



THE NAVIGATOR

LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Nourishing the Human Spirit ~ Mind, Body, and Soul ~
through Jesus Christ*

LAKER FAMILY UNITY NETWORK: LAKER F.U.N.

MAY - JUNE 2011 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2010-11

President: Kathy Quatrochi 429-0861
Vice Pres.: VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Secretary: Jann Sullivan 428-0685
Treasurer: Cindy Adent 428-5276

Current Events & Contacts

Market Day Pick-Up: 6/9, 3-4, MPR
7/21, noon-1pm
8/11, noon-1pm
Rummage Sale Drop-Off: 7/11-13, 8-noon
Rummage Sale: 7/18-20, 8-3, ES
Chris Glendening 757-4391
Laker Athletic Golf Outing: 8/1, noon start
at Lake Michigan Hills
ES Packet Pick-Up: 8/23 & 24, 8-6pm
Ice Cream Social @ ES: 8/24, 6-7:30pm
First Day of School! YAY! 9/6, Full Day*
* 1/2-day PS, JK & K
monthly orders
Market Day: 428-8256
Chair: Tracy Glotzbach
SCRIP: year-round
LMCES Office 429-0227
Sunshine Committee:
Heather Chapman 556-9395
Welcoming Committee:
Dot McNerney 556-9667
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening 429-0227, Ext. 16

LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, Executive Director & MS/HS Principal:
jberlin@lmclakers.org 983-2511
Mr. Heath, Assistant Principal & Athletic Director:
gheath@lmclakers.org 983-3154
Mrs. Maher, Elementary School Principal:
catholicprincipal@yahoo.com 429-0227
Mrs. Payovich, Director of Business Services:
cpayovich@lmclakers.org 983-5529
Mr. Russell Cutter, President, CCEC:
ndfan1964@yahoo.com

Laker F.U.N. News & Events

Ahhh, the beginning of summer has finally arrived!
This past weekend's warm weather sent some of us to the beach, the pool, or just playing outside on a warm spring day. I can't believe the end of the school year is here, and what a year we've had!

First, I want to take the time to send a BIG THANK YOU to **Janet Sullivan** for all of her hard work here at Laker F.U.N. She has been on the board for a number of years and the time has come for her to say goodbye. She has been a wonderful ally, and I have learned a lot from her. She will truly be missed.

With the vacancy in the secretary's position upon Jann's leaving, I hope you will consider getting involved with Laker F.U.N. We are always looking for new ideas, and I would love to hear from you. Just because school is out, doesn't mean we're not thinking about next year. I'm sure you'll hear from me sometime in July or August about upcoming get-togethers.

As we wind down for the school year, I have a few more shout outs to the following individuals for donating their time and amazing, non-stop energy for Field Day...**Mimi Stockton, Tricia Salvano and Gretchen Busch.** Once again these girls do an amazing job of organizing the games, volunteers, and treats for our children to have nice break from schoolwork. Thanks, girls!

Finally, I want to thank EVERYONE who participated and volunteered their time with Laker F.U.N. and the events we sponsor: Ice Cream Social, Fall Festival, Halloween Party, Winter Fun Fest, Catholic Schools Week, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Adult Trivia Night, and Field Day. Whew! We couldn't sponsor these events without your help! Thanks again, and have a wonderful, peaceful and relaxing summer! See you in August!

Elementary Essentials from Mrs. Maher

As the year comes to an end I'd like to send out a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers. Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary school is a wonderful family due in part to the many volunteers who help create that family environment.

It's hard to believe another year has passed. The summer is a wonderful time to recharge! Don't forget to read EVERY day. Do a few math problems, along with your chores around the house and yard. Having daily responsibilities helps grow a child's self-esteem, and gives them a sense of accomplishment. This will carry over to next school year and their academic responsibilities.

Most important of all...PLAY, *unstructured, unorganized play!* Children learn problem-solving and interpersonal skills, along with expanding their imaginations when allowed to create new play experiences with a group of children. It reinforces the lesson of sharing, and introduces negotiation and fair play. Student writing, language and math skills can be greatly enhanced by making up and participating in this type of play.

Parents, enjoy your children; they grow up quickly, and each day with them is a gift given to you by God. I will miss each of them for their unique contribution to our Laker family and look forward to seeing everyone in August at our Ice Cream Social, on Wednesday, August 24th. Peace!

Market Day Deals for Summer Days

June brings one of the biggest sales of the year from Market Day with over \$50 in savings plus up to 60% off web-only clearance. Simply place your order on-line at www.marketday.com – it's that easy! **Order right away now through 11pm on June 3rd.** The pick-up day is **Thursday, June 9th, 3-4 pm** in the elementary school cafeteria.

The LMC Market Day program runs all summer long. Invite your friends and neighbors to place their orders through our school for the summer – we are happy to accommodate them. **Ordering deadlines are July 15th and August 5th with pick-up days on Thursday, July 21st, and Thursday, August 11th, from noon-1 pm** in the cafeteria.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, call Tracy Glotzbach at 428-8256.

Fund-Raising: What Wrapped & What's Up

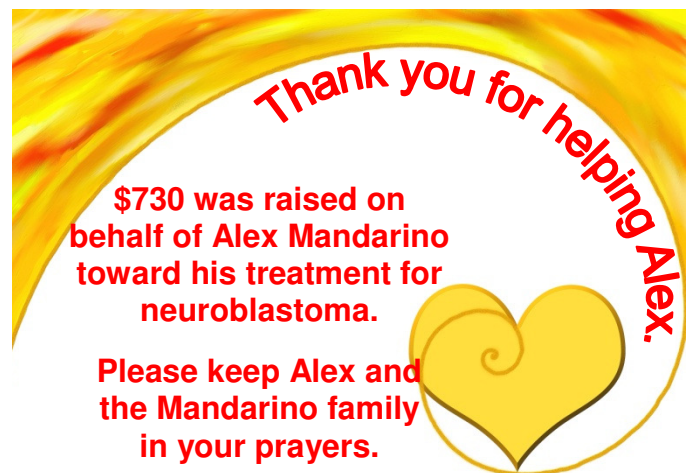
The annual S.C.E.N.E. Auction exceeded expectations, earning over \$100,000. Our deepest thanks go to our donors, volunteers, and guests who attended on Friday and Saturday nights. The event saw several new volunteers, and some of our veterans taking on new roles. It takes an enormous amount of cooperation to plan and run the S.C.E.N.E. Auction, and we are endlessly grateful for the teamwork of a very flexible and hardworking group of volunteers, and our generous school and parish communities, all who value Catholic education and are willing to work *and bid* with the goal of supporting the mission of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. **Next year's auction will be on April 20th and 21st so reserve the weekend, and spread the word.**

Fund-raising doesn't take the summer off. Chris Glendening has two big events scheduled for July and August. Volunteer, shop or play at:

3rd Annual LMC Rummage Sale, July 18th, 19th, and 20th from 8am to 3pm in the air conditioned LMC Elementary Gym: Donations may be dropped off during the day for the rest of the school year OR Monday, July 11th to Wednesday, July 13th from 8:00-noon at the LMC Elementary Gym.

19th Annual LMC Athletic Golf Outing, Monday, August 1st at Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club: We are seeking businesses and individuals who would be willing to sponsor a hole or door prizes, and golfers. **Contact Chris Glendening at 757-4391 or cglendening@lmclakers.org if you are able to donate or want to golf.**

Every fund-raising effort owes its success to our hardworking families. Thank you all for your year-round support.



3-Year-Old Preschool with Mrs. Cutter & Mrs. Glotzbach

After spring break, we jumped right back into our routine with a unit on pets. We discovered how many different pets there can be, and all the things they need from us, the most important being love. We also explored units on zoo animals, bugs and the earth God gave us. Our classes brainstormed ways they could help care for our earth, even at 3 years old, such as recycling, cleaning up trash, and planting brand new trees.

Easter was a time for us to practice loving each other as God teaches us. Our littlest Lakers earned jelly beans for good deeds during Lent, and shared them together at the most holy time of Easter. We were happy to honor our mothers with flowers we planted for them along a homemade card filled with love for Mother's Day.

Our year has flown by and our littlest Lakers are taller, smarter and excited to move on to the next Laker class this fall. Mrs. Cutter and Mrs. Glotzbach are so proud of all of our preschoolers for learning, sharing and loving each other this year. We look forward to seeing those bright smiles in the hallway in September!

4-Year-Old Preschool with Mrs. Grundy

The year has been a collection of lots of little successes that add up to very big ones. Our 4-year-old preschoolers have made new friends, and learned to get along with each other, and understand that they are part of God's world that includes wonderful people, animals and plants and so many fascinating things. Just this past month has been filled with great science and theology lessons. New life has been shown through our units on seeds and planting, bugs, and life in the pond. While all these things help us learn to look for and see God's love firsthand, we also can hear God's love as the youngsters in our classes enjoy music, and play games enthusiastically.

We teachers and classroom aides want to thank all of you parents for entrusting us with your children. Your love and support throughout this year has been a blessing. Our mission is to teach your children about Christ's love, and prepare them to use their God-given intellect and innate kindness to navigate their next steps in life and learning. We hope that mission has taken hold and grows with them.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

The population of the Junior Kindergarten has swelled to 40! That's 14 students and 26 Letter People! Now that we've met them all and know their sounds well, the JK'ers will spend the next few years getting much better acquainted with the Letter People, and how they get together to make even more sounds, words, sentences, and stories. Each of the students chose a favorite among the Letter People, and will come to school dressed in letter-perfect costumes to celebrate what we've learned.

Our journals and our animal alphabet books are nearly complete. Parents, please take the time to look at them when they make their way home. So much growth has taken place over the course of the school year, and the evidence the journals and books provide is exciting. It has been a pleasure to witness their wonderful transformation into children who are ready to begin their Kindergarten experience.

To cap the year, a Junior Kindergarten Fun Day is in the works. **Mrs. Lynn Hegg** is organizing the event that promises just the kind of silliness and fun to end our year and start summer with a bang.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn

This past month we finished our journey through the alphabet, and now are reviewing those tricky vowels that can cause some confusion. The vowels are such workhorses, combining with other vowels, and even consonants like y and w, to make new sounds. A great way to keep building recognition of these small but mighty parts of our language (phonemic awareness) is through stories in rhyme, poetry, and song. All of our public libraries have wonderful resources—books and recordings, as well as excellent programs led by their professional staffs. Visit your library often, and continue using all those reading skills we learned this year, and be ready to make a big impression as 1st Grade readers! As we celebrate our reading accomplishments, we can't forget the people who helped us along the way: *all the parents and volunteers who helped with our "book in a bag" reading program.* The reinforcement of that daily reading was so important in learning to read confidently, and also in establishing that "read every day" habit.

Continued...

We finished our Science unit, *Living Things*, this past month. Although growing the bean plants were fun, the worms were definitely the highlight of the unit. Mrs. Kuehn would like to thank **Mrs. Maher** for again helping out on the day the worms made their appearance, waving their hellos from one end or the other! We suspect the worms enjoyed their time in Kindergarten—it's a much more enjoyable place than the staff refrigerator.

The Discovery Zone was our destination for an end-of-the-year excursion that included lunch on our beautiful lakefront. If you saw a sea of yellow trekking along Whirlpool Field and Silver Beach, that was us in our class shirts, which we all signed. Our thanks go to the parents who joined us for a great ending to a fun year. About a week later, on June 9th, the Kindergarten year will end, appropriately, with a prayer service thanking God for our time together, for all we have learned, and for all the friends we have made. Thank you, **Mrs. Gallagher**, for helping us organize this celebration, and sending us on our way with a song.



1st Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

The 1st Graders are **egg**-static about our Religion/Science unit, *New Life!* After monitoring the environment by keeping the temperature and humidity at the correct levels, and checking the embryos' development by candling, the eggs in our incubators finally hatched. The greatly anticipated date of hatching was May 24th. We must say, our chicks are an ambitious brood, arriving one day early! Our "*The Chicks Have Arrived*" flag was flying proudly, as we welcomed our fuzzy friends, 3 black and 1 yellow. There was lots of peeping, and quite a bit of leaping in Rooms 1 and 4! In fact, our yellow chick's precocious jumping skills had Mrs. Faris and Mrs. Petsovich scrambling for a box with taller sides! Their growth in just a week is remarkable. No less remarkable is the growth of the 1st Graders—*everyone a miracle*.

As our 1st Grade experience comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our parents who have given so generously of their time and talents to help us: reading parents, party planners and food and paper goods donors for our classroom parties (*we had some really great parties this year*), Junior Achievement volunteers, lunchroom and playground supervisors, Daisy Scout and Tiger Cub leaders and helpers, and those who supported our fund-raisers. You have all contributed to make our year a successful one. We thank you one and all!

While our lesson plans are jam-packed until the end of the year, it wouldn't be 1st Grade without our trip to Dutch Village, and our Book Show, which are back-to-back this year, the trip to Holland on June 6th, followed by the Book Show, in our backyard, on June 7th. Here's hoping for sunny skies!

2nd Grade with Mr. Deja, Mrs. Fish & Mrs. Mills

The year brought many discoveries, and so much fun with many different units from chocolate to Native Americans. The excitement didn't stop with the month of May. One of our annual highlights is the May Crowning Mass. The 2nd Graders did a wonderful job planning this special occasion to honor our Blessed Mother Mary. We would like to thank **Father Jim Morris** along with **Mrs. Peggy Gallagher** for leading us in this joyous celebration.

The 2nd Graders have really enjoyed our final unit in science focusing on plants and animals. We have spent the month of May experimenting with geraniums to see what it takes for a plant to survive. The students have tried everything from coffee to root beer to make them grow and survive. In the end, water is still a plant's best friend.

Different classifications of animals and their habitats were studied as sort of a combo platter of science, research and composition, and computer skills. **Mrs. Mathews** designed a guided research page, and provided reliable sources for our fact-finding on some very exotic and intriguing animals from wolf spiders to ocelots. The students' admirable final products, which include some wonderful drawings, are displayed outside the classrooms. To conclude this unit, we look forward to our end-of-the-year field trip to Binder Park Zoo. This trip allows us to see many of the animals we see in books in their natural surroundings and habitats. Perhaps we'll recognize some of the creatures from our research!

3rd Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Kurina

The year is quickly coming to an end but we have been busy with many wonderful events during the month of May. As a 3rd Grade tradition, we honored our mothers with the annual Mother's Day Mass. We faithfully honored our Heavenly Mother, Mary, by praying the Rosary each day during the month of May.

Though we try to be physically active all year long, May found us on the move—almost at a blur. We participated in swimming lessons at South Shore Health and Racquet Club, took to the track on Field Day at Upton Middle School, and we'll take a trip to Surfari Joe's on June 7th. Several of our girls participated in Girls on the Run, completing a 5K with hundreds of other girls and the women who acted as mentors. Running, swimming, and having fun make for a rich and healthy life. *Keep it up all summer long, everyone!*


We completed our Seed unit in Science. The students made seed posters, seed mosaics, and gave wonderful seed presentations, complete with samples of the fruits and vegetables from which they grew! In Social Studies, the students demonstrated their understanding of the information presented about Michigan throughout the year. Each student created a canister about Michigan and filled the outside and inside of the can with facts and art pertaining to our fascinating state! Encourage your student to continue saving souvenirs and mementos when traveling and visiting great places in Michigan.

We would like to thank the parents for all of their help and support throughout the year. Thank you to the parents who planned and participated in our classroom parties, for introducing us to many educational Junior Achievement activities, for joining us on our field trips, and for volunteering to help with *Time for Kids*. We are very grateful and appreciate all you do for us!

It has been a wonderful year for the students—*full of growth, responsibility, and success*. Parents, you should feel very proud of your children. We hope you have a wonderful summer vacation. May God bless you.

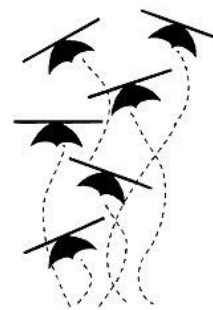
4th Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts with Matthew Tan, Reporter (to be imprecisely read to the tune of Aram Khachaturian's *Sabre Dance*, the favorite accompaniment of all frantic jugglers)

Rethink supersonic speed! During the past few weeks, the 4th Grade has written poetry, numerous essays, and a tall tale, learned double-digit multiplication, worked with measurements, money and decimals, wrapped up Junior Achievement, experimented with energy transfer, made a solar oven, delved into good health information, given reports on all the regions of the United States, made a quilt of all 50 states' resources, journeyed to the Kalamazoo Valley History Museum and Planetarium, the Curious Kids Discovery Zone, as well as the Corvette parts plant, had a mock trial in the Berrien County Courthouse Museum, learned about the rainforest and had a bake sale to help preserve it, participated in a track meet, designed, set up, managed, and ran a mall, went on a canoe trip, and performed in Lake Michigan Catholic's own *American Idol*.

If you think this is impressive, remember these are only the highlights of our school days in May and June. You can't escape 4th Grade without an enlightened mind, a happy and grateful spirit, and, theoretically, the ability to juggle. Now... 

**This month's *Navigator* was
cosponsored by**

THE BRODERICK FAMILY



**in Honor of the
Class of 2011**

**May God bless
this new phase
of your lives.**

***THE REUTER FAMILY,
Ron, Lynne, Max, Alex & Luke***

**who wish everyone fun-filled
summer, enjoying God's creation!**

5th Grade with Mrs. LaSata & Mrs. Miller with Reporters Olivia Adent , Anna LaSata and Katie Sullivan

Our 5th Grade year has been a super successful year. Our generous teachers have helped us learn everything we need to know about middle school. We are excited and anxious about middle school but with the help of our teachers we will be able to succeed. Every day as we enter the school for 5th Grade, we are so excited to learn something new. We are very happy that the teachers will always care for us, and give us the best education they can, and appreciate that the teachers and staff work hard for all of God's children.

As the year is coming to a close, we are planning for an exciting field trip to Michigan Adventure. We will enjoy the waterpark and amusement park but nothing will ever compare to our 5th Grade memories. We have learned so much in our classrooms everyday like Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, English, Spelling, and Religion. When we learn something new, it's nice to know that we are getting the best education we can get. We are so fortunate to have such a great education for the last 7 years. Not everyone in the world gets a chance to go to a school at the level of LMC. We are so lucky that we can come to school and know that our religion will be shown. We will always remember our classmates. We've had many ups and downs but we love how we are always welcome and supported in our school.

Since we are so thankful, we are buying LMC a peace pole for a graduation gift by using \$274.00 of our pop can money. It will have three different languages on it; first Spanish, Latin, and then English saying *May Peace Prevail on Earth, and May Peace Be in Our Homes and Communities*. We love LMC, and wanted to give the school a really special gift. We will be so excited when we can put the peace pole in the front of our school. We collected pop cans from February 28th to May 20th to earn the money, and volunteers took the cans to our local grocery stores. Along with the peace pole, the pop can money was used to make a \$500 donation to the Catholic Community Center. We hope our money will go far to help with the Catholic Community Center's needs. We just can't wait to see the reaction when we give the money to them! We hope that the less fortunate will be able to follow the Catholic faith, as we do. We are so thankful for LMC and know that our Catholic faith will follow us wherever we go.

Math Center Earns a Stamp of Approval

Throughout the year, a faithful and fast-moving team of volunteers spent their Wednesday mornings administering the Math Center program. Our thanks go to the parent volunteers who organized the tests, and motivated our Grades 1-5 students to gain rapid and accurate command of math facts. **Parents and kids:** Don't let all that hard work fade this summer. Stay up to speed by downloading practice sheets from www.lmclakers.org > **Services > Math Center**. The biggest compliment you can pay our volunteers is to return next September ready to reel off those facts, and get a big blue "LMC" stamp right off the bat.

Afterschool Care News: Fall Sign-Up

Parents who anticipate a need for Afterschool Care in the 2011-12 school year still have time to register. The program is licensed and run by a trained staff. Snacks, outdoor/indoor play, games, crafts, homework time and assistance, and much more are offered each full day of school. **Pick up registration forms at the Elementary office. Space is limited**, and attendance varies day to day as some families utilize the program daily, while others sign up for a few days a week. Drop-in care may be arranged with 24-hour notice but a registration form and emergency card must be on file prior to the date of need. If you have any questions about LMCES Afterschool Care, please contact **Sue Zilke** at szilke@lmclakers.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit www.lmclakers.org often this summer to stay up-to-date on everything from camps and calendars to supply lists and schedules.

TRAVELING?

Drop us a postcard so we can see where you've ventured!

Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary
3165 Washington Ave.
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Attn: Teacher of Your Choice

Scouting Around at LMCES

Kindergarten Daisy Troop #00030: We started off the year a little late but then had a lot of fun and earned five of our Daisy petals. Together, we decorated paper cut-outs of ourselves, sold cookies, painted flower pots to plant our Daisy seeds in, and made friendship bracelets. Next fall, we will be starting up again in September, and would welcome any incoming 1st Grade girls to join us. If you are interested, you may contact leader **Lynn Kalamaros** at **849-7022**, or **pek@comcast.net**.

2nd Grade Brownie Troop #30522: Change...it's unavoidable and we experience it in all aspects of life—seasons, physical growth, and moving on to 3rd Grade. Next year, some of our current Brownies might experience schedule conflicts that make the Scouting commitment difficult, and we may gain some new members, too. All girls are welcome, and we urge everyone to try Girl Scouting—it is a wonderful experience and worth the effort.

The upcoming months are bringing changes to the Bates family. We'll miss our fellow Brownie, **Amber Bates**, as she settles into her new home in Vermont and life on the East coast. Mrs. Latham and I do want to share special thoughts:

Amber, we hope you will take with you the special things about Lake Michigan Catholic and our Brownie Troop #30522. We hope your memory will be filled with the fun we had accomplishing our goals, and carry forward what we have learned as we earned our Try-Its. We wish you and your family the best, and we look forward to hearing from you and about your new adventures.

Back to business, we want to inform all parents that the Girl Scouts of America will be changing their format for earning badges. The traditional Try-It badges will be phased out but *our troop will complete our second year of Brownie Try-Its!*

Journey Booklets will become the new way of conducting troop meetings. Troops will focus longer and more thoroughly explore certain topics such as *It's Your World: Change It*, *It's Your Planet: Love It*, and *It's Your Story: Tell It*.

We look forward to seeing everyone when Scouting gets underway in the fall, and Mrs. Latham and I wish everyone a very safe and fun-filled summer.

Mrs. Cordes, Troop Leader

2nd Grade Wolf Den: The boys of the 2nd Grade Wolf Den finished out the year with many exciting meetings that took us on the road. The group went to a local bait and tackle shop to learn about fishing in our area. Sport fishing and catch-and-release fishing are both popular and important to our economy. Not only is fishing a wonderful outdoor pastime, it also lends itself to learning a great deal about a variety of animal habits, the environment, conservation, and even the weather. The Wolves also visited the Twin City Players theatre and got some tips on acting, which was a new experience for many of the boys. Our final meeting for the school year was at the Hollywood Gardens at Hollywood Elementary. The boys toured the garden, and learned how to pot a plant correctly.

With the conclusion of the year, we send our congratulations to **Justin Ellis**, who earned his Bobcat Badge, and also to **Michael Golden** and **Cooper Rellis**, who completed their Wolf badges.

Goal Achieved: Two New Eagles

Start as a 1st Grade Tiger, rise through seven ranks, earn 21 merit badges, provide guidance for younger Scouts, and hold leadership roles and complete a major service project, and where does it lead? *Eagle Rank—Boy Scouting's highest achievement.* **Pack 624 welcomes Laker seniors Austin Juza and Andrew Phillips to the rank of Eagle Scout, and congratulates them on their commitment.**



**Well done, Andrew and Austin!
May the principles that led
you to Eagle rank
guide your collegiate careers.**



Quilt Gardens Tour

ALONG THE HERITAGE TRAIL

Join us for a full day of exploring Northern Indiana's one-of-a-kind event featuring super-sized quilt-inspired gardens and murals!

Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 7:45am-6pm

Leaving from the True Value parking lot at Miners Rd. at M139 at 8am

Our delightful day includes:

- Stops at seven quilt gardens
- Hands-on quilt program
- Dahlia garden with over 300 dahlias in bloom
- Amish home for lunch
- Surprise "mystery" stop
- Dutch country market
- Linton's Enchanted Garden Center
- Viewings of many quilt murals along the way

Details:

- Cost: \$69/person in advance to reserve a seat
- Air-conditioned Cardinal charter bus
- Reservations may be made by mailing your name, address, phone number, and a check payable to:

**Birthright Auxiliary c/o Birthright of St. Joseph
2700 Niles Ave.
St. Joseph, MI 49085**

Don't forget...*your camera!*

