



The MARKINGS

October 2023
Volume 53, Issue 10

A Lost Purpose

It is no secret that Jesus Christ is the most controversial person to have ever walked the face of the earth. Whether a person sees Jesus as just a man, a teacher, a prophet, a heretic, or the Son of God, the mere mention of His name can almost always make any conversation suddenly become quite serious. Any person anywhere in the world can speak of God, and for the most part not rock the boat. But mention Jesus, and there is this, “Oh... you just went there,” type of reaction that is really hard to explain.

Even if somebody is mostly unchurched, it is amazing to see that simply mentioning the name of Jesus makes things unnerving and uncomfortable. People may not even have faith in the incarnational nature of Jesus as the Son of God; and they may not even know the graphic details of what He suffered for their own sake. They may not even know that they are the cause of Christ’s suffering.

Yet, just the name of Jesus still makes one’s heart skip a beat. Regardless of one’s theological knowledge, the name of Jesus convicts, challenges, or offends any non-believer. It is as if there is this inherent understanding of the seriousness of Christ written into the very fabric of our human nature, whether we want to believe in Him or not.

It is this inherently offensive nature of Jesus that I believe is a lost purpose for how Christians share the Gospel today. Matthew 10:34 encapsulates this lost purpose of Jesus Christ in His own words. Jesus states, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

Now, these words of Jesus should not be misunderstood as a Christian’s license to be offensive to others. When we speak of Jesus, our purpose is to share a peace that surpasses all understanding, but ultimately this message is a sword. The Gospel of Jesus is always a sword that divides between which side of eternity awaits each person. The sword is not the purpose for Jesus coming, but the sword is simply the effect of who He is by nature.

The mission of Jesus’ disciples is to wield this sword, and it has not changed one bit throughout the history of the church. In today’s world, Christ’s disciples are to bring this same message to the world around us. Yet, how many Christians try so hard to deliver Christ in the most palatable way possible? Many believers go to great efforts to present Jesus in a way that contradicts the reason for which He came to this earth.

Dorothy Sayers was a mystery writer, a poet, and apologist who wrote eighteen essays in a book titled *The Whimsical Christian*. In her essay titled, *Creeds or Chaos?*, Sayers states, “I believe it to be a grave mistake to present Christianity as something charming and popular with no offense in it. Seeing that Christ went about the world giving the most violent offense to all kinds of people, it would seem absurd to expect that the doctrine of this person can be so presented as to offend nobody.” I could not agree anymore with this statement, even though it is a difficult truth to live out in this life.

This issue of The Markings is sponsored by **Jayne & Mike Waksmonski** in memory of Jayne’s parents, Elna & Ben Moser, and Mike’s parents, Arlette & Frank Waksmonski.

Thank You

Inside this issue:

Financials	2
MIA toy give away	2
Polka Service	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Son Shine Bible Study	4
Family Ministry Update	4
OGT Update	4
Service Saturday	4
Leadership Highlights	5
Preschool News	6
Dartball league	7
2024 Pledging	7

FINANCIALS	
AUGUST	
RECEIPTS	
ENVELOPE/PLATE	\$ 26,887.99
E-GIVING	\$ 13,811.00
BUDGETED MISSIONS	\$ 5,553.80
SPECIAL GIFTS	\$ 2,651.88
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 260.51
LOAN	\$ 126.47
OTHER	\$ 236.50
OUTREACH	\$ 175.00
PRESCHOOL TUITION	\$ 280.00
ROOM USE	\$ 3,700.00
TOTAL	\$ 53,683.15
DISBURSED	
COMPENSATION	\$ 30,693.55
BENEFIT INSURANCE - Employees	\$ 6,840.53
LAY EXPENSES	\$ 269.39
EDUCATION EXPENSES Misc	\$ 245.95
Tuition Assitance	\$ 2,600.00
FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 45.00
WORSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 83.56
PROPERTIES Misc.	\$ 843.97
Fuel & Electric	\$ 1,993.14
Sanitation	\$ 297.98
Kitchen Remodel	\$ 7,000.00
Insurance - Workmans Comp	\$ 3,240.00
Sewer & Water	\$ 596.42
MISSIONS	\$ 644.00
SPECIAL GIFTS - OUT	\$ 7,713.76
Capital Improvement Fund Out (Partial Down Payment Kitchen Remodel)	\$ 1,830.00
TOTAL	\$ 64,937.25
DIFFERENCE	\$ (11,254.10)
KDH 9/14/2023	

Celebration Choir

ATTENTION: The mixed adult ensemble will rehearse on Thursday, October 12 and Thursday, October 19 from 6:00-6:30ish in the sanctuary.

Come and make a joyful noise!



St. Mark's POLKA Worship Service

We look forward to praising God with the JIM PEKOL BAND as they lead our congregation in worship with polka music on **Sunday, October 15th at 10:30 AM**. See you there!

****This service will not be livestreamed, so we look forward to worshipping with you in person.**

The MIA Toy Give Away

Our annual Toy Give Away is **Friday, December 1, 2023**. We will be accepting new & used toys starting on Sunday, November 19, 2023. We will also accept monetary donations to purchase new toys. Feel free to donate at any time. Please mark any monetary donations **"Toy Give Away"**.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Tim Sheridan Gail Zak	8	Carla Haebig	17	Judith Young	26	Jackie Duerst
2	Deb Crum Luke Kramer Bryana Schalow Todd Treu	9	Ben Krombholz Iyla Mabry	18	Gus Gollhardt Barb Hartwig	27	Julie Grulkowski Henry Jennejohn
3	Brynn Anklam	10	Connor Kraft Emily Mittelsteadt Linda Sherfinski	19	Ieden Sheehan	28	Jeffrey Graf Emelyn Sheehan Logan Shewmake Ruth Tritten
4	Randy Rintelman	11	Beckett Frank Patti Laduron	20	Cindy Barton Dan Brandt Owen Dykman Faith Grulkowski	29	Rose Graf Jim Holtman Ruth Redeker
5	Pamela Friedli Gwen Loiz Charles Schultz Blaine Schulz Kris Sparks	12	Thomas Clevenger Emma Sargent	21	Andy Hoppe KayLee Kankelfitz Linda Ramthun Ryan Young	30	Lynette Krause Lois Kufahl Kendall Truman Jim Wilkerson
6	Blake Britton	14	Brad Bollmann Jean Cork Ryan Plautz	22	Sean O'Donnell	31	Scott Hoff
7	Bryon Gleinser Philip Hopkins Rev. Bruce Lamont	15	Aiden Krombholz	25	Warren Jacobi Ralph Kronenwetter Matt Anklam Mike Berens		

Steve & Dorothy Reed	10/1/1983	Bruce & Barb Reynolds	10/11/2003
Randy & Deb Block	10/2/1993	Jason & Nicole Rhyner	10/13/2018
Bob & Julie Waterman	10/4/1997	Mark & Karey Kramer	10/15/1977
Paul & Jackie Duerst	10/5/1985	Mike & Tracy Gengalo	10/17/1998
Ken & Kim Graveen	10/5/2002	Jae & Gwen Loiz	10/18/1986
Alex & Megan Kurth	10/6/2018	Roger & Donna Block	10/19/1986
Tim & Lauri Utecht	10/6/1984	Bob & Kim Christensen	10/19/1974
Jack & Sarah Hill	10/7/1972	Matt & Kachai Nelson	10/20/2018
Jeff & Megan Zwicky	10/8/2016	Bryan & Jamie Tackes	10/20/1984
Dan & Amy Smet	10/9/1999	Derek & Joy Schilling	10/21/2006
Todd & Linae Treu	10/10/1998	DeWayne & Rose Graf	10/24/1970
Ken & Sue Berndt	10/11/1980	Perry & Denise Snoeyenbos	10/26/1991
Scott & Liz Prochnow	10/11/2008	Kyle & Leah Alters	10/28/2006
		Scott & Kate Loos	10/29/2022

Cont'd from front page

Jesus is the sword, because His being your Savior cuts to the core of who you are without Him. Nobody wants to hear a message that condemns who they are, but this is the reality of Jesus bringing the sword. This is a message that will never be easy to convey to others, because at the end of the day, no one feels naturally inclined to truly need a God. Once we let the sword of Christ pierce our own self-reliance, then we realize the peace we never knew we could have. This is the purpose of Christ that we have the privilege to bring to this world. I encourage you all to wield this sword.

Blessings,
Pastor Eric

Orphan Grain Train News

On October 8th, we will have the opportunity to hear Vitaly Smolin, our Orphan Grain Train connection in Ukraine. Vitaly, the head of Smolin Ministries, and his wife, Natalia, have been ministering to the people of Ukraine since 2008. He believes God is working in mighty ways, and with the support of the Orphan Grain Train, has helped touch the hearts and lives of more than a million people. The most important blessing is that the Gospel is being shared!

Join us during the Bible study hour on the 8th, to hear of the Smolin's challenges and victories in Ukraine.

Also, during the month of October, we will be running two special projects-collecting school supplies and hygiene supplies.

*School supplies needed are: pencils, pens, rulers, crayons, washable markers, colored pencils, spiral notebooks-wide line, construction paper, erasers, folders, glue bottles, glue sticks, protractors, and backpacks.

**Hygiene supplies include: bath towels, combs, washcloths, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Band-aids, facial tissue, nail clippers, and deodorant. All of these items make one hygiene kit, but any of these items would be appreciated.

Son-Shine Bible Study

No matter what the enemy throws your way, you can stand strong and fight the good fight of faith with the armor of God! Our current study, The Armor of God, digs deeper into Ephesians 6 and focuses on the meaning of each piece of the armor, its historical uses, and its application to spiritual battles today.

- October 4 – The Armor of God (Spiritual Battle Gear)
- October 11 – Combating the Enemy's Lies (The Belt of Truth)
- October 18 – The Weapons We Fight With (Prayer and the Sword of the Spirit)
- October 25 – Fighting the Good Fight (The Gospel of Peace and the Shield of Faith)
- November 1 – Victory in Jesus (The Breastplate of Righteousness and the Helmet of Salvation)

We meet in the Youth Room, 1:00-2:30, each Wednesday. Guides are available in class. All are welcome!



Service Saturday

October 21st ~ 9am - 11 am

We serve because that is what Jesus modeled for us. Come to St. Mark's on this day to complete projects both at church and in the community. We plan on raking leaves for congregation members and neighbors close to church, as time permits. We will supply the garbage bags & donuts. Reach out to Blaine with questions or if you would like to be put on the list to have your yard raked. Blaine can be reached at 715-848-5511, ext. 3 or BWelch@stmarkslcms.org.

Family Ministry Update

As of October 1st, there is now an opportunity for all St. Mark's members (baby - adult) to take part in the Sunday study hour between services. This is thanks to the beginning of our new nursery program for infants to three years old. Our other youth programs, including Midweek and Confirmation on Wednesdays, as well as high school youth opportunities every Sunday evening, mean we are in full swing of our weekly programs. Family events later in October include our annual Service Saturday on the 21st (9am), as well as Trivia Night on the 29th (6pm).

Leadership Highlights:

Elders: Next meeting is scheduled for 10/19/2023

Kurt Haebig is in the process of being replaced, since he has taken on the position of Financial Manager at St. Mark's replacing Sharon Rezin. Church policy was followed through the Governance Team who compiled a list of names that are currently being contacted in hopes of having the replacement by the October meeting.

If you are not aware of who your Elder is, please contact the church office, and your Elder will be reaching out to you afterward. Elders are to make quarterly calls to the members of the congregation to pray with, update, and check-in with the people of St. Mark's.

Trustees: Next meeting is scheduled for 10/12/2023

Trustees are still in the process of finalizing snowplowing contracts, and once that is done, their budget will be set in October for the upcoming 2024 year.

The church kitchen has had all the materials removed from the cupboards, and it is currently being stored in the Cry Room next to the Sanctuary until the project is completed. On 9/29/23, the countertops and cabinet doors will be removed by the Trustees, and then from 10/2/23 - 10/6/23, Featherstone will be coming in to install the new countertops and cabinets. All the materials will be put back in the kitchen on 10/10/2023. A big THANK YOU to all who are volunteering their time and helping out with this project. Kim Christensen has been taking the lead on this project with the support of the Trustees and members of the Fellowship Team.

Finally, some landscaping projects have been started. Many thanks to Jeff Kern, Gary Krause, and Dwayne Graf for edging the sidewalk of about 2 tons of extra grass! Also, to Burnell Utecht and the trustees for clearing out the old shrubs around the St. Mark's church sign! The work is still in progress to replace with new shrubs, but it will look great.

Governance Team: Next meeting is scheduled for 10/16/2023

Reminder, anybody at church can attend a Governance Team meeting and will be given an opportunity to speak at the beginning of the agenda. After that point, anyone can stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

The October meeting is an important meeting that finalizes the overall 2024 Annual Budget to be presented two weeks before our Annual Meeting on 11/12/23. The Annual Budget is then presented for approval by the Voter's Assembly at that point. If anyone has any budgetary items they would like to consider, please reach out to Jean in the front office (715-848-5511 ext 1), and she will make sure that the right person contacts you to follow up.

Many of you may have heard rumblings about getting a new church sign. Blaine has been working on the bids, and we will have two bids to present at the Annual Voter's Meeting. The Voter's Assembly can take a look at the details of both and either approve one or the other or neither. If a new church sign is approved, it will be with funds raised outside of the overall church budget, much like many projects have in the past at St. Mark's.

There are two other reasons to attend to Annual Voter's Meeting on 11/12/2023. First, we will present the plan for how to disperse the generous memorial that was given to St. Mark's from the Ellen Tress estate. The funds are to be specifically used with people in mind, so plans will be made to utilize that within the congregation. Secondly, Jean has been putting together a Powerpoint of the entire 2023 year of happenings at St. Mark's, and that is by-and-large thanks to Mike Tatman, who has graciously taken many pictures throughout the year. So please come to the Annual Voter's meeting to get caught up on the goings-on at church and enjoy some lunch and fellowship.



NURSERY CARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Starting Sunday, October 1st, **NURSERY CARE** will be available from 9:15-10:15 a.m. during Bible Study/Sunday School for families with babies and toddlers up to three years old. Volunteers are needed to help care for these little ones. All volunteers will need to have a background check. If you are interested in providing care or learning more, please contact Cathy Page at 715-848-5511, ext. 7 or 715-921-4396.

St. Mark's



Lutheran Preschool

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our school year is off to a great start! Frequent sounds of learning, joy, and laughter can be heard throughout the preschool wing. The students have quickly learned classroom routines and have made lots of new friends. What a joy it is to see the smiles on our youngest learners' faces each day!

The month of October is filled with busy days and special activities, including Picture Day, weekly Chapel services, field trips to Wilke's Pumpkin Patch and The Grand Theater, preparation for singing in church, and a Costume Parade.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Ella Holmes for her many years of service on the Preschool Ministry Board. Her dedication and commitment to our preschool has been such a blessing! Thank you, Ella!

As always, we thank the congregation for its continued support of our preschool!

Preschool 50th Anniversary Celebration

Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool!

Sunday, October 22, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Recognition of Former Staff and Students

Open House and Lunch



*Desserts are needed for the lunch. If you are willing to bring a pan of bars, cookies, cupcakes, etc., please sign up on the credenza. Thank you!

Mrs. Cathy Page, Preschool Director



LLL District Joint Convention

Saturday, October 14 ~ Peace Lutheran Church
1228 S Park Ave, Neenah, WI

Registration opens at 8am / Convention at 8:30am

Worship service concludes at 3:30pm

The North & South Wisconsin LLL Districts welcome Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberties, to speak on “What is a Two Kingdom Church.” Register today. Visit <https://www.nw-sw-lll-lhm.org/> to download registration information or pick up a form on the credenza in the narthex. **Registration deadline is October 9, 2023**

St. Mark’s Dartball League

Did you know St. Mark’s Dartball League has started the 2023-24 season with a 3 win-3 loss record? We are part of the Wausau Area Church Dartball League. Team Captains are Wayne Flanagan (715-842-4204) and Dick Schroeder (715-675-7057). Check with our team captains if you’re interested in watching a game.



Pledging for 2024

To plan next year’s budget, we will once again use pledge cards to help with this effort. Attached is a form you can simply fill out, pop in an envelope labeled “confidential” and return to Kurt Haebig in the finance office. We would like these collected by October 13, 2023 to process the numbers in time for the Voter’s Meeting on November 12th. We will also have pledge cards available on the credenza.

------(Clip below and return to Kurt Haebig)-----

GIVE BACK TO THE LORD WHO HAS PROVIDED YOU WITH EVERYTHING

After prayerfully considering the question “what amount of my yearly income will I dedicate to the Lord”, I have decided:

MY OFFERING FOR THE WORK OF THE LORD AT ST. MARK’S FOR 2024 WILL BE...

\$_____ PER WEEK \$_____ PER MONTH \$_____ YEARLY

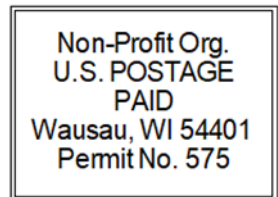
THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

NAME _____

The MARKINGS

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
600 Stevens Drive
Wausau, WI 54401-2977
715-848-5511

Electronic Service Requested



Find us on Facebook!



We are on the Web!

<http://stmarkswausau.org/>

November MARKINGS Deadline

The deadline to submit articles and announcements for the November edition of the MARKINGS will be **October 27th at 10am**. Thank you!

September 2023 Official Acts

Received

David & Darlene Behrens
Blake & Kayla Britton
Pam Fromm
Mark Kolbe
Carissa Lada
Rev. Bruce Lamont
Eric Page
Bruce Peter
Rob & Stacey Stangel

Deaths

Darol Peterson (passed 9/16/2023)

Voters Meeting

(& Packers game)

November 12, 2023 ~ Noon

12:00-12:30: lunch and watch game in Sanctuary.
(*we will supply subs, water & chips)

12:30: move to Fellowship Hall for Voters Meeting for approximately 1 hour (will give updates of game).



**** Child care will be provided****

Why should I attend?

- To vote on potential new outdoor sign.
- Get updates on activities going on at church.
- Get updates on missions we support.
- Honor those transitioning out of roles at church.
- Recognize our newest members.

Please RSVP to Jean in the office at 715-848-5511, ext. 1 or jdrake@stmarkslcms.org **by November 6th** to get a head count for food. If you would like to supply a dessert that day, please do so.

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cable Channel 980 Worship Times: Tuesday: 11:00 am Wednesday: 6:00 pm Thursday: 7:00 am	Mission of the Month OGT (highlighted on the 8th)					
1 LWML Sunday Traditional 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/Bible Studies 10:30 Worship 1:00 Men's Clothing Give Away	2 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 3:30 Drivers Ed	3 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 3:30 Drivers Ed	4 Traditional 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 3:30 Drivers Ed 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Confirm	5 9:00 Ephesians Bible Study 5:00 PEW Sisters	6 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	7
8 Contemporary 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/Bible Studies 10:30 Worship (SS sing) 12:00 -4:00 High School quarry hike & pizza	9 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 7:00 Band of Brothers	10 6:30 MIA Bible Study 8:00 Trustees 9:00 Quilting	11 Contemporary 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Confirm	12 9:00 Ephesians Bible Study 6:00 Celebration Choir	13 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	14 Birthday Party in Fellowship Hall
15 8:00 Worship - Traditional 9:15 Sunday School/Bible Studies 10:30 Worship - Polka 5:00 HS Youth Night	16 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 5:30 Governance Mtg	17 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting	18 Traditional 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Confirm	19 9:00 Ephesians Bible Study 5:00 PEW Sisters 6:00 Elders Meeting 6:00 Celebration Choir	20 Office closed @ Noon Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	21 Youth Service Saturday 9am - 11am
22 Contemporary 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study in Sanctuary Hope Life Center speaking 10:30 Worship (Preschool Songs) 5:00 HS Youth Night	23 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 3:30 Drivers Ed	24 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 12:30 The Gathering 1:00 Ladies Guild Ex Board meeting 3:30 Drivers Ed	25 Contemporary 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 3:30 Drivers Ed 6:00 Worship NO Midweek / Confirm	26 9:00 Ephesians Bible Study	27 Markings Deadline Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	28 Baby shower in Fellowship Hall
29 REFORMATION Blended 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/Bible Studies 10:30 Worship 6:00 Trivia Night	30 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 3:30 Drivers Ed	31 6:30 MIA Bible Study 3:30 Drivers Ed 9:00 Quilting				

October 2023 - Volunteer Calendar

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READER	POWERPOINT	COMMUNION	USHERS
October 1 LWML Sunday	8 am	Carol Leopold, Marilyn Kasten	Judy Mueller	Brandon & Kyle Uttech	Ruth Tritten, Judy Mueller Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 4
	10:30 am	Carol Haffemann	Rachel Olson	Michael Deedon	Carol Haffemann, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 3
October 4	6:00 pm	Jim Jacobson	Pastor	Michael Deedon	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
	8 am	Bob & Kim Christensen	Kim Christensen	Derek Emon	Tom Radenz, Ella Holmes Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 4
October 8	Contemporary					
	10:30 am	Wanish Family	Janet Herring	Nick Schoch	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 3
October 11	6 pm	Jim Jacobson	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
	Contemporary					
October 15	8 am	Lee & Fran Belmas	Steve Herring	Derek Emon	Janet Herring, Lee Belmas	Group 4
	Traditional					
Polka Service	10:30 am	Dennis & Gail Krieg	Katherine Sparks	Michael Deedon	No Communion	Group 3
	Polka					
October 18	6 pm	Jim Jacobson	Pastor	Michael Deedon	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
	Traditional					
October 22	8 am	Ginny Kottke, Ella Holmes	Leon Woller	Derek Emon	Katherine Sparks, Ginny Kottke Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 4
	Contemporary					
50th Anniversary Preschool	10:30 am	Michelle Berens, Deb Cornelius	Cathy Page	Tyler Woller	Rachel Olson, Duane Calmes Wafers: Pastor, Rich Klein	Group 3
	Contemporary					
October 25	6 pm	Jim Jacobson	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
	Contemporary					
October 29 Reformation	8 am	Pam Fromm	Pastor	Derek Emon	Sharon & Warren Jacobi Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 4
	Blended					
October 29	10:30 am	Matt Anklam	Pastor	Conner Anklam	Rita Woller, Matt Anklam Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 3
	Blended					

ALTAR GUILD: Rose Graf, Ruth Tritten

USHERS:

- Group 3 - Jeff Block - Lead, Dale Vande Boom, John Woller
- Group 4 - DeWayne Graf - Lead, Rose Graf, Bob Christensen, Todd Krause, Gary Krause
- Group 9 - Henry Jennejohn - Lead, Scott Werner, Jim Jacobson