be in next week's bulletin.) Give strength, wisdom, and purpose to all those who are currently in council.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Prayers for our collection this Sunday and next for **baby items for Love's baby pantry**.

Prayers for **Love, INC** starting their new downtown restaurant, **Love Café**.
(See the following job opportunity to work there!)

"Good Afternoon Church Partners, We're adding another apprentice to join our Love Café team! This is a paid, one-year program, a wonderful opportunity for someone passionate about serving our community and growing in faith and skills. If you know someone who would be a great fit, someone eager to learn, serve, and make a difference we would love to have them apply! Please share this opportunity with your congregation and anyone you think might be interested.

[Here's the application link](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of those we serve!"

Blessings, **Joshua Alviar Development Director**

Sherrie Wolffis-For **Grace** who was born@ 27 weeks, 2 lbs. 8 oz. continue to pray for her organs to mature so she can go home. Also, please pray for my friend **Blythe** who had her last radiation treatment today. Doctors have discovered cancer in other organs and areas of her body that will be treated with chemo.

Steve Rop-Kathy's adult son, **Andrew**, who saw a concussion specialist this week...asking for prayers for healing. **Charlie** is struggling with his behavior as he adapts to a new school.

Stan & Peg Rop-Thank you for your continued prayers for **Diana** and Christian. *She continues to lose weight, but the steroids help in giving her more energy. She traveled to U of M from Marquette this week. They currently are associating her issues with Host Graft Syndrome.*

Denise Koetje-My dad was encouraged to go to a nursing home for two weeks after they discovered a blood clot, but he has chosen to stay at home. My step-mom's legs still need prayer...thank you. Health issues continue in Hudsonville, and I am thankful to be given the health to be there for them and in their time of great need.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Laurie Slorf- Continued prayers for my sister Nancy and her husband Jeff with serious medical needs.

Katelyn Overkamp & Gypsy ask for prayers for their mom/grandma **Helen** as she has suffered a mini stroke and is having issues with clotted arteries.

Ongoing prayers for:

- ♥ The lost, lonely, forgotten, abused, those who mourn, those who suffer.
- ♥ Those in prison. Those who minister to them and the lost.
- ♥ For our Justice system, TJ and Tim. Our neighborhood patrols and police.
- ♥ Our hospitals, urgent cares, nursing homes, and the homeless.
- ♥ The unspoken, unsaid, unknown requests...God hears & cares!



LATEST NEWS FROM CALVIN UNIVERSITY

A Hymn sing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary will be held at LaGrave Avenue Church on Sunday, September 21, at 6pm. Leading us will be Rev. Dr. Mary Hulst, Rev. Peter Jonker, Dr. Larry Visser, organist, and the Calvin Alumni Choir along with others. All are welcome. Refreshments to follow.

New Season in Theatre - The Calvin University Theatre Company is excited to announce its 2025–2026 season: The Glass Menagerie (October 2025), Peter and the Starcatcher (February 2026), and Bye Bye Birdie (April 2026). Join us for a year of inspiring performances! Tickets are available now at calvin.universitytickets.com