



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church *Messenger*

April 2024

### Adult Bible Study on Sundays

Each Sunday, directly following our Divine Service, all are welcome to join that day's pastor for Adult Bible Study. The one-hour study will take place in the basement fellowship hall at 10:45 a.m. and goodies, coffee and juice are often available for participants. Start you week off right by delving deeper into God's Word! You'll be glad you did!

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**Special Voter's Meeting—April 7** in the Fellowship Hall right after the Church Service. It is a very important meeting. Everyone needs to attend if you are able.

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**QUILTING BEE ON THURSDAYS** – Anyone who would like to learn how to quilt, (or even if you already know how to quilt) are welcome to join our Quilting Bee group that meets each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the up stairs senior youth room. The quilters work pretty much year 'round to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and then LWR distributes the quilts to needy individuals worldwide. Many hands make for light work, so if you'd like to help, just show up on any Thursday!

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**NEW [PHONE] CALL COMMITTEE** – Phone calls, I mean!! St. Mark's is looking to start a new phone call ministry. The phone calls would be made once a month to all members from St. Mark's to:

- ◆ Update members on what St. Mark's happenings
- ◆ To encourage them to attend church and
- ◆ To say a prayer with them

The information and prayer would be provided to each Call Committee member each month. I am looking for 4-5 people who like to talk on the phone to help with this committee! It probably would take about an hour of your time each month. Please contact Lori Whitehead at 586-206-9470 if you are interested in helping.

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### What's Inside...

1. Adult Bible Study on Sundays, Special Voter's Meeting—April 7, St. Mark's Quilting Bee, New Phone Call Committee,
2. Debbie LoCascio Officially Retired, Easter Flowers,
3. Calling All Readers, Collecting Bottles for Ziah, LWML Invitation, St. Paul's Northville, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Fund Donations, Transferred Membership
4. Church Council Minutes (Summarized)
6. April's Church Calendar (insert)
5. Address Page

### The *Messenger* is the monthly newsletter of:

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
*The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod*

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West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Ph: (248) 363-0741  
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#### Sunday Worship

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by  
Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.  
Handicap Accessible

## **Debbie LoCascio Officially Retired**

On March 17, 2024 We said a fond Farewell to a wonderful Office Manager. She will be greatly missed here at St. Mark's. The following is a letter she wrote for the congregation.....

Dear Friends at St. Mark's,

After serving you as Office Manager for 24 years, I was able to retire on March 15, 2024. I can hardly believe it! It seems like those years just flew by!

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many wonderful people while in the office at St. Mark's, and for all the love, support and kindness that was shown to me. It has also been my pleasure to work with many faithful pastors in this capacity, as I learned a good deal from them.

Thank you for the wonderful Retirement Potluck you gave me on March 17, and for the monetary gift, as well! Thank you for your kind words and wishes, as the Lord allows me to move into this next phase of my life. And thank you, Lord, for sending our new Secretary, Lilli Harmon, to St. Mark's to take my place so that retirement was possible! I know you will support her as you did me.

Tom & I plan to continue attending St. Mark's through October of this year. We'll be putting our house up for sale sometime this summer. Once it sells, we'll switch over to RV life in the late fall, going Myrtle Beach, SC for the winter months, and then bringing the RV to Michigan during the summer months. While back in Michigan, we plan to attend St. Mark's whenever we are in the area.

Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to serve St. Mark's in the church office for so many years! Also, Tom and I humbly request your prayers as we move into this next chapter of life.

Thanks again and may God continue to bless this wonderful congregation as we all move forward in faith!

Love and Hugs,  
Debbie LoCascio

*(Continued next column)*

## **Easter Flowers**

The following have been placed in memory or in honor of those listed below, or to help beautify our sanctuary for Easter. Thank you for helping to beautify the Sanctuary!

### **In Honor of:**

*The years of Service of Debbie LoCascio – Lilli Harmon*

*Our Family who are a Gift from God! – Dean and Sherry Hyrkas*

*MyFamily- Jennie Kaufman*

*Jennie Kaufman- Kaufman, Krus, Clark, Hart Families*

*Our Children- Nicholas and Annetta – Nick and Kelly Lekas*

### **In Memory of:**

*Nathan Allen & Donna Lewin--Barb Allen*

*My Husband, Clarence – Gail Arnold*

*Irv Sr. & Irv Jr., Robert & Jim Burnett – Diane Burnett*

*Butch Fitzgerald -- Cathy Fitzgerald*

*Marvin Kaufman, Martha Thompson, Merle Thompson, Clara Kaufman, Walter Kaufman--Jennie Kaufman*

*Marvin Kaufman, Richard & Stephenie Krus, Betty Rice and Robert Hart – Kaufman, Krus, Clark, Hart Families*

*Arlene Zazula--Mary Ann Lockwood*

*Gail Hardy – The Oehring's*

*Frank Salo – Nancy Salo*

*Helga Gonzalez & Carolyn Achimov – John & Debbie Sidelinker*

*David & Andrew Turner, Sulho & Doris Jarvie – Cynthia Turner*

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Head, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Whitehead, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Whitehead, Mr. & Mrs. Marwin Degner, Mrs. Denise Whitehead - Larry & Lori Whitehead*

*(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)*

**CALLING ALL BOOK READERS:** I like to read a lot and have a bunch of books that I have already read sitting in my basement. I was thinking that other St. Mark's people may be readers too so why not do a book exchange!! If you are interested or need help bringing your books to St. Mark's, please contact Lori Whitehead at 586-206-9470. Also, please remember we are Christians when selecting the fiction books.

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**Collecting Bottles/Cans for Ziah Town School**  
If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing "Joe Boway" on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark's), or visiting the St. Mark's website, clicking the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

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**LWML INVITATION FOR MEN AND WOMEN:**  
**April 1, 2024, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
Presentation on the Kolkata India Mission Trip: How God was active on the trip along with back stories from behind the scenes. Given by Mrs. Tracy Riggs and her team.

Location: ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2040 S. Commerce Rd.  
Walled Lake, MI 48390

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**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NORTHVILLE** is hosting its annual auction, A Storybook Gala, on **April 13** at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Tickets are \$65/person or \$600/table for 10. The evening will include a live and silent auction, wine pull fundraiser, plated dinner, and beer/wine bar. Tickets can be purchased at: [stpaulnorthville.org/auction](http://stpaulnorthville.org/auction)

If you can't attend but still want to support the school, consider making a monetary donation, donating new items, or becoming a sponsor. For more information, contact the school office (248) 349-3146 / [school@stpaulnorthville.org](mailto:school@stpaulnorthville.org)

(See Easter Plants, Page 4)

**April's Anniversaries**  
9 Darryl & Jean Swainson 41 years  
21 John & Debbie Sidelinker 45 years  
28 Jacob & Lauren Grech 1 year

**April's Birthdays**  
5 Hannah Williams  
6 Barbara Jewell  
7 Andrew Vermeersch  
11 Haley Benson  
15 Christopher Gerard  
22 Rose Milke  
25 Sophia Hurley  
27 Steven Allen

**Special Fund Donations for February:**  
**Liberian School-Joe Boway:**  
*Lynn Thomas, Nancy McGinnis*  
**Helga Gonzalas Memorial:** James Ruhlig  
**Sanctuary Remodeling:** Nancy McInnis

**Transferred Membership out:**  
Charles, Lexi & Evelyn Powell—Emmanuel, Dearborn

**This Month's Prayers**  
**For Our church members:**  
Trent Johnson, Barbara Jewell, Julia Ligon, Mary Ann Lockwood, Rose Mielke, Angela Peters, Nancy Salo, Carolyn Turner, Marilyn Turner, Art Vermeersch.

**For Friends/Family of Our Church Members:**  
Mary Ann, Nancy, Lisa, Ian, Ed, Angel, Mary Lou, Josh, Judy, Alex, Chip, Rhea, Cheryl, Dale, Dan, Johnny, Sandy, Dave, Kristy, Rick, Rich, Ray, Truman, Callie, Mary, Leonard, Peg

**For Those Who Lost Loved Ones Recently:**

**Church Council  
Ministries Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2024**

In attendance: Karen Kaufman, John Reardon, Lori Whitehead, Trent Johnson, and Nancy McInnis. Lillian Harmon was a guest.

Call to order at 7:04 pm

We opened with prayer.

Lori Whitehead would like to add discussion regarding the water issue with the valve. Nancy McInnis made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Trent Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Previous minutes were presented. Lori Whitehead made a motion to accept the previous minutes as presented. Trent Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice President's Report per Trent Johnson – nothing to report.

**BOARD REPORTS**

Elders & Call Committee: per Trent Johnson (Darryl Swainson is not in attendance) – Darryl informed Trent that they are potentially looking to add a fourth pastor into the rotation. This pastor was originally listed to be put on the call list. Trent and John Reardon will be presenting a letter to the council that we would like to send out to the congregation regarding the open positions on the various boards. The dual parish call committee has met several times with folks from the district and Pastor Moyer. It was discussed that our congregation needs to step up a bit to perform the duties normally completed by a full time pastor such as Bible Study for example. A lay person within our congregation can do Bible Study. Our boards also have quite a few openings and these openings need to be filled. The issue is, if we don't step up, we may not be able to get anyone to fill our dual pastor role.

Council looked over the letter we would like to send out and some spelling errors were corrected and John updated his copy to reflect those changes. Everyone agreed that with the changes the letter is good to be sent out.

There will be several ways to sign up for a board position as well.

Family & Youth: per Debbie LoCascio – nothing to report. Still deciding about an Easter Egg Hunt.

Gospel Outreach: per John Reardon – We will pick up on this when we have a pastor to work with.

Human Care: per Karen Kaufman – sent out some Valentine cards last week to the nursing home. We have the St. Paul's dinner coming up. Since Pastor Jung has taken a call, we are going to contact St. Paul to see how this will go.

Parish Fellowship per Nancy McInnis – Pot Luck for Debbie LoCascio's retirement. Lillian Harmon will put the sign up board in the entryway. Trent Johnson offered to accept the donations for a gift for Debbie.

Last year the Easter breakfast did not have a lot of attendees so we decided to not do one this year. They decided to stuff some eggs with candy and put them out for any kids in attendance.

Properties: per Trent Johnson (Joshua Cook was not in attendance) – Lori Whitehead contacted two plumbers and they both stood her up. The toilets are fixed in the men's room which was causing the large water bill but now but the valves need to be replaced as we are unable to shut off the water in the event of a leak.

Per Trent we are still looking for folks to mow this summer.

LWML: per Leslie Oehring via notes – just working on the quilts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Secretary Update – the council welcomed Lillian to St. Mark's.

Treasurer's Report per note from Kyle Albert - Trent Johnson to talk to Kyle Albert regarding the two investment accounts to get this taken care of.

Kyle also discussed a 1099 for Lillian. This should be for Debbie LoCascio. Trent to discuss this with Kyle to get it straightened out.

Financial Secretary's Report per Lori Whitehead – graph of January 2024 contributions vs budget was passed out and the list of special donations was included.

Parish Report and March Church Calendar – passed out and reviewed. Add the due date for the responses to the letter by March 17.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7 pm.

Trent Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Lori Whitehead seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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Phone: (248) 363-0741  
Fax: (866) 649-6870

*Address Service Requested*

### For the latest church news, visit our website

What types of information can you find on St. Mark's website ([www.stmarwb.org](http://www.stmarwb.org))?

- Monthly church calendars
- Sunday bulletins
- Weekly announcements
- Monthly newsletters
- About St. Mark's
- Event Registration Forms
- Those on Duty (scheduled to help out at church)

...and more! Check it out for all of your worship/  
church needs!



My  
HOPE  
Is built on  
Nothing less  
than

*Jesus' blood*

And righteousness

# APRIL 2024

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

For live, up-to-date versions of ANY St. Mark's calendar, visit our website at:  
[www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7pm - Elders' Mtg.		10 am Quilting Bee		
<b>7 2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pastor: Frank Pies <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 Special Voter's Meeting				10 am Quilting Bee		
<b>14 3rd Sunday of Easter</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
Pastor: Terry Nelson <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class				10 am Quilting Bee	DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	
<b>21 4th Sunday of Easter</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer <i>Assistant: Darryl Swainson</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		7pm - Council Mtg.		10 am Quilting Bee	DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	
<b>28 5th Sunday of Easter</b>	29	30				
Pastor: Frank Pies <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class						
<b>USHERS:</b>				<b>GREETERS:</b>		
7 Trent Johnson	<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> Leslie Oehring/Lori Whitehead <b>COUNTERS:</b> Jennie/Karen Kaufman			7 Gail Fitzgerald		
14 John Reardon				14 Kelly Lekas		
21 Matt Maier	21 Jennie/Karen K.					
28 Tom Kaufman		28 Cathy Fitzgerald				