



Milestone Ministry Recognitions 2026

55 Year Anniversary

Pastor Bill Hoesman

35 Year Anniversary

Dave Palmreuter

30 Year Anniversary

Dawn Mueller

Dan Reinert

20 Year Anniversary

Bonnie Bell

Carol Bickel

Jill Bronner

15 Year Anniversary

Sheila Babcock

Jodi Reinert

Rachel Strieter

10 Year Anniversary

Madeline Bickel

Mandy Liddle

Candice Saleska

Thomas Winterstein

5 Year Anniversary

Reagan Bickel

John Compton

Jessica Schluckbier

Nancy Schmandt

Retirement

Mary Bierlein



Mary Bierlein was born on January 14, 1966, in Saginaw, Michigan, to George and Dolores Bauer. She grew up in Richville alongside her brother, Bryan. She attended St. Michael's Lutheran School in Richville, and Reese High School.

Mary continued her education at Saginaw Valley State University, where she earned a degree in Elementary Education with minors in English and Social Science, along with an Early Childhood endorsement. She later completed her master's degree in Early Childhood

Education at SVSU and participated in the Colloquy Program through Concordia College.

Mary began her career in education serving as a substitute teacher at Reese, Fairgrove, USA, and Vassar schools and working with the Reese Migrant Program. She also worked at the Reese Unity District Library where she designed and started the Story Hour program. Mary additionally served in Cass City Public Schools, where she designed and launched the At-Risk 4-Year-Old program.

Mary's 33 years of ministry at St. Lorenz have had a lasting impact on early childhood education at our school. During her time at St. Lorenz School, she helped design and start the 3-year-old preschool program, launched Storytime, and created the Kindergarten Plus program. She also played a key role in developing the all-day kindergarten program. Over the years, Mary faithfully served students and families by teaching 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool, young 5's, kindergarten, and first grade. Her quick wit, love for each student, and passion for learning will be missed!

Beyond the classroom, Mary has been active in many areas of ministry and service. She has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Caro, served in Stephen Ministry, and taught Sunday School at both St. Lorenz and St. Michael's. She has also participated in many ministries, including VBS, Science Olympiad, MOPS, Girls of Grace, Night to Shine, Rainbows at St. Lorenz, Breakthrough Bible Class, and served as the historian for the LWML ministry.

Mary and Tom Bierlein were married on July 15, 1989. Together they have two daughters. Elizabeth recently graduated with a PhD in Neuroscience. Mariah will receive her Doctor of Optometry degree in May 2026.

In her free time, Mary enjoys reading, crafts, and quilting.

Mary's dedication to education, her love for young learners, and her faithful service to her church and community leave a lasting legacy. We give thanks for the many lives she has touched throughout her career and wish her God's blessings in retirement!)