

# The Anchor



## The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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Issue 88

Summer 2014



### News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac-Eckerman-Garden City-Lake Mission-Lima-Oakwood  
Otter Lake-Port Huron-Sanilac-St. Johns



**“By faith all things are fulfilled: Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God which hope cometh of faith maketh an Anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.” Ether 5:3b-4**

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### **Branches Host Fifth Sunday Evening Services**

In our May Regional Priesthood meeting, one of our Brethren, Priest Eric Eliason brought up the idea for our region to hold 5th Sunday services for the branches in our region with one of our branches hosting a fifth Sunday evening worship service. The first one was held in Oakwood in June. The next scheduled Fifth Sunday Service is August 31st at the Port Huron Branch at 6 p.m.

The idea is for our branches to have the opportunity to meet together more often in worship and fellowship. As regional priesthood, we feel that in many cases, we have become branches unto ourselves and do not go the extra mile to include other branches in our individual branch activities. This is counter to what we are told in the Scriptures. The oft quoted "Where two or three are gathered in my name, my Spirit shall be there," not only applies

to individuals but also in a much larger sense, it applies to our region. If we are to build up the Kingdom of God in our region, we need to meet together more often in worship and fellowship.

The next scheduled Fifth Sunday will be November 29th and we are looking for a branch to volunteer to host it. Each hosting branch will organize the worship using their priesthood. We hope to continue to hold Fifth Sunday Worships throughout next year.

Jay Havener

Regional Priesthood Chairman

**Algonac Branch** By: Val Bradley

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.” Acts 4:32. May God be with us as we continue to strive to build His Kingdom here on earth.

A large number of our Algonac women attended the mother-daughter banquet on May 17 hosted by our Sanilac sisters. This year’s theme was “Little House on the Prairie.” The church had the whole “prairie” look perfected, including Amish furniture and a very cool general store! As always, we were treated to a delicious luncheon (with yummy desserts!), graciously served by the men. The guest speaker was Barb Hawkins and she delivered an excellent presentation that was interesting and informative. Her excitement and expert knowledge of the subject was evident. We all went home with beautiful bookmarks (containing Laura’s favorite Bible verses), cool glass canning jar mugs, and other wonderful gifts that were distributed at the end of the program. We are grateful to the Sanilac group for another fun, memorable event. We always enjoy the good food, good fellowship, and good spirit that is shared with all who attend. We already

look forward to “sailing away” with your branch next spring!

The Algonac saints met together at Tom’s Backwoods Grill in Columbus, MI on May 30 for our spring banquet. Our women’s leader Nina Powers, presented the ladies with pretty spring flowers and distributed “Our Daily Bread” booklets to everyone. Thanks, Nina! Good food and wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

(Reported by Todd Moses)

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> the saints gathered for a church workday. There were 13 that attended to the needs of our house of worship. Windows were washed, pews polished, shrubs trimmed, a bit of painting, and items purged, but the true joy was to be in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Everyone who attended did his/her part, no matter how small, to keep our little branch in beautiful condition. Praise be to God!

On June 8 (Children’s Day), Kelli Williams did a special tribute to the children in our congregation. She presented each child with a special certificate of recognition for something special they have done for others or in Sunday school class. They also received a bundle of special goodies. She wanted to single them out for the special and unique role they play in our church family. We are all very thankful

for the children and for the big role Kelli plays in mentoring them!

On June 15 Kelli Williams did a Father's Day presentation with the youth. She gathered the children up to the rostrum while she read a children's book, "You are My I Love You." She read a line, and the kids would repeat each line after her. The children made special cards (pictures) in their class and then handed them out to their Dads or Grandpa's. Kelli ended the presentation with a poem.

(Reported by Todd Moses)

Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our annual service at Beebe Park in Richmond, followed by a delicious potluck luncheon. Elder Gary Holmes brought an inspired message, the Moses family sang for the ministry of music and Kelli Williams shared a tribute to all the fathers. Following the luncheon, there were crafts, activities and a piñata filled with candy surprises for the kids. A blessed day was had by all that attended!

(Reported by Wendy Holmes)

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> our branch once again provided parking to the community for Algonac's annual Pickerel Tournament, carnival and fireworks. Tim, myself, Marilyn Canham and our granddaughter Alexis Parker arrived at church about 5:30. It was a beautiful evening. We set up our Bake Sale table with homemade Rice Krispy Treats and No Bake cookies and bottled water to wash it down. We also brought Glow Sticks and Glow Necklaces and bracelets, they were quite popular. We sold out of treats and glow stuff. The night went quick except for the Giant Blood Sucking Mosquitos they have in Algonac. They were quite pesky! They didn't seem to be intimidated by our spray either! LOL! By 9:30 we had sold about 25 parking spots and had numerous return visitors that enjoy parking at the church and look forward to the treats

we have. All in all it was a wonderful night minus the mosquitos.

Our Vacation Bible School, under the direction of Kelli Williams, was held at the church on July 7 – 11. This year's theme was "God's Backyard Bible Camp." We all brought in our plants, lawn chairs, birdhouses ... it looked like one big backyard. We even had a garden! The lessons and activities reflected each day's theme. Monday's theme was "Serve Family" and the Bible story was about baby Moses. Tuesday's theme was "Serve Friends" and the story was about the four men who lowered their friend from the roof to Jesus so he could be healed. Wednesday's theme, "Serve Neighbors" was about the Good Samaritan. On Thursday the theme was "Serve Community" and we learned about Zacchaeus. On Friday the theme was "Serve Jesus" and we heard stories about Peter and John and the many ways they served Jesus. Each day began with a puppet show and the characters would act out a story about the day's theme. In addition to Rainbow (our veteran puppet!) there were appearances by a dog (Cooper), a cat, owl, firefly and a squirrel (who thought he was a groundhog). Kelli and Todd Moses were the puppeteers and they made it very fun and interesting for everyone. Kelli taught the younger kids class and Nina Powers and Val Bradley taught the older children's class. Todd and Liz Moses taught the music classes. Tina Yaney was in charge of the crafts ... very creative! Bethany Moses taught recreation, assisted by her friend, Janie, and Nadine Moses and Elaine Harm provided the daily snacks. One day the kids all enjoyed yummy cupcakes in honor of Daynna Harm's birthday ... brought in by her grandma. We had a good turnout, a good spirit, and all the adults and children who participated really enjoyed the week of learning, fun and fellowship. A big thank you to Kelli, Todd, and all those who

helped to make this year's VBS a big success!

Brianna Morrison, Joshua and Rachel Pirt attended the Zion's Youth Retreat on July 13 – 18. Deana Pirt also attended and assisted with whatever was needed. It was held at Bethel Youth Camp in Hawkes, MI. A long drive, but we understand it was well worth it. It was reported to be a beautiful facility with all kinds of cool things, including an indoor pool! The theme was "Stand Fast in the Faith." The youth attended classes on that subject and also enjoyed many fun activities including swimming, basketball, golf, and Capture the Flag. They also enjoyed an old fashioned hot dog/marshmallow roast. A big thanks to directors Jay and Kathi Havener, pastor Fred Brown, Sr., and all the teachers and other staff who helped to make this camp a wonderful experience. We are grateful for the ministry they bring to our youth!

On July 19 family members gathered at the Algonac Restoration Branch for the wedding of Kevin Powers and Analyn Tampioc (from the Philippines). His Dad, Elder Hod Powers officiated. Kevin's sister, Kelli Williams and brother-in-law, Steve were their attendants. Following a beautiful ceremony was a celebratory dinner at Club Capri in Algonac. Our pastor, Gary Holmes provided the special music. He sang, "Keeper of the Stars," which is he and Marge's anniversary song. They will reside in Clinton Township. We are very happy for Kevin and Analyn and wish them God's blessings!

(Reported by Todd Moses)

This year's family reunion was held at Wesleyan Woods Campground in Vassar from July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Throughout the week, the saints came together in belief and the vision of establishing the cause of Zion. The guest ministry delivered remarkable messages, which moved and motivated the saints to

draw closer to our Heavenly Father and purge our lives of unnecessary, worldly clutter. The reunion staff worked diligently at tasks to aid in every aspect of running the activities of the week. The saints experienced the joy of welcoming two new members into the church of our Lord as two young men gave their lives to Jesus Christ in the waters of baptism. The reunion was an uplifting week for all those involved.

News and Notes: The end of May Todd and Tina Yaney traveled to Alaska. They have now been to all 50 states! They really enjoyed seeing Mt. Denali (McKinley) and loved the overall natural beauty of the state.

- **Leading the Band:** Bethany Moses was selected as drum major for the 180+ member Dakota High Marching Band. The season began rehearsals in May and she has been working hard at each meeting. There are a total of 3 drum majors for this impressive band. These students recently attended a week-long drum major camp at Central Michigan University with over 150 drum majors in attendance. They learned drill, commands, basic block, salute and conducting techniques within long hours of daily rehearsals. Thankfully it was a cooler-than-normal week, which made the long hours in the sun bearable. The Dakota team was awarded "best school squad" from all the schools attending. Way to go Bethany!
- Todd Moses received word this summer that the Dakota High School Mixed Varsity Choir was selected to perform in October at the American Choral Directors Association Michigan Fall Conference.

They are 1 of 10 choirs from throughout the state that were selected for this prestigious performing opportunity. Todd has only a few rehearsals with his choir in August before the school year begins, and then commences an intense rehearsal regimen to be prepared in time for this performance so early in the season. Best wishes on this performance!

- In July Ray and Nadine Moses hosted out of town family in their home ... Uncle Norman and Aunt Judy from Illinois. A good time was had by all!

**J.D. Cargill's new address and phone**  
**16175 Pine Ridge Dr. N.**  
**Frazer, MI 48026**  
**#1-586-285-1059**

Prayers would be appreciated for Wendy and Tim Holmes and family, Elaine Harm, Connie Burns, Gary and Marge Holmes, Ray Moses, Nina Powers, Kelli Williams, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, Elaine King and Jean John. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

**Garden City** By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

At Garden City we have been blessed the past few months with four baptisms, a baby blessing, and a number of visitors coming to our congregation. In August, some members of the congregation are looking forward to a day-trip to Kirtland Temple.

**Submitted by Judy Monarch:** Early Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, five of the women from Garden City set out for the Mother-Daughter banquet which was hosted by the Sanilac Restoration Branch. This was

the first time any of us had been there. The theme was "Little House on the Prairie", and one of the women from our group, Sylvia Meshinski, made bonnets and matching aprons for all five of us. They were really cute and really went well with the theme of the banquet. The guest speaker, Barb Hawkins gave a really nice presentation. Both she and her husband give Little House Site Tours telling all about the life of Laura Ingles.

We had such a wonderful time, we played games, sang songs, got to look at all the decorations displayed. We were able to catch up with old friends and make new friends. The food was fabulous and the iced tea and lemonade served in canning jars was a great idea also. There were prizes for EVERYONE and we even got to take home our iced tea glass. We all agreed it was a great time and we can hardly wait for next year's banquet.

**New address and home phone number for David and Holly Baltzer:**

Address: 325 Kent St. Apt. A4, Carleton, MI 48117

Phone number: (734) 654-5004

Congratulations to our graduates, Maggie Bowman and Megan Fishwild, who will be attending High School in the fall and to Nathan Costello who graduated from High School. All the best!

Congratulations to Wayne and Betty Lou Newman who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 4th. They were married by Betty Lou's uncle, Harvey Nicholson, in the RLDS church in Amherstburg, Ontario in 1964. Wayne and Betty Lou celebrated with their family on July 4th and 5th in Bayfield, Ontario.

On Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Helayana Claire Thacker was blessed by her grandfather, Elder Jeff Stoker, assisted by her great-grandfather, Elder Jim Stoker. Helayna was given a musical "Jesus Loves Me"

lamb from the congregation, presented by our pastor, Elder Carl McKiddie.

Alyssa Ely, Paige Ely, Jordan Brooks, and Brooklyn Brooks were baptized by Elder Jeff Stoker, in Ohio, on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to their confirmations in the near future.

Seven children and youth from the Garden City branch attended camp at Erie Beach, Ontario from July 20 – 26. The campers enjoyed classes, campfires, archery, woodworking, swimming etc. The theme of the camp was the scripture James 1:5. Thanks to all of the adults who offered their time to help in any way.

July 24 and 25, the Garden City branch held a very successful rummage sale at the church. Money raised from the rummage sale will be used to fund the Outreach Program organized by Karen Rintz.

Many thanks to the guest ministers who have preached at Garden City the past few months: Elder Fred Brown Jr. and Elder Fred Brown Sr.

### Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Please note that the Windsor (Essex County) group continues to meet one Sunday a month in Windsor, Ontario. The services are generally held the first Sunday of the month. Services are held at 6:00 p.m. The church facility that is used is approximately 20 minutes from the Ambassador Bridge. This small group is always looking for guest ministers. Please contact Elder Kurt Fishwild (519) 978-3621 if you are available to provide preaching ministry.

### **Oakwood** By: Kathleen Modders

Happy moments PRAISE GOD Difficult moments SEEK GOD Quiet moments WORSHIP GOD Painful moments TRUST

**GOD Every moment THANK GOD. God will give you strength for every battle, wisdom for every decision, peace that surpasses understanding. With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment. Always let him lead you and he will clear the road for you to follow.**

We have one graduate at Oakwood this year and that is Derrick Embree. He graduated from Eisenhower High School. We all congratulated him for a job well done on June 28th at his open house. He will be going into the ROTC and air national guard. His goal is to go to Western for Aviation Flight for his first degree, and second degree goal will be Aviation Administration. He will have 5 years of college and 4 years of active service and because of his Eagle Scout training he is already in a higher ROTC level. We wish Derrick the best of luck as he starts the next part of his journey.

Our Regional Church Reunion was a wonderful gathering this year and our extensions of our own family's through Christ. What a blessing it is that we had an opportunity to gather our larger, eternal families together to learn to understand and love one another, and to unite ourselves in the work of the Lord for one whole week of Zion. Just as we do in our own church branches, everyone played a part in the positive, enjoyable experiences we had together which bonded all family relationships throughout the week. Having fun together is a powerful and effective way to draw our church family together. The lasting memories that were formed add to the respect and love that we hope to have for each other throughout our lives. It provided an opportunity for the youth to become acquainted with one another and make long lasting friendships. Throughout the week they were shown great service projects that helped shape their knowledge of the ins and outs of the reunion and one day they will be able to use what they learn and



share with their youth in generations to come. With the help of the Reunion committee our camp director Elder Mick Ruch and his wife Shawn, put on a wonderful reunion. Along with the teachers, the speakers, the visiting ministry, the recreational directors, and everyone else, we once again had a successful week.

In June started our new six month pastor with Elder Jay Havener. Jay has chosen our theme to be "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel" Jay, Mick and Ed have led us through many good and bad times. How we thank them for all their faith, the time spent to teach us God's truth and their studying to give us concrete proof of God's word. All the early mornings spent pleading in prayer and the hospital visits to show us they care. Their kindness shows steady when we fall apart and their patience show us once again the right start. Their labor is often without our reward but they still strive to feed us Gods word. We all say Thank you to our three leading shepherds, and may God keep them and their family's strong and make us serious sheep!

When summer begins we all look forward to having our Squire park service. We invited other branches to share as we went to the park. A great service we had and a potluck to follow. We had wonderful food. All in good spirit we shared a meal with one another. Afterwards we played a softball game! We had a small accident with Joshua Johnson, he was pitching the last pitch before he was to have a chance at batting when he was hit with a line drive to the knee cap. He tried to be strong and continue but down he went. He said he felt his knee cap splinter inside, he was administered to and then taken to the hospital. He was out of work for a week with bed rest and a knee stabilizer to heal. But God was with him, he only had a very bad bruise, nothing was broken.

Several Oakwood women once again attended the annual Mother and Daughter Banquet at Sanilac Branch. This year's theme was "Little House on the Prairie" and was a lot of fun and the speaker very interesting! Sanilac sure knows how to throw a great party!

In June, the women once again celebrated Father's Day by cooking up a huge Father's Day breakfast for all the men of our branch. Kathleen Modders led the effort, and everyone enjoyed great food and fellowship.

We are continuing to study the book "Tell My People" by Roy Weldon. Shawn Ruch always does a great job as teacher, and we are very blessed by her dedication and preparation.

The Zion's Youth Camp for grades 7-12 was held this year during July 13-18 at the Bethel Youth Camp in Hawkes, MI. The camp is between Atlanta and Alpena in the northern part of the state, and it sits on 200 acres with an indoor swimming pool, a lodge with a fireplace, pool tables, Ping-Pong tables, and a mini putt-putt golf course. We were blessed to have Claren Carroll from Independence and Lynette Daniels from Otter Lake as our camp Nurses this year. Deana Pirt from Algonac was kind enough to assist in the kitchen. Other staff from Oakwood this year included Elder Fred Brown Sr. as Camp Pastor, Bill Hulse from Oakwood as Recreation Director, Fred Brown Jr. as Teacher and Campfire Director, Shaun Turner as Counselor and Teacher, Helen Brown and Tracy Stokes as Cooks, Kathleen Modders as Log and Craft Director, and Jay and Kathi Havener were teachers and Camp Directors. Ravin Franks and Joshua Johnson completed the staff as CITs. The theme was "Stand Fast in the Faith." We learned what it means to be faithful...and how to maintain our faith. Campers from Oakwood included: Autumn Turner, Reece Nagy, Marissa Ber-

hard, Dustin Michael, Parker Mervin, Brandon Embree and his friend Logan, Jackson Nagy, Drew and Cole Vandenberg, Jonathan Modders, and Joey Brown.

**Upcoming Oakwood birthdays:**

09/01 Dawn Modders, 09/05 Bill Hulse, 09/15 Eloise Boat, 09/16 Bill Holcomb, 09/19 Graham Fishwild, 09/22 Jann Wilson, 09/22 Michelle Turner, 09/23 Helene Smith, 09/26 Shaun Turner, 10/02 Taylor LaRowe, 10/07 Ryan Wilson, 10/08 Helene Danicki, 10/08 Fred Brown Jr., 10/13 Alec LaRowe, 10/14 Ruth Ann Hulse, 10/18 Marc Hanna, 10/23 Debbie Millen, 10/25 Shawn Ruch, 10/26 Sara Ruch, 10/27 Teri Hanna, 11/04 Helen McNeil, 11/04 Ryan Hanna, 11/08 Nick Brown, 11/13 Bob Larowe, 11/14 Brennen Colley, 11/19 Brandi Tomanek, 11/20 Cole Vandenberg, 11/24 Jared Carl, 12/02 Bob Ruch, 12/04 Ty Millen, 12/06 Drew Vandenberg, 12/08 Parker Mervyn, 12/09 Helen Brown, 12/11 Michael Moore, 12/19 Samantha Pollard, 12/25 Laurie MacDonald, 12/26 Mick Ruch, 12/26 Jonathon Modders, 12/27 Marissa Wilson, 12/30 Autumn Turner.

**Port Huron** By: Sharon Smearer

**Happy Summer Everyone:**

Arianna Britz went again this year to Mexico to help with building homes and watching children. Quite a young lady doing missionary work. We are proud of our young people doing the Lord's work.

Sharon Smearer's great-nephew, Wayne Bell and KaSoundra Ware were married April 26, 2014. A beautiful day and a wonderful ordinance.

Lowell Milett, son of Joe and Jennifer Milett was Student of the Week. He attends at Brown City Lower Elementary. "Lowell is the first one to offer a helping hand when his classmates are struggling with an activity," stated by his Teacher, T. J. Schindler.

Lowell's kindergarten class recently brought in \$120 worth of loose change to go toward the fireworks show at the 2014 Thumb Area Soybean Festival. As a reward the children were treated to a pizza party. Also, Lowell's baseball team, B. C. Auto Parts was in the News.

The Ladies from our Branch were invited to a Friendship Salad Luncheon on May 3, 2014 with the Wadham's Grove Community of Christ, ladies. We all had a very delicious lunch and a fun time with the Ladies.

We are still praying for the family of Joshua O. Parker.

Our Branch had a Business Meeting for a Proposed Budget.

Some of our Ladies attended the Sanilac Restoration Mother & Daughter Banquet, Theme was, "Little House on the Prairie." So much good food and fellowship with all the ladies.

Vickie Burgett and her grandson, Trent Markle attended the Grace Episcopal Church, Mariner's Service.

Steven Pretty worked on a craft with his great-grandmother, Sharon Pretty at the Blue Water Sturgeon Festival at Vantage Point, Port Huron.

Merryanne Class has passed away on June 4, 2014. Merryanne's life's passion was music. She was blessed with a beautiful soprano singing voice. She was a longtime member of the International Symphony Singers and the Musical Chorus. She also directed the Choraleers



Choir and many other activities. Mer-ryanne and Sharon Smerer also helped put together a Children's Choir at our Branch. We certainly will miss her and her talent and love of music. When she would sing "Ave Maria," it was beautiful to listen to her sing. You felt the peace and love of God.

Our Miracle Baby, Luc Roy is doing much better each and every day. His parents, and grandparents, Rick and Janice Henderson of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. We still keep praying for Luc, his parents and those who attend to help him in his recovery.

Reva (Burns) Harris celebrated her 96th Birthday at our Branch. We want to wish her good Health and Happiness. We pray she had a safe travel back to Missouri.

On June 8, we recognized our young people for their achievements:

Chelsea Payoink-- BS degree in Psychology from University of Michigan

Andrew Hohmann-- AA degree in Accounting from SC4

Alexandria Britz-- Port Huron Northern continuing at Lakewood School of Therapeutic Massage

Olivia Bolt -- Holland Woods Middle School

Nathan LaFrance-- Holland Woods Middle School

Jack Britz -- Howard D. Crull Elementary School

Lydia DeBell -- Morton Elementary School

Alexis Parker -- Garfield Elementary School

Lowell Milette -- Kindergarten, Brown City Elementary School

Elise DeBell -- 1st grade Morton Elementary School

We are so proud of "All" of our Youth.

The Dance Team, "The Starlites," shined at the Nationals. They won three United States Finals Overall National Grand Championships. WOW!!!

The girls from our Branch are Junior Team Captain, Adrienne Slossar & Ashley Blais; Tiny team, Ava Slossar; Mini team, Captain, Abby Slossar and members of the Youth team, (Hip Hop) Allison and Brianna Slossar. They attended this event at Virginia Beach, Va.

A Surprise 50th Wedding Anniversary was held on July 18, 2014 at our Branch for John and Connie DeBell. Their children, Chris and children, Jim and Marnie and children, and Joe and Jennifer and children surprised their parents with a supper and gathering of family and friends. John and Connie told of different events that took place thru their 50 years . We wish them both much Happiness.

We had two candidates, cousins, Betty Milette and Owen DeBell were baptized in the Au Sable River, Roscommon, Mi. on July 13, 2014.

2014 Great Lakes Regional Reunion was held at Vassar, Mi. What I was told was the Junior and Senior classes didn't want to leave their discussion with Elder David Teeple, They were enjoying their discussion.

[Sanilac](#) By: Kathleen Palmer

D&C 36:2H "And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness."

Spring finally arrived & as is the tradition of our little branch in May we have our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet. This year's theme was, "Little house on the Prairie". The church was decorated with many antiques of the time period. We would like to thank our Amish friends for the many items they let us borrow for the program. We were blessed to have an expert on Laura Ingle Wilder's life, Barb

Hawkins, present our program. Barb is an excellent teacher, author & tour guide. Barb & Barent will be taking one of her tours later this summer to experience life when Laura lived. Elder Tom Essenmacher, Deacon Kerry Horton, Randy & Gary DesJardins served an old fashioned chicken dinner. We were so pleased to have so many of our "sisters" join us for a day of fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing you next year when our theme will be "Anchors Away".

In June the ladies of the branch held a Father's Day program put together by Barb Eliason. After church we had a dual celebration potluck for our fathers as well as two special graduates. Kerri Daniels, from college & her son Kyle Ross, from high school. We are proud of both of them. Later in the month we attended a graduation party for Kyle at his home. The weather was beautiful, the children were able to swim & we all enjoyed being together once again.

In July our women's department held a rummage sale. We cleaned out the church closets as well as a few of our own. We were able to share some testimonies & hear testimonies from the people in our community. Thank you to everyone for your help in making this such a success. Josh Bradley & Gary DesJardins went to Erie Beach camp this year. The camp theme was "Between the Covers of the Doctrine & Covenants". Gary has been a CIT for camp as well as youth retreats for the past year. Sarah & Emma Eliason

came up from Missouri again this year to attend camp. Tom & Janine Essenmacher also went as staff. Thank you to Barb & Barent for providing transportation for the youth to & from camp. Camp ended & the Michigan Regional Reunion started with the theme, "Zion, One Heart, and One Mind". We had 12 members who were able to stay on the grounds & 9 when able. Justin Kurtansky & Brandon Radebach were baptized at the reunion. They are in cottage meetings at this time anticipating confirmation. Our branch has a new baby boy, Mattias Joseph, born July 22nd to Julia & Keith Albrecht. Proud grandparents are Dora Gutierrez & Lowell Decker. Our little branch is growing!

A reminder that after such a busy summer we are looking forward to having everyone come for church service then to join us for our annual pizza party & hayride on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Sanilac Branch will also be sponsoring the Book of Mormon Day at Oakwood on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Join us to learn more about your favorite Book of Mormon stories & heroes.

As always we want to extend our appreciation to the priesthood & all those saints who come to share their time & talent with us. Each of you enrich our branch when we worship together.

Anyone with new Email/phone/other info that you want published please send it to Jim Bradley @ [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net) !

## **Regional Activities for the next quarter**

- The next scheduled Fifth Sunday Service is August 31st at the Port Huron Branch at 6 p.m.
- Regional Women's Retreat Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> @ Bluewater Campgrounds Lexington, MI More info to follow

### **From The Editor's Desk:**

Anyone having articles or historical facts (that would be of interest to everyone), etc. please send them to me for future use. Please keep them to one page or less, as space is very limited and expensive. Thank you.

Send to:

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Romeo, MI 48065  
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**Email is highly preferred**