

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Scripture:** Joel 2:18-32 **Message:** *What Dreams May Come*



**ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



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**Contact Us:**

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



(231) 722-6411



[www.allenavechurch.org](http://www.allenavechurch.org)



[aacrcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:aacrcsecretary@gmail.com)

[pastor@allenavechurch.org](mailto:pastor@allenavechurch.org)



**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM**  
**MAY 28, 2023**

# Come...Now is the Time to Worship

Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pastor Mark Hofman

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Welcome and Invitation to Quiet

Scripture Reading      *The Spirit is Poured Out*      *Acts 2:1-13*  
Readers: Emily, Lily, Jessica

\*Call to Worship

Leader: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;

**Congregation: *We dwell in Him and He in us.***

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name;

**Congregation: *Make known his deeds among the peoples.***

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to Him,

**Congregation: *And speak of all His marvelous works.***

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,

**Congregation: *Who was and is and is to come!***

—based on Psalm 105:1-2; Romans 5:5; Revelation 4:8

\*Songs of Praise      *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*      *LUYH 526*  
*Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart*      *LUYH 237*

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## WE BLESS OUR GRADUATES IN WORD & PRAYER

Graduation Litany:

***Gracious Father, as they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the assurance of your presence. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as disciples in a world that needs your Spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protect them from the pitfalls of darkness; Lead them as they help lead future generations into the promise of your light. We ask this blessing upon each of them. In Jesus' name, Amen.***

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

Children's Blessing:

***Jesus is Lord of all.  
Love him with all your heart,  
all your strength, and all your mind.  
Praise and worship him alone.***

## WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

\*Song of Preparation      *Be Thou My Vision*      *LUYH 859 vs. 1-2, 4*

Scripture Passage:      Joel 2 : 18-32

Message:      *What Dreams May Come*

Prayer of Application

## WE GRATEFULLY SHARE IN THE SACRAMENT

Words of Institution

Distribution at Stations (with accompaniment)

Offering: General Fund

*[offerings may be given online at [allenavechurch.org](http://allenavechurch.org)  
or placed in the baskets at each entrance]*

\*Song of Response      *Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid*      *LUYH 523 vs. 1-2*

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Praise      *Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid*      *LUYH 523 vs. 3*

\*Postlude

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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.*

*Support Christian Education. Serve.*



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 05/28: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Deb Anderson  
Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma
- 06/04: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Addy Maat  
Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers
- 06/11: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Maelin Vlasma  
Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Sue Secord
- 06/18: Nursery: Dale Johnson & Emily Snyder  
Coffee Fellowship: Kristen Vlasma & Jessica Wolffis



## ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

Stephan and Alicia – Kenya  
Rev. Jerry – Back to God Ministries  
Angel Community Church – Muskegon  
Zuni Christian School – Zuni, New Mexico  
Stan & Bessie – Philippines  
Eric and Judith – Western Asia  
Paul & Charlotte – Mission French Africa



## ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

Joann Deitz	Wilma Doctor	Jim Doornbos	
Vicky Fisher	Lois Grinwis	Pearl Kitchen	
Joel Stefanits	Betty TenBrink	Ro Verheul	June Walcott

*“Heavenly Father, Bring joy, peace, comfort, and love to our dear Care List members. Help them to know they are not forgotten, and we are always keeping our Care List members and their loved ones in our prayers and hearts.”*

## WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

### **A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, Members & Graduates on this Pentecost Sunday & Memorial Day**

**Weekend!** We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worshipping our Savior today! If you are visiting, please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. **Join us in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level for refreshments after the worship service.**

## COUNCIL NEWS

**Next week the special offering will be for Christian Care of Muskegon.** It is a non-profit organization that has been serving our community's elders for over 100 years strong. From assistance with daily living tasks, complex rehabilitation or secure memory care, Christian Care strives to provide the best individualized care possible.

**We give thanks and pray for those who are serving on our church council:** Brian Schuitema, Bob Vanderlaan, Sherrie Wolffis, Stan Rop, Gabe Vlasma, Kelly Dauser, Karen Alphenaar, Jean Botting, Judy Vaandering, Scott Schuitema, Dave Miedema, Charry Snyder, and Pastor Mark Hofman.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**"Faith Practices" Summer Sermon Series and Study** The Faith Practices Project, created by CRCNA's [Faith Formation Ministries](https://www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject), invites you to refresh your spirit by learning and practicing life-giving spiritual disciplines. Follow the link (<https://www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject>) to read more about 12 areas of faith practice that will guide our summer preaching series here at Allen Ave Church. Starting on June 4, we'll be working our way through the disciplines of *Sabbath, Gratitude, Generosity, Hospitality, Engaging Scripture, Justice and Mercy, Listening, Celebrating, Prayer, Wonder, Remembering, and Service*. An \$8 companion [booklet](#) is available for further growth and study, which is a great starting place for individuals or small groups who'd like to become more aware of and sensitive to God's voice in their everyday lives. Please contact Pastor Mark ([pastor@allenavechurch.org](mailto:pastor@allenavechurch.org)) or Charry Snyder ([cmnsnyder@yahoo.com](mailto:cmnsnyder@yahoo.com)) to place an order of how many booklets you'd like to order **before Sunday, June 28.**

**We are looking for anyone interested in doing occasional Children's Messages.** If you are interested or just have questions, contact Deb Vlasma at 231.759.0773 or 231.215.1183.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**It's coming to an end!** The time to order your reduced UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL tickets is NOW!! Colton Dixon, Rachael Lampa, Jordan Feliz, Casting Crowns, Ben Fuller, We the Kingdom, Blessing Offor, and for King & Country, among others, will be at Heritage Landing AUGUST 9 - 12. Tickets are only \$75.00 for the 3-day (plus one free day) event. **Get signed up on the sheet in the basement of church and get your money (or check made out to Alive on the Lakeshore) to Jill Schuitema by Sunday, May 28.** If you have never been and would like to know more, please see Jill. Don't miss out on this very special event!!

**Discussion Time:** Interested in going deeper in your faith? Have questions you want to discuss with other believers? Come join us on Sunday, June 4, after church for a discussion time in the lounge (room next to the kitchen). These are the questions we are hoping to converse around:

**June 4:** What areas of your faith do you struggle with?

**June 25:** Do you have any doubts about your faith?

**Ladies, You Are Invited!** The Art Barn has opened in Fennville, and we are planning a trip for a day of fun on June 17. Invite your friends! The Art Barn is an awesome art studio in a barn from the 1880's. Anyone, regardless of talent, can come and spend the day doing ceramics, tiling, or glass art. Check out: [Expressyourselfartbarn.com](http://Expressyourselfartbarn.com) We will be meeting at our church promptly at 9:00am and loading up cars with anyone who wants to go. You can pack lunch, or we often stop at a fast-food place on the way and you can grab lunch. Contact Laurie Slorf if interested. You will be amazed!

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **Jim Doornbos**

-AACRC Missionaries of the week – **Angel Community Church – Muskegon**

**Kids Corner: Understanding Pentecost** - Check out the new kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). The Spirit came in a powerful way and filled the people. That's because we serve a powerful God! The wind and fire are symbols for God's presence. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible story podcast "The Story of Pentecost."

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-**For MCS and WMC** & local schools, teachers-Lis, Dave, Nate, Becky, Stephanie

-**We pray for our school children of all ages**- Simon, Nora, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devin, Travis, Katelyn, Molly, Kayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Jessica, Pao, Asher, August, and Aethan.

-**On this Memorial Day Weekend**, we thank God for those who served in the service and gave their lives as they fought to keep us free. We pray for the many families that lost their loved ones. On this day we remember, honor, and give thanks to God for providing us with those who gave everything.

-**Thanks to God for Spring and the beauty of renewal both in us and the change of seasons.** Memories of good times, people, places, and events. The joy of knowing Jesus, and that we are on His mission with Him as we celebrate each graduation, change of life, and gift of talents given to each one.

-**John Rop – Retha Johnson's brother** is in hospice care. Keep him, his wife Ellen, Retha, and the family in your prayers as God prepares to bring him home.

-Please keep **Renee' Vlasma** and her family in your prayers as they are constantly "on call" for her mom, Peggy who suffers from Alzheimer's. Give them all protection from burn out and the freedom to offer care when needed.

-**Evan Vanderlaan and the family**- Heartfelt thanks for all your prayers as Evan was released from Mary Free Bed and is home to rest and recover this summer. Continued prayers of healing, patience, endurance, and wisdom in caring for Evan are needed as he faces a long, daily road of recovery. We are beyond grateful to our merciful God for his miraculous healing so far!

-**Stan & Peg Rop** thank God for the beautiful Lake Express Ferry trip to Milwaukee where they could meet up with Jeff, Mary, and their granddaughter, Ellie. They are so thankful for the gift of family and for a little granddaughter who brings such joy into their lives.

-**We lift our missionaries and those thinking about AACRC's upcoming mission trip.** Please talk to Stan and Steve Rop if you would like more information about this. We pray for all missions in this church and individually.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**-Angel church and Pastor Jeffrey.** Thanks to those who are offering help to fix the water damage in their church. Please pray that God will guide us as we look at ways to help them.

**-Please keep Jim and Sue Secord in your prayers.** Jim was admitted by ambulance to Trinity St. Mary's in Grand Rapids after being in ER at Trinity Muskegon. There were 50 people waiting for beds in Muskegon, and they searched five hospitals for an opening. His O2 is running in the 70-80's which is low, so he is on oxygen, and they continue to run tests. He has pneumonia and his back is also broken, along with his COPD. The family thanks you for keeping him and this whole situation in your prayers. Also, please pray for the hospital staff and all those waiting for healthcare. There seems to be a healthcare crisis in Muskegon as well as the surrounding areas. Many nursing and other healthcare are leaving their professions because of the stress and shortages. Please Father, God, help us and guide us and all those who need the care and are not receiving it, we pray.

**-Mary & John Kortman** in the loss of their brother-in-law Hubert last week. Also, for Mary's mom as she has been admitted for pneumonia and sepsis. They think she may be turning the corner but is still very ill. Also, prayers for her sister Sharon as she has not only just lost her husband but is now staying with her dad and trying to make funeral arrangements. Also, please keep Mary and John close in prayer.

**-Deb Vlasma's sister, Paula,** fell last week and sustained a head injury. She is having some erratic behavior and much confusion from the fall and has been transferred to Lakewood's Rehab from Trinity Hospital.

**-Pastor Stan's brother Marv** as he is on hospice care from cancer with no more treatments scheduled. We thank God that Pastor Stan was able to visit him recently. He said the Marv is in bed and that he is slowly getting weaker. He has a strong Spirit, and we rejoice that he knows his Savior. Renal failure will likely end his life in 3-6 months. They are thankful for our prayers.

**-We give thanks for our 2023 graduates! We claim this verse for you!**

**1 Timothy 4:12** “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”



**Our fundraiser has begun! We need to fill 90 bags with 25 pairs of new or gently used shoes to earn funding for Muskegon Middle School's Urban Agriculture Club programming!**

**Clean out your closets, basements, attics and bring us any shoes you no longer wear, want or need!**

**Help us help you and we will all help the world, as each shoe will be sent to a microbusiness owner overseas to re-use or sell in order to support their families.**

Drop off at Muskegon Middle School Mondays and Thursdays between 8am and 3pm or bring to Community enCompass M-Th 8am - 5pm. If you need shoes picked up, please contact [britany@communityencompass.org](mailto:britany@communityencompass.org) or call or text 231.242.3407



## **PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS**

### **-We Live to B.L.E.S.S. through our AACRC Committees:**

**-Building Committee**-Prayers for those who keep our building in good condition, fixing many issues, and keeping the outside and inside so clean and beautiful.

**-Discipleship**-Prayers as they began their ministry on discussing hard topics on Sunday.

**-Worship and Music**-Pray for them as we plan the final spring services and prepare the planning for the coming summer. May the Lord give them energy, ideas, fruition, and commitment to the things they have planned during today's meeting. May He be glorified.

**-Technology**-Prayers as the hearing loop has been installed and for the continual maintenance on keeping the electronic devices running well.

**-Education**-Prayers as they wind down the year and plan for summer bible school and next year.

**-Decorating**-Prayers for keeping our inside areas so beautiful for the continually changing seasons.

**-Missions**-Prayers for the discussion and organization of a mission's trip and supporting our missionaries.

**-Finance**-Prayers for keeping us financially stable and Christian in our financial challenges.

**-Congregational Life**-Prayers for keeping this congregation active together with fun outings.

**-Final Pentecost thoughts:** How has Jesus combined Pentecost and Missions? Here is one mission, because of Pentecost, was accomplished in Jesus' name for His glory through his people. This is truly God in action through His servants.

In 2015, Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Michigan Department of Corrections set out on a venture called the [Calvin Prison Initiative](#). The first-of-its-kind program in the state of Michigan provides inmates with a chance to earn a bachelor's degree from Calvin University. The goal of the program, which is funded entirely by private donations and grants, is to improve prison culture and curb recidivism by equipping prisoners with a formative education.

On Fri., May 5, 2023, 15 students received their bachelor's degrees, and an additional 11 received associate's degrees in faith and community leadership in a commencement ceremony inside Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich.

Most of the 2023 graduates are serving life sentences. However, through their Calvin education, moral and spiritual formation has taken place, shaping their minds and hearts. Here is what just one says about how his world was changed:

**Wilson Rivera B.:** *"The possibility of the impossible. First, the possibility that change can take place with a broken person and a broken system. Second, I can achieve such an accomplishment, a BA degree, if proper application takes place. The totality of my takeaway is that change is possible, no matter what obstacles may appear before me, no matter what your life experiences, and no matter how others view you. Lastly, that there are people that care about "those in prison," who see us as fellow human beings and not a number or title (label)." <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/reflections-earning-degree-behind-bars>*