

## MY SPECIAL EASTER THRILL

God's people were streaming home after glorious services on the Day of Resurrection.

At the church door, seven-year-old Spencer reached up and gave me a homemade "card" he had cut and colored.

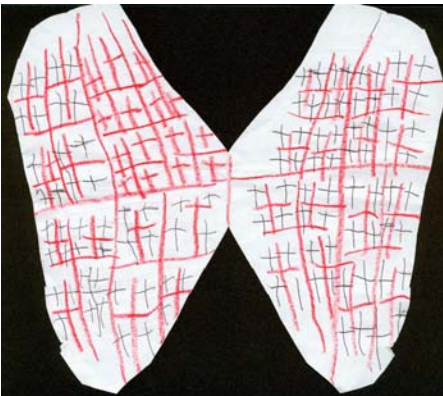
His eyes shined with guileless delight.

Unfolded, one could easily read among the crosses, "*have a garet estr!*" The other side had at least a hundred crosses.

"Oh, Spencer," I said, "Thank you—and I see what you made? A butterfly!"

Except the butterfly was by accident. Spencer told me he really meant the card to be an Easter egg. That's why it was cut "roundish." But, of course, a card needs to open up, so that's why it was folded as it was.

In those few moments, looking into the happy face of a carefree, baptized child joyful to be with his parents and sisters in God's house with Jesus, I realized again how bound we are by the wonder



and gift of Easter.

You see, both the Easter egg and the butterfly are ancient, meaningful symbols of Jesus' resurrection.

Just as the chick breaks the shell when it is hatched and begins its life, so Christ comes forth living from the apparently lifeless tomb.

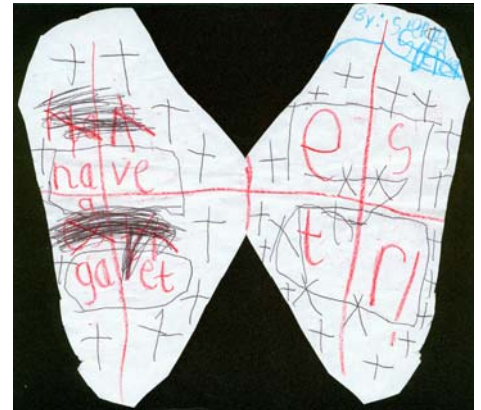
Also, the butterfly is one of the symbols used most often to signify the resurrection. Its whole life cycle is symbolic of the meaning of the life of Christ.

First, the caterpillar, like the humble Jesus with hidden glory during his life on earth awaits the exaltation. Then, the cocoon portraying crucifixion and burial. And lastly, the beautiful butterfly, a reminder of His rising from the dead in his glorified body.

I hadn't at first seen the Easter egg. And Spencer hadn't realized that what he shared with me was a butterfly. We surprised each other. Easter is like that—like a wonderful surprise.

So there we were teaching each other once again why we gather to celebrate on such a wonderful day the life-giving gift of our Savior.

In his own way, Spencer was repeating again the ageless message of Easter which is that there is no Easter without the cross. Spencer made that so absolutely clear, didn't he?



But also, Easter is the new Christ-given life for us all.

I could also show Spencer that all around us, whether the butterfly, or beauty of spring, or the rising sun can all recall for us that indeed, Jesus lives.

To really know what Jesus did and what it means for all people takes the unmistakable message of the Gospel, spoken by angels, witnessed by apostles, preached by missionaries, and confessed by Christian believers for all time, "Christ is risen! The One who died for you, lives again."

It is this Jesus taught and known in Spencer's first grade classroom with Miss Rudick. It is this living Jesus who is shared in the Fiebke home, and proclaim continuously here in our church family.

A little boy and a pastor sharing the joy of Jesus and the glory of His resurrection. It was a special moment within an otherwise all-glorious day.... and we did have a *garet estr* didn't we—a wonderful Easter that still goes on and on.

— Pastor Reed

## Grace Lutheran School Recommended for National Accreditation

For two days during the last week in April, we were visited by a team of seven educators. They were on site to evaluate every aspect of our school. There were twelve areas put under the microscope by the team including: Philosophy, School and Congregation, School and Community, School Climate, Administration, Professional Personnel, Curriculum, Instruction, Instructional Materials and Resources, Student Services, Physical Facilities, and Finance. Our documentation is compared to a specific set of standards, and then verified the site visit team. I am happy to say that as a result of that visit, they have recommended to the Michigan District in Ann Arbor, and to the

National Accreditation Committee in St. Louis, that Grace receive National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. There has been an extensive amount of work done by your Board of Elementary Education, your faculty, and many, many others. They are to be commended for their efforts. This Accreditation is a stamp of approval for your school, and provides this congregation with the assurance that everything that we are doing in the school meets or exceeds the national standards for educating God's children. The Accreditation will be valid for seven years.

For the past six years we have participated in the Jump Rope for Heart which raises funds for the American Heart Association. This year the event will occur on May 19. Over the past six years, we have raised over \$12,000.00 to support the American Heart Association.

As the year winds down there are certainly no end to many calendar items that need special attention. The annual music festival for grades 3-8 will be held at St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington. Miss Rudick and Mrs. VanSickle will attend with the 85% of our students who participate in one way or another musically in this event. Upon completion of their event, they will be allowed to go

home. Students not involved will remain at school under my supervision, while grades kindergarten through two will have class as usual taught by Ms. Schroeder. Special Person's Day is set for May 25. More details will follow as they become available. The school picnic follows on May 26. Memorial weekend follows with no classes in session on Monday May 29. Eighth grade graduation will take place in church on June 4. Finally, the last day of school will be June 7. Both June 6 and June 7 will be half days with a noon dismissal! Pastor Reed will close our school year with a special chapel worship.

Congratulations to Kristy Brandt, grade 8. She was recently awarded a sizable scholarship to Michigan State University contingent upon her admission as a freshman. She was selected because of her exemplary performance in 4-H Explorer Days, in addition to her academic record, teacher and program director recommendations, and her personal essay. We are all proud of her accomplishments.

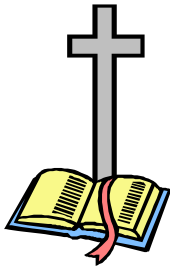


**Michigan State Scholarship Recipient**



**Our AR winners for the 3rd Quarter**

## JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS



We often fail to live as children of God. God through Christ forgives us for our sins and by His Holy Spirit, calls, restores, and empowers us to dedicate our lives to Him in response for all He has done for us. Sometimes this is as

hard of a lesson for us to learn as it was for the Jesus' disciples. That is, until the Spirit empowered them at Pentecost. This and more will be discussed throughout May's religion. We have just begun a unit on the circulatory system. Throughout life, blood moves through the body, carrying materials to each and every cell. Among these materials is oxygen, nutrients from food, substances that help the body fight disease and materials that help stop bleeding. The Saginaw Valley Blood Program will be in the junior high classroom to have everyone's blood typed. Our travels throughout American history have brought us to a very sad time in our past, the Civil War. As neighbor fought against neighbor, family against family,



**Kristi Brandt & Chris Roth our MVP's for basketball.**

the highest casualties in history were inflicted simply because when a soldier was killed on either side, it was an American. After the war ended, the nation was faced with the challenges of rebuilding the war-torn South and bringing the two parts of the country together. Finally, this year's class trip will be to Mackinac Island. On June 2 we will travel to Mackinac City, take a ferry out to the island, tour Fort Mackinac, have a picnic, bike around, and generally take in the sites and sounds of the island.



**Elise and Shaun Working On Their Ukrainian Eggs**

## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

The month of April began with our students taking Achievement Tests. All of the children got a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast each morning prepared to take on the challenge. The results of those tests will arrive back before the end of the school year.

Science is taking us into an exploration of the characteristics of matter and we discovered the wonder of bubbles. The students did hands-on activities that helped them discover what happens when two substances come together, and the physical changes that occur when vinegar and baking soda combine to create a new gas. This Science unit has been challenging and rewarding for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

We have had loads of excitement this month as well. Our class visited Plainview recently to

## May News

share the joy of Easter and to welcome the new season of spring. The students made lovely sun catchers for the residents and cards to share the Easter gospel message. We sang a few hymns of praise and the folks at Plainview joined right in! President Abraham Lincoln came all the way from the 1860s to pay us a visit and share words of wisdom from his life. Mr. Bill Ames, from Manchester Michigan played our 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States very well and the students enjoyed his presentation.

We wish you a refreshing spring and the joy of the risen Lord!

**Emily, Diondra, And Veronica Making Huge Bubbles During A Science Experiment**



**If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one? Abraham Lincoln**

## Room Four Report

Students have been busy reading and writing for their book report: People Pop Ups. For this book project, students had to create a book cover, character pop-ups, and a script of their favorite scene. The kids were nervous about presenting their pup-



**Students stand with pride next to our 16th President.**

pet shows in front of their peers, but after they were done they responded, "That was fun!" Some even wanted to present theirs again.

We are a nation of immigrants. The United States is made up of people from

diverse backgrounds and culture. Students are exploring this concept, studying immigrants of the past and present, the reasons people came and are still coming to the U. S., how it affects us today.

We also had a visitor from the past on April 21. Abraham Lincoln came to our school. He spoke about his boyhood, manhood, presidency, his beliefs, and his family. He had several messages for us: We need know what we believe in and stand up for it, even if that means others will dislike us. In life, we may fail more than we succeed, but we will succeed if we persevere. Each and every one of us is special. In science students are exploring the weather. We've made a barometer out of a coffee can, straw, and latex. Every day, for one week, we've recorded the weather conditions and change in air pressure. As the outside air pressure increased, it pushed the latex down, which made our straw pointer rise. When the air pressure decreased, the there was less pressure on the latex, and our pointer descended. A falling barometer predicts that warmer, moist air is moving in. A rising barometer predicts that cooler, drier air is approaching.

In addition to air pressure, we're study-

ing wind: where it comes from, its speed, and its direction. Students are making windsocks and anemometers as art/science projects. They'll use their windsocks to infer whether the wind comes from the same direction on warm days as it does on cool days. They'll use their anemometers to collect data about wind speed and how it varies with weather conditions.

Last month students had a Bible trivia scavenger hunt. They were divided into three teams of four and had to use the Bible to solve and search for clues. After the scavenger hunt was over, the students enjoyed soda, cookies, and prizes. Thanks again to our parents that made the party possible.

Lastly, I would like to wish all moms a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for everything that you do and for shaping us into the people we are today.



**The girls finding the "Serpent" on the scavenger hunt.**

## K, 1 & 2 News

The month of April was a very busy month. Achievement Tests were administered the first week in April. This was the first time 1<sup>st</sup> grade students took Achievement Tests, so they were pretty tired by the end of the week.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, we had some more visitors in our classroom for our second Kindergarten Round up. Molly Mantei, Cameron Hundley, and Emily Gray and her friend Austin all visited us for most of the day. Emily's mom and Cameron's dad also sat in and watched what we did for most of the day. It was a very fun day. We do enjoy having visitors in our classroom!

The next day, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we had a visit from President Lincoln. What an exciting day! He was a very good storyteller. We enjoyed hearing all about his life!

Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, we had the visit from the Accreditation team. We were a little nervous at first, because we did not know those people. Miss Rudick assured us that they were "good strangers" and it was O.K. to talk to them because



they were here to see what was going on at our school.

You may be wondering about our "normal" school work. Of course we still complete our "work"! Our Kindergarten students are reading more and more. As we learn more of our sounds, we are able to read more words. It is very exciting! We are also getting better at story problems in math.

1<sup>st</sup> grade students are doing more writing in class. As we learn more sounds, we are able to spell more words and write longer sentences. Did you notice our compositions about Abraham Lincoln in the hallway? We are very proud of our work!

2<sup>nd</sup> grade students continue to learn about helping verbs and linking verbs. Did you know that linking verbs don't show action and have many forms? We've also been learning even more phonics sounds. We never knew the

**Boy are we glad all that NSLA stuff is done!**

same letter combinations make so many different sounds. There is so much to remember in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!



**Hunter hanging out with Mr. Lincoln**

As the school year winds down, we've discovered how much we really have learned. It is hard to believe that we have already finished another year of school. There are many things going on in May. We would especially like to invite you to Special Person's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>. We have many things we would like to share with all our special friends at Grace. We hope you can make it!!!



### Given in Memory

- Herb Taglauer  
By  
Don & Karen Rauschenberger  
Rita Reiss  
Rhonda Leasher  
N.E.M. Lutheran Bowling  
Marv & Donna Wegener  
Roy & Polly Behmlander  
Ella Stieve  
James & Catherine Kabe  
Tom & Carole Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Atkara  
Elmer & Barb Weiss
- Craig Warmbier  
By  
Ray & Deb Garcia

Char Pohl  
By  
Ruth Roth

Ralph Smith  
By  
Bruce & Judy Lance  
Vi Koehler

Ester Gromaski  
By  
Matt & Deb Dambro

Doug Gray  
By  
Family Of Doug Gray

Genevieve Miller  
By  
Bruce & Judy Lance

Lorna Weiss  
By  
Bruce & Judy Lance  
Paul & Linda Varner  
Don & Darlene Pfannes  
Loretta Reinecke

Duane & Lynn Schmidt  
Ray & Deb Garcia

Ed Kent  
By  
Lucille Koehler

Bernadine Kunding  
By  
Edgar & Loretta Wegener

Larry Hool  
By  
Vi Koehler

Delores M. Cole  
By  
David & Cindy Styn  
Ruth Roth



### New Study Opportunity Geared for Parents and Little Ones

On Sunday mornings, there is a new study time geared for parents and their small children (under age 3). Parents and these infants/toddlers will gather for devotion, song, fellowship, Bible study, and more. This is a great opportunity for parents to be encouraging even their youngest children in their faith life, while strengthening their family's worship and devotion focus. Anyone is welcome to join us during the Bible study hour at 9:30 am in the narthex. If you have any questions, contact Allison Wolf at 792-0629. Hope to see you there. Note: This class will not meet May 7th due to the Voter's Meeting between services, but will resume on May 14th.



# Notes

## Hurricane Relief-

It is with great joy that I tell you that we have sent off \$1300 in Hurricane relief moneys. We chose to send \$650 with Leroy Taglauer to Biloxi. He tell us that this will mostly re-roof a home in the area or could provide any number of other things as the need dictates when he arrives this week. The other \$650 was sent to Kurtis Smith at Lamb of God Church in Slidell, LA. We are not sure what the exact need is at this location but it is where we are told that the need is great. The money for these contributions were raised through your participation in the recent Scrap Book Events here at Grace. We do indeed share in God's bounty here at Grace and it sure feels good to share it. I look forward to sending more to these areas again soon. *Sue Roth*

## Church Work Bee



Everyone is invited to come and help at the church work bee being held on May 6, from 9:00 until noon. We will be working on yard clean-up, general clean-up and doing a tune-up on the playground equipment. Please join us.

## Ladies Spring Luncheon

All ladies of our congregation are invited and encouraged to come to the Spring luncheon, planned for you in the Grace School Library on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Come and join us, bring a friend and share some fellowship. See you there.



## Dinner for Alvin Rosenbrock

A Spaghetti Benefit Dinner is planned for Alvin on Tuesday, May 16. It will be held at Kawkawlin Twp. Hall, 1836 Parish Rd. Dinner is served 4:00- 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00-12 and under. There will be raffles and a bake sale. Edgar Wegener's nephew Alvin had a tree fall on him Feb. 24, breaking many bones. He will need months of therapy and a lengthy recovery period.

## Have it Your Way....at Burger King (Tech Committee)

Do you need a night away from the stove? Eat supper at "Burger King" in Auburn the third Tuesday of the month. Take a coupon located on the ushers Desk or mention that you are a Grace parishioner and Grace Tech fund receives 10% of the order. What an easy way to help support Grace!

The Tech Committee has recently installed new software on the new library computer. This software will allow the students to search for books and help the librarians keep better track of the books located in the library. Help is still needed to get the new server up and running. Contact Don Rauschenberger at 662-4060 if you can help or if you know of someone that can. An alternate is to spend about \$1,500 to get it up and running by hiring the work out.



## Hit the beach!

Discover Jesus, our greatest treasure in Treasure Cove Bible stories, games, songs, activities, and snacks at Grace's Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 16 - 20. Last year enrollment was 60 students, so help and organization is the key. Best of all, the staff camaraderie rocks!

We are in need of help in a variety of areas. Volunteers are needed as site leaders, site helpers, Treasure Seekers to lead the Search parties from site to site, registration staff, kitchen help, decorations, craft assistants, story tellers, outdoor activity helpers, publicity aide, and just about any skill you are willing to share. Take the initiative, contact Deb VanTol, 496-3541 to offer your assistance or reply affirmatively when asked to help. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## Help Build a Home!

Grace and other Bay County Lutheran churches are partnering with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a deserving low income family. The recipient of the home is Denise VanWert and her family of three children. It will be located on the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Harrison streets in Bay City's south end.



You can help out by building on site, doing some work off site, or by contributing to the project or helping out with fund raisers for it. So far, Grace has about 20 people signed up to help in one way or another. We can use even more! We also are running a few fund raisers here at Grace. They are as follows: 1) A Nail Sale - For \$1 you can purchase a nail that will then be put into the home. (You may keep the nail as a keepsake if you really want to also.) 2) A signing of a special 2x4 that will be used in the construction of the home. You may sign your name for a contribution of less than a dollar, or for more than a dollar you may write the family a message. 3) If you wish to make a larger monetary contribution, write out a check to Grace earmarked for the habitat fund. You may also do this with cash if you put it into an envelope. If you give \$20 or more, there is a nice pin that you are entitled to. There are also coin boxes in all of the classrooms in our school. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping out in any of these ways. Grace would like to raise from \$400 - \$600. There was also a chapter wide Spaghetti dinner held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran School in Bay City. Other chapter wide fund raisers may also be held in the future.

The workdays at the site are Wednesdays from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There are also clean up days prior to each workday. The volunteer section of this begins on May 20<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

There are copies of all of the previous information and forms that have been handed out in the church narthex. There are also copies of the needed habitat forms for working on site that are available in the office. If you have any additional questions, call Connie Gengler at 662-7088.

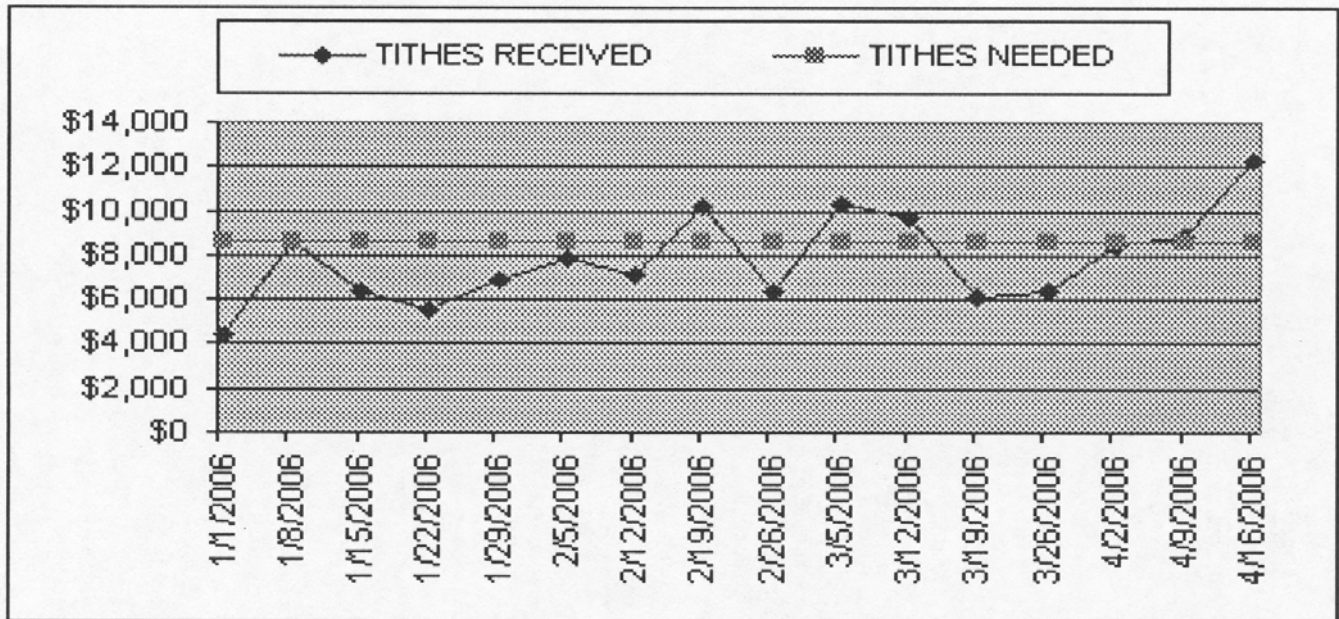
# Finance Board as of 4/20/2006

Unpaid bills as of APRIL 20, 2006

Name	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06
Church Budget	\$757.90				
Entry Systems	\$730.00				
Fowler Organ	\$253.80				
Indiana District LCM	\$ 45.00				
Waste Management			\$ 77.87	\$ 155.54	
Universal Building			\$1212.00	\$1818.00	\$ 606.00
Concordia Publishing		\$124.44	\$ 127.02		\$ 125.00
Arnold Sales		\$204.15	\$ 49.70	\$ 123.47	
Bay Arenac ISO		\$ 22.97	\$ 45.00	\$ 310.71	
IKON Copier				\$ 477.33	\$ 477.33
Pastor Reed		\$100.00		\$ 100.00	
Valley Lutheran Tuition				\$1940.00	
Kerry Collection		\$181.13			
Laser Connection			\$ 45.00		
Bay Glass				\$ 180.61	
Mich District Convention				\$ 523.00	\$ 60.00
Tri City Fire				\$ 140.00	
Somini					\$ 54.75
SBC					\$ 201.31
Concordia Plans					\$1184.87
-----					
	\$1786.70	\$632.69	\$1556.59	\$5768.66	\$2709.26

TOTAL \$12,453.90

There are also two Member loans in the amount of \$2500.00 each that are due to be paid in August 2006



Grace Lutheran Church and School  
303 W. Ruth Street  
Auburn, Michigan 48611

Rev. David H. Reed, Pastor  
Mr. Peter Fredrich, Principal

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*May*

## ***May Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### **Birthdays**

1 Lula Hart, Benjamin Roth, Amy Sabourin, Gladys Sobek, Karen Stagray, 2 Brianne Alexander, 3 Debra Dambro, Crystal Lynch, Pamela Whalen, Christopher Zielinski, 4 Crysta Clarey, Leonard LeBeau Sr., Cliff Vennix, Elyssa Weber, 5 Nathan Gray, 6 Karen Burch, 7 Michael Lynch, Madelaina Martin, 8 Eunice Pickelman, David Dominowski, 9 Richard Jezowski, 10 Veronica Martin, Irene Schmidt, 11 David Arnold, Susan Walter, 12 Brandon Hetzner, Susan Konsdorf, 13 Kayla Keidel, Paula Wegener, Zachary Willard, 14 Pamela Horneber, Craig Liberacki, Duane Schmidt, Jason Wood, Mark Wood, 16 Earl Schmidt, Nancy Stark, 17 Shane Leach, Joshua Storey, 19 Linda Alexander, Virginia Behmlander, 20 Dawn Lechner, 22 Michael Hetzner, 23 Allan Brandt, Justin Herbolsheimer, Gordon Schroeder, Christopher Stark, Michael Stark, 24 Barbara Bartz, Michael Bickham Sr., John Dominowski, Jacob Klann, Loretta Reinecke, David Styn, Alan Garcia, 25 Gloria Kunding, Diane McNally, 26 Robert McNally, 27 Eric Petrosky, Janet Webb, 28 Mary Dengel, 29 Elizabeth Reed, 30 Branden Storey, 31 Justin Garcia

### **Anniversaries**

2 Curtis & Christine Fiebke, 3 Christine & Brian Bachman, 5 Ervin & Judy Kuch, 7 Christopher & Coryn Lewicki, 12 James & Rhonda Klann, Duane & Lynn Schmidt, 13 William & Loretta Friebe, 16 David & Paula Wegener, Harry & Hilda Wegener, 19 David & Cindy Styn, 21 David & Marcella Anderson, 26 James & Janet Webb, Matthew & Allison Wolf, 30 Dianna & Jim Heading, Ernest & Karla Weiss