



# JOHN

Chapter 15:1-8

# ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

**IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!**

**Fifth Sunday after Easter**

**April 28, 2024**

**WELCOME TO ZION.** It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

**Worship Focus:** Christ, as our prophet, brings us God's truth. Christ's love leads us to speak and use that truth lovingly.

*This is the Fifth Sunday in the season of Easter. The fifty days of Easter constitute the oldest season of the Christian year. These fifty days correspond to the period of the Jewish year between the Passover and the Feast of Weeks. This season is most important season of the church year, because in it we celebrate the very reason for the hope that we have: the resurrection of our Lord and what it means for our lives now and eternally.*

**LITURGY:** New Service of Morning Praise

## **OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP**

**BATHROOMS** are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT** is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

**VISITORS** are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

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God of Mercy, God of Grace



1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, Show the bright - ness  
 2 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord! Be by all that  
 3 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord, Then en - joy your



of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - ior, shine;  
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing  
 rich re - ward! God to us his bless - ing give,



Fill your Church with light di - vine, And your sav - ing  
 Glo - ry to their Sav - ior King, At your feet their  
 We to God de - vot - ed live, All be - low and



health ex - tend To the earth's re - mot - est end.  
 trib - ute pay, And your ho - ly will o - bey.  
 all a - bove One in joy and light and love.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Tune: RATISBON (77 77 77) attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777–1822.

**OPENING HYMN**

**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips.

**C** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

**L** Hasten to save me, O God.

**C** O Lord, come quickly to help me.

**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**C** Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

**COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD**

*Venite*

**L** *Refrain*

**C** *Refrain*


1  
Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

2  
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

3  
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

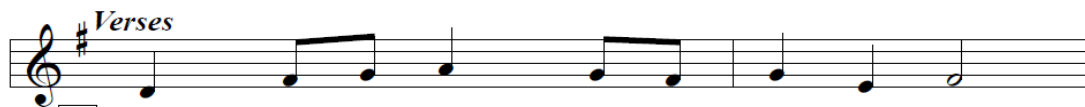
Repeat for use with canon  
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

*Repeat for use with canon*




come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.


*Verses*



**L** 1. You are a great and a won - drous God,  
 2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
 kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
 You are the God whom we call our own,



you made the seas and the dry land.  
 we are the flock that you shep - herd.

*to Refrain*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

### Acts 8:26-40

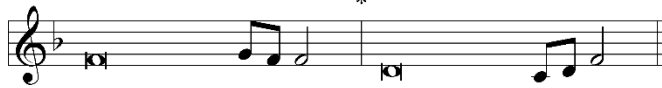
<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is an isolated area.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>28</sup> He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go over there and stay close to that chariot.” <sup>30</sup> Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> The man replied, “How can I unless someone explains it to me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will talk about his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. <sup>34</sup> The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup> He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, found himself at Azotus. And as he went from place to place, he preached the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (EHV)

*Refrain*

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone*

May God be gracious to us and bless us\*

and make his face shine upon us;

may your ways be known on earth,\*

your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*

for you rule the peoples justly

and guide the nations of the earth.

*Refrain*

Then the land will yield its harvest,\*

and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,\*

and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. <sup>22</sup> We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. <sup>23</sup> This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us. (EHV)

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6 cf. NIV)

**GOSPEL:****John 15:1-8**

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

<sup>3</sup> “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples. (EHV)

CHRISTIAN HOME

505

## Love Is the Gracious Gift



1 Love is the gra - cious gift of your good - ness;  
 2 You loved me first, Lord, send - ing me Je - sus.  
 3 Love means for - give - ness, pa - tience, and kind - ness;  
 4 Love in a mar - riage, love free - ly giv - en,  
 5 Love a - mong Chris - tians, love in the fam - 'ly,



Love is the pa - tient fruit of your care;  
 Then I re - spond - ed, trust - ing your Son.  
 Love is not jeal - ous, boast - ful, or rude.  
 Love of a hus - band, love of a wife—  
 Love for the Sav - ior, whose blood was shed,



Love is the gen - tle work of your Spir - it,  
 Now you in - vite me to love my neigh - bor,  
 Love en - dures all things, bear - ing, be - liev - ing;  
 Made to con - tin - ue, blos - som, and flour - ish,  
 Love and sub - mis - sion one to an - oth - er



Who is the source of love ev - 'ry - where.  
 Show - ing your true love to ev - 'ry - one.  
 Love hopes for - ev - er, re - joic - es in truth.  
 Grow ev - er deep - er through - out this life.  
 As un - to Christ, who reigns as our head.

Text: Donald E. Smith, b. 1952, alt. © 1985 Donald E. Smith. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: BUNESSAN (Irregular) Gaelic melody, 19th century.

SERMON TITLE:

## We Are Jesus' Disciples



**OFFERING:** (Sunday Only) *The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.*

## YOU ARE GOD; WE PRAISE YOU

*Te Deum*

**L** Refrain

**C** Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



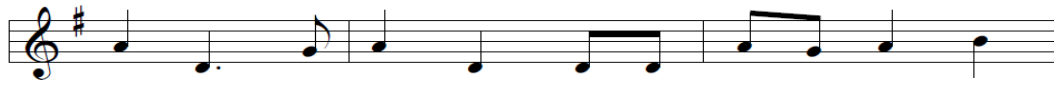
**L** 1. With the an - gels in heav - en,  
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **C** We praise you, we  
3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! **L** With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **C** We  
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! **L** With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,  
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, **C** We  
You have ris - en to free us;

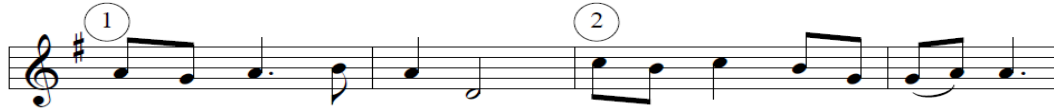


praise you, we praise you! **L** With the mar - tyrs and your  
 To the Trin - i - ty most  
 And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church, **C** We sing in end - less praise! *to Refrain*  
 bless - ed, *to Refrain*  
 glo - ry, *to Final Refrain*

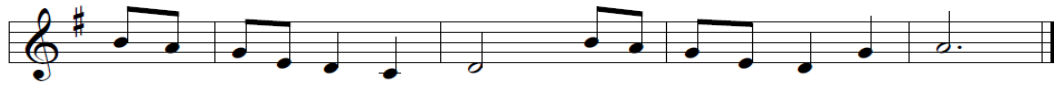
*Final Refrain*



**C** You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



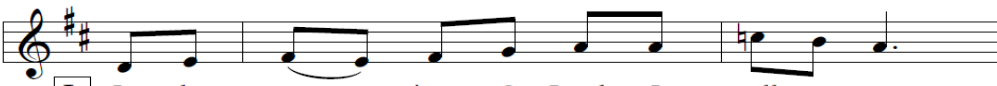
To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*Kyrie*



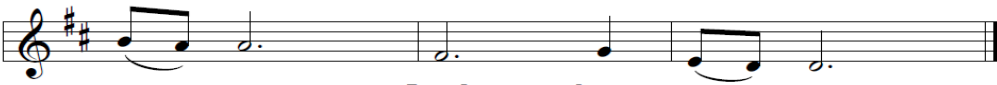
**L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;



be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

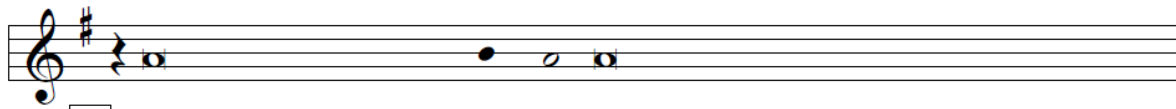


mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

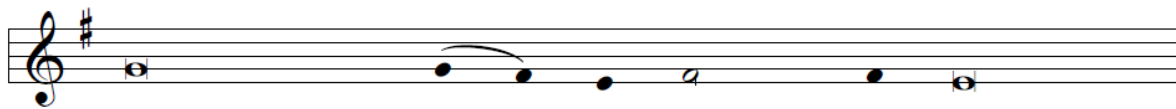
## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

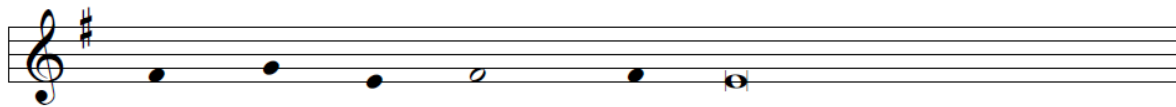
## PRAYER FOR GRACE



**L** O Lord, our heavenly Fa-ther, almighty and everlasting God, you have



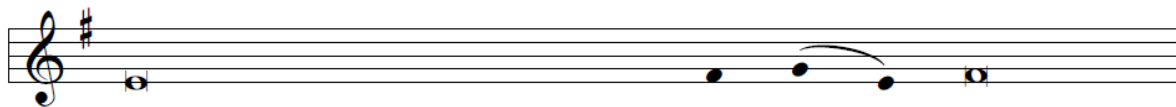
brought us safely to this new day. De - fend us with



your might - y power, and grant that this day we neither



fall into sin nor run into an-y kind of danger; and in



all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight,



through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **C** A - men.



**L** Let us praise the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

### BLESSING



**L** The Lord bless and keep you.



**C** A - men.



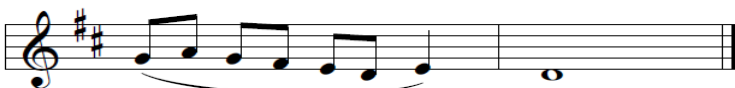
**L** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



**C** A - men.

JUSTIFICATION

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

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1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it

blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me. All my wants to him are known;  
 and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,

Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me —  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of

to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
 won - drous thought! — Found me when I sought him not.  
 walk - with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793 - c. 1870, alt.  
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

GETHSEMANE  
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Setting © 1993 Kenneth G. Möllerbauer

Alternate setting: 104

Officiants

Accompanist: Stephanie Sitzman

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; [gsitzman@zionmonroe.org](mailto:gsitzman@zionmonroe.org)

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; [bschneck@zionmonroe.org](mailto:bschneck@zionmonroe.org)

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**CALL UPDATE**—Pastor Frank Italiano Jr. has returned the call from Zion. We will be holding another call meeting soon. Please watch for further information.

**EXAMINATION WEDNESDAY:** This year we have 5 confirmands who will be having their examination on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The examination occurs in the regular Worship service. This is a great opportunity for you to refresh your knowledge of the Law and Gospel. It is also a time to support our youth as they continue with their spiritual journey. After examination we are planning on having an ice cream social for you to meet the confirmands and help make them feel welcomed into our congregation as confirmed members.

**HELPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Friends in Faith has a “Zion’s Meal Train” program. The “Zion Meal Train” is a program that assists members of the Congregation with meals for situations such as surgeries/recovery, unexpected hospital stays, loss, birth of a child, etc. The meal train is open to all male and female members of the Congregation interested in providing meals for fellow members in need. We will be utilizing the official Meal Train website ([www.MealTrain.com](http://www.MealTrain.com)) to stay organized. When many friends provide support through a meal it means you may only have to volunteer once in a while to make a meal. The Meal Train program keeps schedules, as well as provides locations and dietary restrictions. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare an occasional meal as needed, please sign up in the west foyer or contact Melissa Freiny at 734-652-1638. Thank you in advance for considering to use your time and talents to support our church family.

**ZION RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING:** Mark your calendars for the upcoming Rummage Sale on Friday, May 31 & Saturday, June 1. The proceeds from the sale are going to replace the yellow curtains on the stage in the gymnasium. Lots of helping hands make the work a lot easier. Please see the West foyer for sign-up sheets for the different times that we need volunteers. There is a separate sign-up sheet for students who would like to get some extra volunteer hours in before school releases for this year. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

**UPCOMING VOTER’S MEETING:** Just some preview information, on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Voter’s Meeting there will be the usual agenda, however, we will also be addressing the Kindergarten call.

**GIFT OF TIME OPPORTUNITY:** Zion Lutheran School’s Board of Education is looking for someone with photography skills to help with upcoming promotional material. If this is something you are interested in please reach out to Board of Ed chairman, Erich Freiny at (734) 731-0008.

## Coming up at Zion ....

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Group  
10:30 a.m. Open Forum (No Adult Bible Class)  
11:30 a.m. Voter's Meeting

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class  
5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class  
11:30 a.m. Friends In Faith Luncheon





# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL'S



**May 31st and June 1st 8am-4pm**

**Proceeds Benefit Zion Lutheran Church and School  
Donation drop off**

- **MAY 20-23: MON- THURS, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
- DONATIONS PLACED IN SINGLE CAR GARAGE (PARKING LOT)
- **MAY 24: FRIDAY, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
- DONATIONS PLACED IN **GYM**
- **MAY 26 : SUNDAY drop off before church ONLY 9:00 AM**
- **May 28,29 : TUE-WED, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
- DONATIONS PLACED IN **GYM**
- **May 30: THUR, 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM**  
- DONATIONS PLACED IN **GYM**
- PLEASE DROP OFF LARGE ITEMS STARTING TUESDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>
- WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT: MATTRESSES, TVs, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AND NON-OPERATIONAL /BROKEN ITEMS
- CONTACT DEB HILL, THE OFFICE, OR BRYAN SCHNECK IF YOU NEED OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR DROPPING OFF ITEMS

**\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \***

We need volunteers to help sort  
and set up all donations.

We are in need of help during the sale on  
Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st, as well.

Thank you for your support!

To volunteer or to reach out with questions, please contact

Deb Hill 734-258-6507



## May Volunteers

	<b>May 1 &amp; 5</b>	<b>May 8 &amp; 12</b>	<b>May 15 &amp; 19</b>	<b>May 22 &amp; 26</b>	<b>May 29 &amp; June 2</b>
Altar Guild		Joyce Collins &	Joyce Trowbridge		
Live Stream Helpers	Steve Sordahl	Miller Sordahl	William Robinson	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger
Ushers	<p><b><u>May 1</u></b> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner</p> <p><b><u>May 5</u></b> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Zach Turner</p>	<p><b><u>May 8</u></b> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p> <p><b><u>May 12</u></b> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p>	<p><b><u>May 15</u></b> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p> <p><b><u>May 19</u></b> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p>	<p><b><u>May 22</u></b> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p> <p><b><u>May 26</u></b> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p>	<p><b><u>May 29</u></b> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale</p> <p><b><u>June 2</u></b> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale</p>
Communion Helpers	<p><b><u>May 1</u></b> Mark Kipf</p> <p><b><u>May 5</u></b> Jake Burke Jeff Huesman</p>		<p><b><u>May 15</u></b> Ken Vagt</p> <p><b><u>April 21</u></b> Erich Freiny Mark Kipf</p>		<p><b><u>May 29</u></b> Ken Vagt</p> <p><b><u>June 2</u></b> Rob Krueger Ray Palmatier</p>