

Our Redeemer News

Web Page: www.ourredeemer-lcms.org

Telephone: (586) 781-5567

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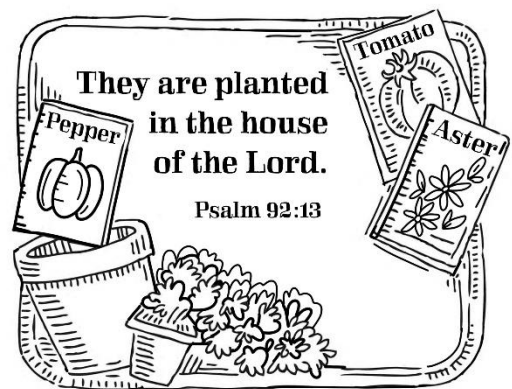
SERMON and SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 5: CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
PRE-DECISIONS "I Want to Know God"
 (Psalm 27:4)

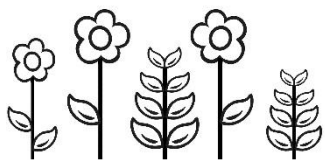
May 12: MOTHER'S DAY:
"Gifts To Give Your Family"
 (Matthew 7:11 & Deuteronomy 5:4-9)

May 19: PENTECOST
PRE-DECISIONS "I Will Obey"
 (Genesis 22:1-12)

May 26: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
PRE-DECISIONS "I Want The Truth"
 (1 Corinthians 13:12 & John 3:1-16)



happy
Mother's
 day



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Table of Contents	Page #
Pastor's Corner	2
From The Music Director	2
LWML/Mites/VBS	3
SONshine Kids	4
Lutherans For Life	5
Samaritan House	6
Thrivent	7
Thrivent cont./Quest For Christ	8
Mission Life News/Assimilation	9
New Beginnings/Trivia Night	9
Talk With God...Our Prayer List	10
Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Lists	11
Calendar	12
It's Your Serve	13
Prayer Calendar	14



See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3)

By the end of this month, Jane and I will welcome our first grandchild. Our daughter, Katie, and husband Omar are due May 30. To say we are excited would be a massive understatement! Grandchildren are indeed a blessing from the Lord! "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. (Psalm 127:3) But what does our calling as grandparents look like?

It is interesting that the Bible has nothing to say on the subject. Our society today reminds us that we are "not defined" by our families. Modern culture teaches that we should not look to family relationships for meaning in life. I disagree. Here are some things I believe Christian grandparents are called to do for their grandchildren today.

1. Build relationships with those little blessings. Let them know how much you love them.
2. Pray for them!
3. Teach them the importance of the local church. Show them how to love the family of God within a congregational setting.
4. Show them how to live a life, humbly depending on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. He is sufficient for all our needs and He will provide. Our job is to trust!
5. Exemplify a passionate love for Jesus. Let your grandkids see you living a life that is based on the fact that Jesus is the greatest treasure any human being might ever receive. Live your faith!

Don't let today's cultural bias on youth intimidate you from being deliberate in sharing God's wisdom with your grandkids. The same God who created us in our mother's womb has a job for us to do in our grandchildren's lives as well! "Even to your old age I am He, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save you. (Isaiah 46:4)

In Him I am, faithfully yours,
Pastor Draeger



As most of you have heard, I have been blessed to fill the position here at Our Redeemer as the Director of Worship and Music. I am so excited to begin this new journey and I pray for God's guidance that I will service Him and this congregation well.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I am married and have three wonderful children (ages 16, 13 and 11). I was born and raised in the Lutheran church and have been involved in the music ministry since I was a child. It all started with those fun Sunday School openings I remember so well. I knew as I watched the teacher up front play the piano and sing with us that someday that was what I was going to do!! I started singing in the choir and participated in all the children's pageants and programs. I believe I sang my first solo when I was 8 years old. By the time I was 20 years old, I was leading the church services with piano / organ and singing in church bands. I served as one of the music directors at my old church in Sterling Heights for about 7 years before I joined Our Redeemer back in 2004! And, of course I dove right into the music ministry here as soon as I joined. It has been such a joy and blessing to be a part of this music ministry. God has opened so many doors for me and He continues to provide me with amazing opportunities to use my gifts that He has blessed me with.

I am thankful to God and Our Redeemer for giving me this opportunity to serve and do what I am so passionate about, MUSIC!! So, please do not hesitate to come talk to me with any questions or concerns you may have about the music. My door is always open and I would love to talk to you!



God's Blessings,
Cari Muirhead
Director of Worship and Music



LWML Mites Working Hard

\$85,000 of **National LWML** mites will go to **Ministry in Mission, Haiti**. This grant will help purchase needed supplies to finish the restoration work on many churches that were destroyed in the 2021 earthquake. Ministry in Mission has been working in Haiti for 15 years under the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti to meet the needs of people as they responded to devastating hurricanes and political unrest. They will continue to care for the needs of the people at the Center of Refuge Orphanage and The Jacmel Lutheran Home for the elderly.

\$25,000 of **Michigan District** mites will go to **“Sharing the Light of Christ’s Love** through Lutheran Braille Workers in funding the production of over 5,000 Braille, specialized large print, or audio materials.

Everyone is encouraged to give their sacrificial gifts for these special mission efforts. Simply put your offering in an envelope for LWML Mites and drop it off in the office or the office box in the narthex.

Thank you.
Our Redeemer LWML Ministry

LWML NEWS. . . .

Happy Spring everyone!

The LWML Evergreen Zone spring rally was at St. Peter Macomb, on April 27th. There was a continental breakfast, speaker and ingathering for layette items. The layettes will go to Lutheran World Relief.

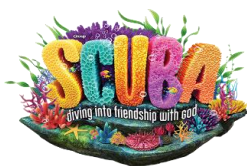
Upcoming events:

- Hanging basket sale – Sunday, May 5th and May 12th the baskets will be selling for \$20.00 each. Just in time for Mother’s Day and they will look beautiful in your yards.
- LWML Women of the Year luncheon, honoring Donna Zuehlk, will be on Saturday, May 11th at 1:00 pm here at the church. If you would like to attend there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or see Kathy Sowers.

For May we are collecting personal items for boys and girls. These will go into the shoe boxes we will send to Samaritans Purse in November. There is a basket in the hallway by the coat rack.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 6th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Mason
LWML Secretary



We are getting ready to dive into VBS!!
Registration IS OPEN FOR SCUBA!!

Please sign up as soon as possible as it is filling up fast especially those going into preschool and kindergarten! VBS is for children age 4 (and potty trained) through grade 6 (next fall). We also need crew leaders for school age children! There is a place to register for that also! The dates are **July 8-12 from 9-12pm**.

Bible Quiz

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude

Answer: C

SONshine Kids News & Notes

April was a great month for the SONshine Kids! We reviewed the Easter story, learned about Ascension and Pentecost, and talked about how we can “go and make disciples of all nations”. We also enjoyed singing in church on the 21st!

It’s hard to believe that we only have a few weeks of SONshine Kids left before we break for the summer. Our last day of class will be Sunday, May 19th. We’ll be having an end-of-year celebration that day to wrap up a wonderful year together!

A HUGE thank you to our awesome teachers: Frances Tomasino, Char Hohnstadt, and Joyce Mason! They’ve done an incredible job teaching and sharing the love of Jesus with all our kids. I also want to thank all the parents who sent their kids to SONshine Kids this year, and our congregation for supporting us. It truly is a joy and a privilege to be part of this ministry, and I’m already looking forward to next year!

Serving in Christ,
Mandi Wesley



a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that’s slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother’s Day bouquet.



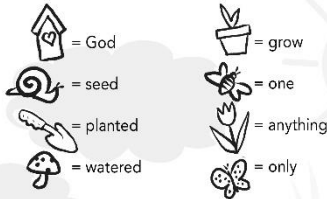
PUZZLE

PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the

_____ who waters is _____

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow





Life Team News

Life Ministry Diaper Drive!!!

It's almost time for our annual diaper drive! Here are the details:

What: Diaper Drive to support Compassion Pregnancy Center

When: Mother's Day thru Father's Day (May 12th - June 16th)

Items Needed: any size diapers and/or baby wipes, or monetary donations to be used for purchasing additional diapers

Where: Please put any donations in the collection bin by the ministry table.

All donations will be taken to Compassion Pregnancy Center in Clinton Township. This is an incredible organization that helps and supports expectant/new parents and their babies. Here's a little more about CPC (taken from compassionpregnancyfriends.org):

- *Compassion Pregnancy Center is Macomb County's only medical pregnancy resource center, providing all of our services at no cost to our clients for the past 25 years.*
- *Compassion Pregnancy Center (CPC) is an outreach ministry of Jesus Christ through his church. Therefore, CPC, embodied in its volunteers, is committed to presenting the Gospel of our Lord to our clients with unplanned pregnancies, both in word and in deed.*
- *CPC is committed to the belief that at conception human life is created by God. All life, therefore, is unique and sacred, and must not be terminated unless the life of the mother is jeopardized by carrying a pregnancy to term.*
- *CPC is committed to the belief that sexual intercourse is a good gift of God, to be used within the context of marriage.*
- *CPC is committed to assisting our clients with carrying their babies to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Through the provision of God's people and the community at large, our clients may face the future with hope and plan constructively for themselves and their babies.*
- *CPC never advises, provides, or refers for abortion or abortifacients.*
- *CPC offers assistance free of charge at all times.*
- *CPC is committed to creating awareness within the local community of the needs of our clients and of the fact that abortion only compounds human need rather than resolving it.*

This is a great opportunity for us to put our faith into action and support an organization that recognizes the value of life and makes a real impact in our community!

In Christ,
Mandi Wesley
Life Team



Samaritan House Business Hours

Tuesday, 10am-6pm
Wednesday, 10am-6pm
Friday, 10am-4pm
(586-336-9956)

SAMARITAN HOUSE



26TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
Sponsors get first opportunity to purchase tickets.

Calling all Sponsors....
Please consider becoming a sponsor for the Samaritan House 26th Annual Golf Outing benefiting food insecure families in our community.

REGISTRATION :
7:45 AM

SHOTGUN START:
9:00 AM

Greystone Golf Club
July 26th, 2024
FRIDAY

For Sponsorship Information contact
Kim at (586)336-9956 - samaritanhousemichigan.org

**BE A VOLUNTEER
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SAMARITAN HOUSE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN COMMIT TO A 4 HOUR TIME SLOT EACH WEEK!

For information on how you can volunteer contact Judy at 586-336-9956



FASHION & FOOD AT THE PALAZZO GRANDE



A NIGHT OF FUN FOOD & FASHION AT PALAZZO GRANDE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
EVENING INCLUDES, BUFFET DINNER, BEER/WINE & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

VENDOR BOOTHS AND FASHION SHOW
TICKETS ARE \$50 AND CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT SAMARITANHOUSEMICHIGAN.ORG

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$20,000 TO STOCK OUR PANTRY FOR TWO MONTHS

We Need The Following:

MAY PANTRY NEEDS

- Women's Depends – Size M
- Women & Men Shaving Cream
- Laundry Detergent
- Ramen Noodle Soup
- Saltine Crackers
- Baked Beans
- Canned Kidney Beans
- Pasta Sides
- Tuna Helper
- Chili

Don't let inflation derail your finances

Is your wallet feeling a little thin these days? Over the last few months, it's been hard to ignore the impact of inflation. The prices of goods and services we rely on, like gas, groceries, and utilities, have risen sharply and put a strain on our finances.

According to Thrivent's 2022 Consumer Financial Outlook Survey*, 63% of respondents said inflation is to blame for pushing them off track financially. In fact, more than three-quarters of those surveyed (76%) said inflation/cost increases are negatively impacting their savings and putting them in a more vulnerable position. Only a small percentage of those surveyed – 28% – said they are saving more than enough or a good amount right now.

The survey was conducted in partnership with data intelligence company [Morning Consult](#) and polled 2,221 adults across the country between May 9 and 17.

While the current financial environment may have you worried about the impact on your finances, there are ways to take control – and even potentially improve – your financial situation. Here are some actionable tips from Thrivent to help get back on track financially and hedge against inflation:

1) Sort out emotions – Money decisions can stir up strong emotions. It's normal to feel anxious, stressed or even scared. We recommend getting emotions out on the table first by asking: What is most concerning to me? When people identify their emotions and what they're concerned about, it can reduce the ultimate impact. Second, ask yourself: What is in my control? For example, while you can't control market volatility, you can take steps to rebalance your investment mix to match your risk tolerance.

2) Return to the basics – It's a good practice to revisit your budget in response to significant changes to household income or expenses. With inflation driving up prices, now is a great time to get a grasp on your expenses and overall financial picture.

First, outline how much money is coming in each month. Second, map out where that money is going: How much is being directed to your savings, bills, and everyday spending?

This exercise can be done in many different ways – using pen and paper, a spreadsheet, or a mobile app or digital tool. The most important thing is to get started. These initial insights can help you make more informed decisions about your money.

3) Find a support system – It's important to remember you don't have to go at this alone. Having a trusted person to talk to about your finances can help you wrestle with your emotions, discover your behavioral patterns, chart a clear path forward and stay accountable to a strategy.

Begin by exploring your options. A financial advisor can be a sounding board for changing or competing financial goals. They can meet you where you're at today – whether it's starting from scratch or building more advanced financial strategies.

If you're not ready to take that step yet, there are plenty of free resources to help you get organized, like Thrivent's [Money Canvas](#) coaching program. Money Canvas offers free online coaching sessions to help people build a baseline understanding of their financial picture and establish healthy day-to-day budgeting, saving and spending habits.

4) Strengthen the financial foundation – There are a few initial steps you can consider taking to strengthen your financial foundation in the immediate term, including:

- *Modifying your budget* – With higher prices driving up expenses, reevaluate your budget and make spending tradeoffs to continue living within your means. Depending on what your priorities are, you can find ways to scale back, like shopping smarter at the grocery store or eliminating recurring subscriptions. Finding a way to cut back even \$25-50 a week frees up an extra \$100-200 a month that can be dedicated to other purposes.
- *Establishing an emergency fund* – The survey found that more than half of Americans (60%) would be concerned if faced with an unexpected \$500 expense. This is a good reminder that now isn't the time to lose sight of your emergency savings.
- The general rule of thumb is to save enough to cover three to six months of expenses. Due to inflation, consider increasing the amount you're putting away every paycheck. Having additional reserves available can give you greater confidence and help you weather the higher prices we're experiencing right now.

Thrivent Financial Column Continued...

- *Managing debt* – Dealing with debt in addition to inflation can put even more strain on your finances. For those with debt, devise a strategy for tackling it. Depending on the amount, think about prioritizing smaller debts first and then work your way up to the largest amount. Or focus on paying the debt with the highest interest rate first. Consolidating your debt may be a third option.

5) Revisit investments – To help minimize the long-term effect of inflation on the growth of assets, now may be an ideal time to revisit your risk tolerance and compare that to your investment allocation. If needed, a financial advisor can help you diversify your portfolio to better match your current risk tolerance, investment objectives and time horizon.

6) Practice smart behaviors to improve financial health – While many Americans recognize the behaviors that can improve financial well-being, the survey found that current pressures may be preventing them from doing it. For example, 77% of those surveyed said automating savings is very or somewhat effective, yet only 41% currently do it. For many, this may be a missed opportunity that doesn't have to be. If you can "set it and forget it," this is an easier way to build meaningful savings over the span of several years.

Practicing other smart behaviors, like living within your means, following a budget and sticking to a financial strategy, can also put you on better financial footing.

While the effects of inflation can feel overwhelming, don't let it derail your finances. By seeking help, focusing on your financial strategy and sticking to your goals, you can successfully navigate this period – and emerge in an even stronger financial position to tackle whatever comes tomorrow.

This article was prepared by Thrivent for use by local area FP James Riske. He has offices at 48639 Hayes Rd. Office #2, in Shelby Township and can also be reached at 586-981-5333.

QUEST FOR CHRIST

The Power Within Us

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

Whatever we are facing in life, we as believers have a great advantage because the Holy Spirit is living within us. That doesn't mean we are always going to be successful in a worldly way, but it does mean that God gives us strength to accomplish the things He calls us to do.

The world's idea of success is more prosperity, more prominence, more position, and more power. But success in the eyes of God is discovering and pursuing His will through the power of His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds so that we can think the way God thinks and understand more about Him. The Spirit also energizes our physical bodies. We all have faced situations where our human strength was exhausted, but inner strength kept us going so that we didn't even feel weary. That is the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Third member of the Trinity who quickens our emotions so that we can experience love for difficult people or peace in hard circumstances. The Spirit of God also works in the life of the believer by enabling our will. When we have to make decisions, we can rely on Him to make decisions, we can rely on Him to illumine our mind and make it possible for us to choose the best options.

The Holy Spirit releases His supernatural power in whatever direction is needed at the moment, whether mind, body, emotion or will. This is not some power that we can muster up, nor is it even the result of years of obeying the Lord. The power of the Holy Spirit is God's gift to every believer.



9th Annual "Bike or Hike for Life"

Please join us this year, we'll roll or stroll into Summer on June 22, 2024. Cost is \$30 per participant.

Please contact Kathy Sowers if you are interested. She will gladly register everyone as a group.

WHAT IS BIKE OR HIKE FOR LIFE ALL ABOUT?

Fun! Fellowship! Fundraising for LIFE! For more information and itinerary please visit:

<https://lifeisapeach.org/bike-or-hike-for-life>



Mission:
Life Fellowship

MISSION LIFE NEWS

Hi Everyone!!

We have come to the end of another year of Mission Life!!

May 5th is Confirmation Sunday. Congratulations to Aubrey Hanson and Will Newell! May God Bless you as you begin your Journey as members of the church!

May 8th is our last day of Mission Life! We will be celebrating at the Youth House. Please drop your child off at the usual time at church. We will walk over to the Youth House together.

Thank you for bringing your child to class each week, and for your continued support!! We couldn't do this without you!

Have a wonderful Summer!

Kathy Sowers
MLF coordinator

Acolytes for May and June: (no acolytes in July)

May Acolytes:

5th – Megan Muirhead
12th – Alyssa Smiley
19th – Haley Schachermeyer
26th – Preston Peyerk

June Acolytes:

2nd – Max Lee
9th – Izabell Tomasino
16th – Aubrey Hanson
23rd – Will Newell
30th – Scarlett Wigley



Our Spring Fair a great success!!

We had over 100 children go through. They had a great time making crafts and playing games! We collected \$472 for the new Playground.

Thank you to those who helped:

George & Patty Amey, Pastor & Jane, Robin Falker, Margie Kirsh, Joyce Mason, Megan Muirhead, Linda Sasse, Al Sowers, Frances, Izabell, Stella & Penny Tomasino.

Special Thanks to Amy Sander for creating & working on the crafts, & Jan Mueller for making cookies, creating crafts, and putting it all together.

Blessings,
Kathy Sowers
Assimilation Director



TRIVIA NIGHT IS BACK - FRIDAY, MAY 10th @ 6PM

If you love answering questions, working with a team and sitting on the edge of your seat with excitement...Trivia Night is for you.

On Friday, May 10th, 2024 at 6pm, Ryan Wesley will be hosting a Trivia Night. Get your family and friends together to form teams of 4. If you don't have a team, simply sign up and we will gladly put you on a team. Please bring snacks and drinks for your table. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

New Beginnings News

Hello all, I think spring is finally here. I for one am enjoying the sunshine.

Twelve of us had a great time at Pizza Nostalgia. The food was yummy, and the company was great.

For May we will be going to Jake O'Malley's Irish Pub, 11417 26 Mile Rd. Washington on Wednesday, May 22nd at 4:30pm. As always please see me or call/text me at 586-746-7547 if you would like to attend.

Blessings,
Joyce Mason

PLEASE BE PRAYING FOR...

Barb Pellegrino (Muellers' friend; cancer)
Frank Cody (Margo Schuch's brother)
Mona Pfent (Christin Peyerck's mom; cancer)
Tina Hayden (Haydens' daughter-in-law; cancer)
Grace Angela Beachnau (Mueller's granddaughter)
Adam Bettcher (MS)
Carmen Ann Palma (Robert & Carolyn Meyer's great granddaughter)
Dana Primeau (stage 4 colon cancer)
Andy Walgenbach (cancer treatment) Lillian Dodson (Sandy Huyck's mom)
Mary Reinhardt (Jim Reinhardt's mom)
Robin Meyer (Marian Schultz's sister-in-law)
Mike Beynan (Linda Martin's step-son in-law)
Ron Armstrong (waiting for a heart transplant) Eric Johnston (cancer) Gail
Feedback (cancer) Matt Abel (cancer - Jean Dehnke's Son-in-law) Jessica Thom (tumor
surgery)
Cole Yahara (Jan & Walt Mueller's Grandson)
Fran Reinhardt (shoulder surgery recovery) Andy Anderson (recovery)
Mary Collins (recovery) John McFarlane (recovery)
Luetta Brough JoAnne Hoag (sciatica)
Larry Feedback (hospitalized) Beth Hemingway (Guillain-Barre syndrome)
Robert Meyer (pneumonia) Esther Diener (health complications)
Ron Collins (inoperable brain tumor)
Marian Olson (Deborah Schendel's Aunt - rehab for fractures)

OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES:



Jim Pfahlert (Shaver Family)
Brad Morris
Sean Duggan (Bridget Felax's brother)
Nathan Kavanaugh (Kirsh family friend)





May Birthday Prayers

Peggy Alward	Gail Meyer	Patricia Orlando	Ronald Orlando
Geri Pierce	Carrie Roose	Justin Dodt	Gene Quade
Byron Zuehlk	Lori Hoffman	Sarah Sosnowski	Emily Addis
Olga Menchaca	Jeff Draeger		



May Anniversary Prayers

Gary & Laureen Crocker	Robert & Patricia Wigley	Jeffrey & Heather Flynn
David & Olivia Friedli	Chris & Elizabeth Monroe	Brian & Christin Peyerk
James & Sandra Huyck	Larry & Judy Bettcher	Dominic & Frances Tomasino

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:6

****Please let the office know if your birthday or wedding anniversary is not included in these monthly lists! Thank you.****