



St. Mark's Lutheran Church *Messenger*

May 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!

Adult Bible Study for May 5th is Cancelled due to the Spring Clean-Up. It will resume May 12th after the Divine Service.

Spring Clean-Up is Scheduled for May 5th On Sunday, right after the Divine Church Service Chores include: removing Storm windows in Sanctuary and replacing them with screens, Washing the pews, and picking up garbage and sticks on the grounds. If you can pitch in and help, it would be appreciated.

Reminder: Mother's Day is May 12, 2024. A way that you can Honor or remember her is through a donation. The Donation will go to Carnations to all moms in the Congregation. Just fill out a pink slip and get it to the office by May 5th.

Dinner at St. Paul's is May 29th. We need everyone's help! We have to have food for 120 people and people to help serve. Please plan to be at St. Paul's by 5 p.m. for meal prep. Sign Up is posted by the entrance nearest to Church office.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

What's Inside...

1. Adult Bible Study on Sundays, Adult Bible Study Cancellation, Spring Clean-Up, St. Paul's Dinner
2. Quilting Bee, LWML Invitation, Toiletry/Hygiene- Open Door Donations, Continue to Collect for Wycliffe and MOST, Collecting Bottles/Cans for Ziah Town School
3. Outside of St. Mark's Anniversaries, Special Fund Donations, Transferred Membership
4. Church Council Minutes
5. Church Council Minutes (Con't)
6. Special Voter's Meeting
7. Special Voter's Meeting (Con't)
8. Church Calendar (insert)
9. Address Page

The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of:

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

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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

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 upstairs 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!

The **LWML Michigan District Convention** is JUNE and each church in the Multi Lakes Zone is asked to send TWO delegates. This is a WONDERFUL opportunity to introduce the women of your churches to just what the LWML does. We have the opportunity to decide where our LWML MITES are spent. There will be lots of wonderful speakers and breakout sessions where we hear about different ministries that the LWML has supported or is still supporting.

Just a reminder: Early Bird pricing (\$125) is closing on Monday, April 15th! After April 15th, registration increases to \$130.

If you still need to register, go to the LWML District website or follow the link <https://arrowheadconferencesandevents.regfox.com/lwml-michigan-district-2024>

If you're a **delegate or alternate** for your group, make sure the "Certification of Delegates" form is submitted to your Zone President on Monday, April 15th also!

If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Milutin (corumi0609@gmail.com) or Candie Sionkowski (csionkowski@gmail.com).

(Continued next column)

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER

– We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please leave ¼" of the paper around the stamp.

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.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

Mark's website, clicking the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

Outside of St. Mark's

There will be a Circuit Ascension Service on May 9th at St. Stephen's in Waterford. The Christ Lutheran Choir would like to invite any members from our sister congregations who would like to sing as part of a combined choir to join us on the following dates to rehearse for singing on the 9th.

Wednesday May 1, 2024 at 7pm
Wednesday May 8, 2024 at 7 pm
at Christ Lutheran Church.

We will also plan to run through the piece on May 9th at 6:30 pm at St. Stephen's in Waterford. Come join us as we work together in song to our Lord. Questions? Call Tim Prueter at 248-505-4507.

Lutheran Choralaires Spring Concert in support of Concordia University Ann Arbor

The Lutheran Choralaires, a men's chorus under the direction of noted Detroit area composer and arranger Terry Herald, will present their annual Spring Concert entitled "What Wondrous Love is This" on Saturday May 18th, 4:00PM at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154). Tickets are not necessary, however there will be a freewill offering. All proceeds will go to support the Concordia University Ann Arbor Music Department, and, Students In Need funds. For further information email info@lutheranchoralaires.org, or visit www.lutheranchoralaires.org.

(See Easter Plants, Page 4)

May's Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 28 Mel & Karen Maier Jr. | 36 years |
| 29 Arthur & Dorothy Vermeersch | 56 years |

May's Birthdays

- 2 Paula Albert
- 3 Carolynn Taylor
- 6 Kevin Hurley
- 9 Annetta Lekas, John Sidelinker
- 12 Gail Arnold
- 15 Penelope Tolman, Maia Zienert
- 16 Nancy Salo
- 17 Richard Schmaltz
- 21 Lauren Grech
- 22 Dennis Fitzgerald,
- 26 Frederick Arnold
- 28 Aaron O'Brien, Arthur Vermeersch
- 29 Rachel Hewson

Special Fund Donations for March:

Liberian School-Joe Boway:

Cathy Fitzgerald, Gail Fitzgerald, Dean & Sherry Hyrkas, Jennie Kaufman, Kelly Lekas, Mary Ann Lockwood, Nancy McInnis, Rod & Leslie Oehring, Pastor Pies, Lynn Thomas, Larry & Lori Whitehead

Sanctuary Remodeling: Nancy McInnis

Transferred Membership out:

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:

Kim, Richard, Marlene Mary Ann, Joan , Nancy, Lisa, Ian, Ed, Judy Chip, Rhea, Cheryl, Dale, Michael, Johnny, Kristy, Rick, Rich, Ron, Ray, Truman, Callie, Mary, Leonard, Peg, Sarah, John, Allen, Matt

For Those Who Lost Loved Ones Recently:

Church Council
Ministries Meeting Minutes—Summarized
March 19, 2024

Attendees: John Reardon, Trent Johnson, Lori Whitehead, Karen Kaufman, Darryl Swainson, Lillian Harmon

The meeting was called to Order: 7:15 p.m. ; We opened with prayer.

There was a motion to approve the Agenda for today and the Previous Minutes as submitted. It was Seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: John Reardon asked Trent Johnson, do you know anything about the CD in a notice sent from Genisys bank about the CD that is currently set to expire? (CD is set to expire and unless action is taken, set to automatically rollover for another 6 months.) Trent Johnson's reply was that he needs to talk with Kyle Albert and see what the status is.

Financial Secretary's Report: Lori Whitehead reports that St. Marks is Two Thousand dollar deficit and its only in Second week of March. Karen Kaufman - Since still have two weeks to go, hopefully receive ample to cover the \$2,000.

Calendar/Parish Report was reviewed. Calendar: It was observed that not much is happening in April other than the voter's meeting. Parish Report: Noted that the Powell family officially transferred; also, Visitors tracking was reviewed – thought it was a neat idea. (Implemented by Debbie LoCascio)

Elders & Call Committee Per Darryl Swainson a Board Vacancy Letter was sent to congregation.

Trent Johnson felt that the letter was straight forward and Karen Kaufman thought was nicely stated. Expressing the needs of St. Mark's. However he expressed his concerns regarding the lack of Elders and Other boards and whether we can fulfill the obligations to meet criteria for calling a dual pastor. Tom LoCascio provided list of churches in the area. LCMS doesn't provide lists for this situation. However, they are willing to make introductions.

Darryl Swainson is researching of possible addition of a fourth Pastor to the current rotation. Lori Whitehead expresses that maybe we should visit other churches of the Pastors being considered first to see if they align with St. Marks type of worship style.

Lori Whitehead was in contact with Pastor Vergin for an outline of Pastoral duties and submitted the letter for Council. Everyone read the letter. There was a round the table discussion to see if a lay person could fulfill any of the items listed. There were a few. Example: Bible Study, etc.; Karen Kaufman stated that there are not enough people to fulfill roles. Her hopes are that people will come forward to do more. The Council and Call Committee decided to conduct a Special Voter's Meeting April 7 after the Church Service to discuss further. Per Trent Johnson: Call Committee will provide the Agenda for the meeting.

Ascension Service on Thursday 5/9 @ 7:00 p.m. Darryl Swainson will ask if any of the Pastor's would be willing to preside over the Service.

Family & Youth: Easter Egg Hunt: Stuffing Eggs on 3/23 helpers needed. Accepting donations of pre-wrapped candy & plastic eggs. Trent Johnson asked for the time and Lori Whitehead responded that it would be 10:00 am.

Debbie LoCascio was giving thought to a simpler VBS this year. Researching options.

Human Care: Karen Kaufman reports that St. Paul's Dinner is in May- there will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers coming after Easter.

Parish Fellowship: Per John Reardon Easter Breakfast Potluck Sign-up sheet has been posted.

Properties: Per Lori Whitehead: new valves have been replaced by Mastercraft. They were great. Showed up when they said they would and on time. They did a great job.

Trent Johnson states that the Sanctuary windows repair/cleaning/maintenance will be done when it gets warmer outside. Also, Spring Clean-up is on schedule for May 5th after Church.

Trent Johnson continues that he is looking for additional people to mow the lawn this summer. If we can get six people, that is all that is needed for the summer.

LWML: Leslie Oehring provided information for an invitation, open for everyone, to be included in the bulletin regarding upcoming event at St. Matthew's in Walled Lake. Its topic is about a recent Mission Trip to India that was taken. The presentation is on Monday, April 1st at 7:00 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

Board Nominations: John Reardon pulled out the ballot box.

Church Council
Ministries Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024

NEW BUSINESS:

FYI: Lauren Maier-Grech is having her baby shower here on Saturday, May 4th from 12:30 -3:30 p.m.

Discussion: Vanco vs. Kindrid . Lori Whitehead reports that the Church used Vanco in the past according to Debbie LoCascio. LCMS urged everyone to switch to Kindrid. If they did, they would pay for half of the fees. Well approximately a year ago, LCMS changed their policy and wouldn't pay the fees any longer. At first glance, it appears that Kindrid would be cheaper, however, the cost of the fees for using the service is higher with Kindrid than with Vanco. St. Mark's would save \$45.00 per month by switching back. Only Caveat would be that if we weren't in compliance with Vanco there would be PCI compliance fee. Lori states that we are already in compliance with Vanco so it is not an issue. This change would not happen overnight. It would take two to three months after voter approval. Congregation has to be notified and change their accounts to instate their contributions through the new company. Motion was made by Trent Johnson to agree to the change from Kindrid to Vanco. Karen Kaufman second. Vote was conducted and unanimously approved to make the change.

Questions:

Need approval to add Lori Whitehead to GeniSys Master Checking, Savings, Youth Group Checking and Certificate accounts.

Trent Johnson states that we thought that was completed after the January meeting. He apologized.

Lillian Harmon explained that it would be better, since Lori is doing Kindrid. She would need access to the Bank information.

Also, we need copy of council minutes showing approval to remove Debbie LoCascio from PNC Safe Deposit box and add Lillian Harmon and Lori Whitehead. So we need Council approval.

Motion was made by Trent Johnson to agree to Add Lori Whitehead to all the Bank accounts at Genisys and

Remove Debbie LoCascio from PNC Safe Deposit box and add Lillian Harmon and Lori Whitehead there.

John Reardon Second the Motion. Vote conducted and were in unanimous agreement.

Office Record Retention: Office filing cabinets are getting full what to keep and what not to...Where do we store those that are kept. Darryl Swainson will contact the Synod to see if he can get any answers.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment at ____ 8:32_____ p.m.; Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Minutes Respectfully submitted by:

Lillian Harmon for Nancy McInnis

Special Congregational Meeting:

April 7, 2024

John Reardon and Trent Johnson were facilitating.

Pastor Frank Pies attending as a guest to provide prayers and answer any questions regarding a Pastors office and duties.

Attendees: 21

A copy of agenda and of Article 7- The Office of Pastor was given to all attendees.

John Reardon and Trent Johnson from Call Committee Addresses the people of congregation.

Agenda:

1. The reason for calling the meeting was to update the congregation on filling the Pastoral vacancy.
2. Determine. Course of action (if there are any changes).
3. Identify pastoral responsibilities and those responsibilities which our lay people will handle.
4. Vote on nominations submitted to fill board roles.

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m.

Pastor Pies opened with a word of prayer.

Update from John Reardon and Trent Johnson:

After working through the process of getting a Pastor for a Dual Congregation is very complicated.

The Challenges are:

- Defining what roles Pastor must do vs. What a lay person could perform.
- Do we have people that would perform these tasks if asked?

The people reviewed and discussed Article 7- The Office of Pastor that was distributed prior to the meeting.

Discussion:

There was a need to define by the congregation, what they felt, was important that a Pastor had to fill: Example being preparing and presiding over worship, performing funerals and burials etc. The appointed lay person would teach Bible Study etc.

A letter was previously sent out to the congregation asking if they would seriously consider filling an open spot on one of the boards. Unfortunately, there was little response.

The last voter's meeting, the congregation voted to pursue a dual Pastor position. Trent Johnson visited two different congregations asking if they would entertain the idea of sharing a Pastor. They turned him away. Boards are not filled; some are completely vacant. The thought was that to a prospect, there is no support in place, and it would be too much for a Pastor to perform the required duties for two congregations. In order, to continue to pursue the Dual Pastor idea, we felt the need to discuss with the congregation the role that the dual Pastor would perform and to try to shore up the boards to show we are putting our best foot forward in showing the Prospective Pastor, that we are and willing to support him.

A comment from a member stating that because of the age of most of the people in the congregation, it is difficult to do any more than what is being done.

A question was asked: why can't we have a full-time Pastor?

The answer was monetary. There is not enough income to pay for a full-time Pastor's salary and expenses.

Special Congregational Meeting:

April 7, 2024 continued

Going back to the listing of responsibilities of a Pastor: Feelings were expressed about the deficits that are lacking in the ability to perform in such roles.

Another member pointed out that part of the problem discussed is that a lot of the activities have stopped; There is nothing to attract the Youth. There is a great turn out for programs such as Vacation Bible School, but the feeling is that the parents are using VBS as a babysitting service.

The Call Committee does have a couple of congregations in mind which are on the short list. However, they want to be sure that before approaching these congregations, that everyone has an opportunity and a mutual understanding of what the expectations are. Also, that we are in a good position and are putting the best foot forward toward achieving the goal of getting a dual Pastor to agree to be the next Pastor. It was mentioned to keep in mind that they have to find a good match which includes the qualifications that match as close as possible to the values and beliefs that are instilled at St. Mark's.

Board Member Announcement:

John Reardon reviewed the Constitution and By-Laws and discovered that he can appoint a person to a Board. Sarah Dwyer has volunteered and has been accepted as a member on the Board of Youth.

The people asked if anyone else would care to volunteer for any other board....
Lori and Larry Whitehead volunteered to be on the Board of Properties.

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment was at 11:50 a.m.

Pastor Pies closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lillian Harmon, Church Secretary for Nancy McInnis

MAY 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				10 am Quilting Bee		Grech Baby Shower 12:30-3:30 pm
5 6th Sun. of Easter	6	7	8	9 Ascension Day	10	11
Pastor: Terry Nelson Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Spring Clean-Up		7pm - Elders' Mtg.		10 am Quilting Bee		
12 7th Sun. of Easter	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer Assistant: Tom LoCascio 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class				10 am Quilting Bee	DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	
19 Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24	25
Armed Forces Day Pastor: Frank Pies Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		7pm - Council Mtg.		10 am Quilting Bee	DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	
26 The Holy Trinity	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	
Pastor: Terry Nelson Assistant: Tom LoCascio 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class	Office Closed		St. Paul's Dinner (H.C.)	10 am Quilting Bee		
USHERS:				GREETERS:		
5 John Reardon				5 Mary Ann Lockwood		
12 Matt Maier	ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Sidelinker			12 Ellen Rentola		
19 Tom Kaufman	COUNTERS: Nancy Salo/Carolynn Taylor			19 Gail Fitzgerald		
26 Trent Johnson				26 Jennie/Karen Kaufman		

St. Mark's

7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Website: www.stmarkwb.org

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)?

- Monthly church calendars
- Sunday bulletins
- Weekly announcements
- Monthly newsletters
- About St. Mark's

