

Dear Friends in Christ,

Yes I love my music as some of you know so very well. Just the other day Jackson Browne visited my car with "The Pretender":

"I'm going to rent myself a house, In the shade of the freeway Gonna pack my lunch in the morning, And go to work each day. And when the evening rolls around, I'll go on home and lay my body down. And when the morning light comes streaming in I'll get up and do it again, Amen - Say it again, Amen"



This song brings out so many emotions from sadness to regret - from pondering to hope. The lyrics speak a hymn dedicated to life—to all humanity as it were. For me these words speak the soundtrack to my life—so much better than I can express with my own words.

I have a class reunion coming later this year, on September 30th of course. I do not plan to attend, but I try to keep in touch with many over the years. (I just will not say how many years.) My hometown is not much bigger than Guttenberg. The city of Seymour has about 2500 residents. But our class had about 180 students. Over the years death has touched our class more often than I care to mention, with a profound number of suicides.

Hearing this song by Jackson Browne brings out so many memories of classmates. We graduated with so many hopes. So many dreams. I can dare say that I was one of the few who actually followed my high school plans to fruition.

This month we honor the graduates within our congregation and our community. As they leave, I will have each grad carry a lit candle as they carry their faith as they approach the future. As we shake their hands, may each of us not only congratulate them, but also give them a blessing as they journey forth.

As they leave, I am hoping to have the words to a song from the musical Carousel:

"When you walk through a storm, Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm, Is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind, Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone."

In these final words, we have a promise and a hope that we hear over and again from our God--- You never walk alone. A message not only for our grads—but for each of us.

Peace.

Pastor Mike

St. John's Lutheran Church PO Box 819 203 Pearl Street Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman 319-231-6440 mikepstr64@gmail.com **CHURCH WORSHIP:**

5:30 PM - Saturday 10:15 AM - Sunday **Church Office Hours:**

Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM

Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:

stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net



GRADUATES

We will have our Grad Recognition on May 28th. Plan to RSVP so we can make plans. Worship will be at 10:15 am.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School
June 12-16th!

Registration deadline is May 3rd - please use the registration form on the next page and return it with your payment to the church office.

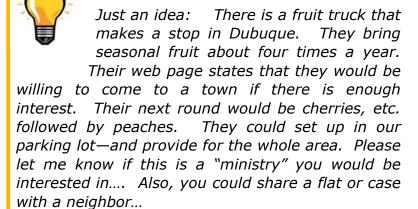


Attention 6 & 7th Graders:

Please see Pastor Mike to sign up for your required Acolyte and Camera positions.

This is a great way to get a head start on your Confirmation requirements. We are also looking for

an acolyte for Saturday Evening worship.







COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

"Shine Jesus' Light"

(One child per form PLEASE)

Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16, 2023

Sponsored by the Living Water, United Methodist, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Paul Lutheran & St. John's Lutheran Churches IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL ST. JOHN'S OFFICE @ 252-2355.

WHO: All area children - Age 4 (by Sept. 15th 2022) through those who have completed the 6th Grade. Grandparents and others with children visiting during the week of VBS are invited to attend.

WHEN: 8:00 am - Noon (June 12-16) Breakfast provided at 8:00 am at St. John's - Program starts at 8:30 am
Thursday evening, June 15th - 6:30 pm program followed by Ice Cream Social at 7:00 pm at St. John's

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - Wednesday, May 3rd

(very important for adequate planning of class sizes, securing staff and ordering materials)

COST:\$10 - payable <u>WITH</u> the Registration form. (\$15 after May 3rd) **Checks payable to Community VBS) Scholarships are available if necessary. (Contact St. John's office)

OPPORTUNITIES? We need donations of snacks/treats, as well as volunteers to help organize and run VBS (adults & youth). Call St. John's Church office (252-2355) if you can help out.

Please note: A parent or another adult will be required to sign students out after closing each day in the church sanctuary

	ponsoring Church or mail to St	T. John's, P.O. Box 819, Guttenberg, IA 52052 by May 3rd.	
Student's Name		Birthdate	
		Home Phone	
		hone #	
		ress)	
	should know about your child	, such as allergies, medical concerns, handicaps,	
Emergency/Work Pho	one	will pick up your child at St. John's after the closing program	
Church Affiliation _			
Church Affiliation T -Shirt Size: Please mark your child's size:	Child 6-8	10-12 14-16 (L) (XL) (XXL)	
T -Shirt Size: Please mark your child's size: By signing and returni	Child 6-8 Adult (S) (M) ng this form, you are also givin	_ 10-12 14-16	



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Ross Abbott, Renee Schaburt, Vera Ashman, Bev Aulwes, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Lois Davis, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, George Harbaugh, Jerry Kolker, Paul Kraus, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, Randy Moser, Shirley A. Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Mary Sundermeier, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerick, Paul Wolter

River Living Center: Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt, Judy Olson,

Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth, Bob Ferguson

Guttenberg Care Center: George Harbaugh, Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth

Garden View Place, Monona: Terry Thein





If you would like to join, or know someone interested in finding a church home, please let us know. We are also very flexible – you are welcome to join on any weekend—just contact Pastor Mike!



CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every Monday at 10:00 AM RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. May 4 - 10:30 AM

Many thanks to Karilyn McArthur for providing music when possible!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



SUNDAY

May 7 - Natalie Thomas

May 14 - Wyatt Kremer

May 21 - Wyatt Kremer

May 28 - Crystal Duwe & Brandon Duwe



SATURDAY

May 6 -May 13 - Gavin Stoerp May 20 - Gavin Stoerp May 27 -

SUNDAY

May 7 - Caleb Bittner
May 14 - Madi Thomas
May 21 - Alayna Judkins
May 28 - Nash Reimer

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more?

If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$45 per day.

MAY Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
May 7	Sam Thein Chad Harbaugh	Carolyn Hoffman
May 14	Sam Thein Brian Rodenberg	Keith Friedmann
May 21	John & Sandy Barron	Forest Brown
May 28	Gerald & Trudy Glawe	Lynda Akers

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings!

The wonder of God's work is all around us. The flowers and trees are beginning a new cycle of life. The grass is turning green. Our thoughts are also with those communities and families that are dealing with the flooding this spring.

The main purpose of this message is to update you on the capital campaign for the remodeling project. The project is moving along quite nicely, and it is highly likely that the work will be completed by the end of May. Upon completion, the fellowship area will be totally transformed into a much more usable space and with many upgrades to the storage areas, heating, cooling, and electrical systems.

At our annual meeting in January, the membership approved the remodeling project with an estimated budget of \$305,000. The church council had committed \$100,000 of church funds for the project. This meant that the church began a capital campaign to raise the difference of \$205,000. As of April 23rd, we have received approximately \$125,000 in pledges. The total amount of cash received to date is about \$79.000. The amount of pledges and cash received for this project has been outstanding. However, we need another \$80,00 in pledges and/or cash, so that we do not have to borrow money.

Many thanks to those who have pledged and given cash to this endeavor, and I pray that we will be successful in raising the additional funds. What we are doing now will have an enormous impact for many years to come. St. John's has been and will continue to be a major foundation of the faith community of Guttenberg and Clayton County.

I am truly thankful for all of you and am very honored to be your president. Our council members are truly God's servants. Some say that it takes a village to raise a child. As a child of God, forever, I am proud to be a part of this village we call St. John's.

God Bless you all.

Brian Rodenberg Council President



WELCOME TO YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Featuring | Deb Preston | Council Secretary

I grew up around...

and was raised in Guttenberg on our family farm near Garber, lowa. My grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all lived within a five mile radius. I was so fortunate to grow up with extended family nearby. Many times I would saddle up my horse to ride over to visit my grandparent's house or meet halfway to spend time with my cousins. On our farm my chores included taking care of the calves, getting the hay down, and cleaning out the stalls. At seventeen, I began my first job working as a waitress at Doug's Steak House.

My most meaningful accomplishment in high school...

was being able to be involved in many activities. Even though we farmed, my parents encouraged us to participate in things. I was very passionate about sports, especially basketball. I still believe youth who share experiences in extracurricular activities or are highly involved in their school are better able to handle obstacles and become well-rounded students. This is what inspires me today and one of the reasons I said, "Yes," to being a St. John's Lutheran Church council member and a player in the bell choir.

After high school, I...

attended the Finley Hospital School of Nursing in Dubuque. In 1986, I graduated with a nursing degree and became a Registered Nurse.



Following college graduation, I accepted a job at the Guttenberg Municipal Hospital. By working in a small hospital, I had advantages to explore work in all departments. During this time, I met and married Rich Preston and we raised three amazing sons, Matthew, Cody, and Dylan. We have two incredible daughter-in-laws, Shelby married to Matthew and Hannah to Dylan. The light of my life is spending time with my three beautiful grandchildren, Ellie, Harper and Barrett. I am grateful that Matthew and Cody carry on the farming

tradition, both working on the original family farm. Dylan and his family work and live in Ankeny, Iowa.

One of the biggest life lessons I learned from...

having multiple experiences at the Guttenberg Municipal Hospital. This allowed me to find my passion as a nurse. I absolutely loved the Obstetrics (OB) and Surgery departments. For the last fifteen years I have been the Surgical Service Manager at our Guttenberg Municipal Hospital. As I continue to work beside all the staff at GMH I feel so fortunate. Together we faced several challenges in the medical work place these last few years and are stronger.

My parents also contributed to my life lessons but my patients did too. Treating others as you would treat your own family has been my rule as a nurse. Remembering not to judge has served me well, you never know what a person is experiencing in their life.

To me, grace means...

being empathetic to people. I have been with new parents as their baby takes their first breath; but I have also held the hand of a family member as someone they love takes their last breath. Often I have had to do this all within the same day. During those times I have asked the Lord to grant me the grace and strength to empathize with people through all phases of life.

I'm a Lutheran because...

my parents and grandparents guided me in the Lutheran faith. They also served as witnesses of faith to my children and now my grandchildren. Growing up I saw my parents and grandparents as examples in how to serve the Lord inside the church and outside in our community. I am so thankful for their strong support and I hope my faith encourages my own children and grandchildren now.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Spirit leads us to rest in the Easter message of compassion, love, and surprising resurrection. There is nothing we need or can do but keep our focus on obedience to God, the love of Jesus, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We are all called to reach out from the true gifts God has created and given to each and everyone of us. He nudges us quietly, peacefully, and respectfully in all we do. He has filled our personal Easter baskets to the brim to help each other when we listen and use those gifts.

Jesus told His disciples that He had to leave so another could come. Yes, the Holy Spirit resides in the hearts of all who believe. He readily covers us with His protection and leads us day by day and night by night.

Let Him who knows you so intimately be in your thoughts and actions for whomever and whatever God puts before you. Our unjust earthly home has many trials and tribulations - rest in His Glory as you pray and reach out - His work never goes undone.

Happy Easter!

-Diane Thiese



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Fellowship Committee is excited about the remodel of Fellowship Hall. It will soon be finished.

We will be calling for people to volunteer to clean.

We are busy finding volunteers for:

- *Fellowship after worship,
- *VBS, and Farmer's Market.

We are preparing for Sunday School Recognition and Graduate Recognition in May. Farmer's Market runs from May 13 through October.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 12-16. Look for the poster for donations. It will be in the Narthex.

Fellowship is looking for members and a person to sit on the council.

Please contact Lorna Moser 252-2559.

All women are cordially invited to the

Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet Friday May 12 at 6:00 pm (Instead of 6:30 pm)

> United Methodist Church 200 First Street Guttenberg

Fun Fellowship and Finding Joy
- A meal will be served Program: A speaker from Phelp's Farm



St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church Thursday, April 13, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Members present; Diane Thiese, Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Forest Brown, Michele Von Handorf, Sherry Oliver, Penny Rausch, Chuck Hemann

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Members Absent: Brian Rodenberg, Mary Striech, Frank Davis

Staff Absent: Rabecca Hennessey

Call to Order: Vice President Michele Von Handorf called the meeting to

order at 7:01 pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with an opening devotion & prayer. **Secretary's Report:** The council reviewed minutes of the March council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. The minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

\$19,260.46 General Fund: Benevolence: \$29,364.67 \$76,097.83 Improvement: Memorial Fund: \$82,768.16 Benevolence Savings: \$15,774.13 Sunday School: \$ 1,612.33 Organ Fund: \$ 3,365.22 Scrip: \$ 4,002,52 Luther League: \$ 5,673.59 **Ending Balance:** \$237,918.91

Pastor's Report: A written report was presented by Pastor Ashman highlighting last month's activities. Pastor will be attending a Synod meeting on June 9th. We are seeking a volunteer to lead the Saturday worship. The youth Easter party has been postponed until April 23rd. Pastor also stated that they are expecting a large confirmation class.

Outreach Ministries: Diane reported that the monthly sing along at the Assisted Living Center continues to go well and she thanked the volunteers that help with this.

Educational Ministries: Penny stated that Vacation Bible School will be June 12th-16th. She stated that they are exploring alternatives for space should the basement renovation project not be completed in time.

Children & Youth Ministries: Forrest and Pastor are working to plan the youth mission trip this year during the last week in July. It will be through Youth Works in Duluth, Minnesota.

Public Relations: Chuck had no report other than to state that the camera system has been adjusted and is working properly now.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry reported that a large thermometer has been ordered to gauge the progress being made with pledges for the basement renovation project.

Worship & Music Ministries: No report. Pastor did report that the "Worship in the Park" service this summer is tentatively scheduled for Aug 27th.

Property Ministries: No report

Parish Fellowship: Lorna provided a report. Duties were reassigned among her committee members. They will be assisting with VBS. Are also organizing fellowship following the Confirmation and Graduation services. They are seeking volunteers to provide the snacks for fellowship after services and for volunteers to sell coffee at this year's Farmer's Market.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

In his absence, Brian provided a written report reviewing the progress of the basement remodel project

New Business:

Pastor discussed several containers of chemicals in the small shed behind the parsonage that need to be disposed of. Forrest will assist with this

The progress of the capital campaign for the remodel project was reviewed. President Rodenberg to address the congregation at an upcoming service regarding pledges still needed to finance the project. Sherry suggested fund raising opportunities. Also discussed a dedication service once the project is complete.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:35 pm.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, May 11th, at 7:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston.

Monthly Stewardship Report Amount Needed Weekly \$3,774 Offering Apr. 2 \$10,329 Apr. 9 \$3,442 Apr. 16 \$1,821 Apr. 23 \$2,217



May 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Mother's Day!





Mother's Day is a time to celebrate and empower all the strong, loving women in your life. At LSI, we provide mothers, and soon-to-be mothers, with the education and resources they need to build the brightest future for their children.

LSI's Foster Care & Adoption Services work to bring families together and to help them throughout the process of becoming licensed for foster care and approved for adoption. Our Family Centered Services uses a strengths-based approach to keep lowa families together by equipping parents with skills they need to be successful, independent and healthy.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember that your support helps empower lowa moms. If you are looking for a way to help these moms, or to honor a mother in your life this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Staying Connected to your Roots

LSI Foster Care and Adoption is proud to be part of the Native Families for Native Children (NF4NC) project, which is a collaborative effort between the four native tribes of Nebraska, human services agencies and private agency partners in Nebraska and Iowa. As part of the project's efforts, we recruit, train, license and support Native American families in accord with the traditions, needs and resources of their communities.

Rebecca and Kirby expanded their family when they adopted their son in January. The couple had the opportunity to work with the Omaha Tribe and were able to participate in the second Customary Adoption in the State of Iowa.

Through their Customary Adoption, the family completed a culture plan with the tribe and will be able to keep their newly adopted son connected to his cultural roots with the Omaha Tribe. The new family also was able to keep their son connected to his biological siblings, so he can continue to be involved with them.

LSI is proud to help connect families, like Rebecca and Kirby, with the resources they need to continue to grow their families and build the brightest future for lowa children.





Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for the summer season. Take time to explore camp and meet staff and other volunteers ... come Friday evening to enjoy a campfire, and spend the night at Ewalu!

A variety of projects are being prepared for all ages and abilities. If you can't be here for the weekend, we have plenty of things for volunteers at any time. Just give us a call!

◆ 37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA (camp entrance is 3 miles west of town, on Iowa Hwy 3)

For more information:

J 563-933-4700

www.ewalu.org/event/spring-work-day



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, May 5: Come for an evening campfire and spend the night at Ewalu.

Saturday, May 6:

Volunteer Work Day

8:00 a.m. Arrival

9:00 a.m. Work Projects

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Work Projects

4:00 p.m. Departure

Contact with questions:

J Paul Frantsen at 563-933-4700

RSVP for lodging:

Diane Parker at 563-933-4700 or email office@ewalu.org

Give your child an experience of a lifetime!

EWALU Bible Camp is offering unique programs for youth of all ages. experience.

St. John's Sarah Circle has scholarships available.

A great experience—great staff—and new friends!

A recipe for a great summer!



Congratulations

to Sienna Seevers and Mila Allyn who received their First Communion in April at St. John's Church!

	MAY	CALENDAR	
Mon. May 1	4:30 pm	SJ) Stephen Ministers	
Tues. May 2	1:00 pm 5:30 pm		
Wed. May 3	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle	
Sat. May 6	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship	
Sun. May 7	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Sunday School	
Tues. May 9 Thur. May 11	1:00 pm 7:00 pm		
Sat. May 13	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship	
Sun. May 14	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Sunday School	
Tues. May 16	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God	
Wed. May 17	5:00 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru	
Thur. May 18	4:30 pm	(SJ) Altar Guild	
Sat. May 20	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship	
Sun. May 21	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Sunday School	
Tues. May 23	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God	
Thurs. May 25	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stewardship	
Sat May 27	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship	
Sun. May 28	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Sunday School	
Mon. May 29	Memorial Day		
Tues. May 30	1:00	(SJ) Tuesday w/God	

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

Sunday Worship Service will change to 9:15 am at St. John's beginning JUNE 4th





MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event

at 5:00 pm on Wed. May 17th - - volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

If you are able to help, please call the church office and we will add your name to our volunteer list.

THANK YOU to the volunteers from Guttenberg Municipal Hospital who assisted with the April Mobile Food Pantry.

MAY Baptisms

May 1 John Barron Myka Bries Keaton Reimer Sharon Reth Stephanie Thomas

May 2 Anna Lewis

May 5 Bill Allyn Dan Sadewasser

May 6 Joe Backes Lesa Reimer Donna Witham

May 7 Lisa Bolsinger Weston Judkins Merlin Moser

May 9 Bev Bahls Pat Jones Alyssa Meyer

May 11 Katherine Horstman

May 13 Kelby Severson Joe VonHandorf May 14 Jenny Schmelzer

May 15 John Kahle Shannon Reth

May 19 Jessica Klein

May 21 Ross Abbott

May 23 Chad Harbaugh

May 26 Diane Baumgartner Brayden Niesman

May 27 **Edward Rodenberg**

May 30 Rosalie Fabert MAY Birthdays

May 1 Diane Baumgartner

May 2 Marcia Kraus

Edward Rodenberg

May 8 Gayle Hanna

May 11 Brent Blanchard Jenni Brown Barb Meyer Troyce Vich

May 13 Sandy Barron

May 14 Conor Starred Isaac Sweet Daniel Bittner

May 15 Elijah Radabaugh

May 16 Kirk Moser

May 17 Lisa Bolsinger Tonya Klein

May 18 Carol Klein

Maddex Moser Maureen Schroeder

May 20 Scott Kelly Julie Zittergruen

May 3 May 24 Lyla Drewelow

May 26 Nicole Backes

May 27 John Duwe Harlen Reverson Kurt Ross

May 28 Colby Friedman Denise Moser

May 29 Anna Kahle

May 30 Elaine Blanchard Darlene Hinderberger Maddelline Radabaugh

May 31 David Herrmann Nancy Witham

MAY Wedding

May 6 . Richard & Castol Lies

May 8 Gary & Darlene Hinderberger

May 14 Todd & Lynn Moser

May 17 Cliff & Lisa Judkins

May 18 Dick & Darla Zittergruen

May 23 Dennis & Susan Horstman

May 27 Rick & MaryBeth Allyn

