



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Messenger

January 2025



Thank you to those who took the time to decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas! It is very beautiful!

UN-DECORATING THE CHURCH
Volunteers are needed on JANUARY 4
at 10 am to put away all the decorations from Advent and Christmas!
Your help is appreciated!

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING – Will be held on Sunday, January 12, following the Divine Service, we will be holding Special Voters' Meeting in the basement Fellowship Hall. The agenda will be deciding where we go from here. All church members are encouraged to attend! Please mark this important date on your calendars now and plan to attend, if possible.

Thank you Trent Johnson! Trent has been very active at St. Marks over the years; with his last position, he has finished his three year term as the Vice President on Church Council. Sadly, he has announced that at the start of the new year he and his family are moving their membership to another congregation. We wish him and his family, God's blessings. He will be greatly missed.

What's Inside...

1. Thank you , Un-Decorate the Church, Special Voter's Meeting, Thank you Trent Johnson
2. Election Results, Flower Fund, Quilting Bee, Toiletry & Hygiene Open Door, We Continue to Collect Stamps & used eyeglasses, Collecting Cans for Jim Boway
3. Thank you , Thought & Prayer List, Special Fund Donations, Anniversaries & Birthdays, Transfers; Poinsettias
- 4-6. November Council Meeting Minutes – June 2024
- 7-9 Congregational Meeting Minutes– June 2024
10. We Are Not Alone Conference
11. Happy New Year
12. Calendar

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.
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
followed by
Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.
Handicap Accessible

The Votes have been counted and Election Results are in:

Larry Whitehead has been voted in as the new **Vice-President for Council**. He will also be helping with work to be done as a member of properties.

Lori Whitehead will be chairing properties.

Barbara Jewel will be on **Gospel Outreach**.

Sarah Dwyer officially has been seated as head of **Family and Youth**.

Thank you for volunteering your time and talents!

FLOWER FUND: The Flower fund is just about depleted. We need your help to replenish it. Any amount would be appreciated. Please help keep our Altar beautiful on Sundays, not only during advent, but during the upcoming year. Please place your donations in envelope labeled flower fund. Thank you



QUILTING BEE ON
Please note: The Quilting Bees are going into hibernation (taking a break)! They will be off for January and will be bizzzy once

again Beginning February 6.

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

(Continued next column)

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 1/4" 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. Mark's website, clicking the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)



Thank you to all who donated to the Adopt –A-Family for Christmas.

We were able to obtain the following items for the family:
Bike; Colored pencils; sketch pad;
Artist Paint Kit; Stretched Canvasses;
Teen Cooking 101; Culinary arts workbook;
Amazon gift card; Fender Guitar Kit; stand; gig case; strap; extra strings;
Roller Blades; Knee, wrist & elbow pads;
Hoodie sweater top; long 2 sleeve tees
Thank you for your generosity. These children will have a brighter Christmas because of you!

Special Fund Donations : We want to thank those who made special donations: Liberian School-Joe Boway: Lynn Thomas

Sanctuary Remodeling:

Nancy McInnis

Anniversaries

None

Birthdays

21: Sarah Dwyer
24: Cathy Fitzgerald; Leslie Oehring
27: Sandy Krus, Gaberiel Peters
31: Thomas Kaufman

(See Page 4)

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

For Our church members:

Barbara Jewell , Nancy McInnis

Shut—Ins

Julia Ligon, Art Vermeersch

Carl & Carol Zienert

Family & friends:

Michael, Truman Duggin, Jim Copola,
Lisa, Evelyn Davis, Carl Feiler,
Mickey Smith, Ed Kempisty,
Chip Cryderman, Kristy Fresh,
Peg Metzger, Patricia Chipps; Aaron and his family

Pointsettias Placed for Advent & Christmas

IN MEMORY OF:

Irv., Rick, Jim & Rob Burnett by Diane Burnett

Del Joslin by Kay Joslin

Marvin Kaufman by Jennie Kaufman

Marvin Kaufman by Kaufman, Krus & Hart Families

Nick & Annetta Lekas by Nick and Kelly Lekas

Jean Bowman & Merk Oehring by Rod & Leslie Oehring

Frank Salo by Nancy Salo

Marwin & Mary Jane Degners, Robert & Lois Head, Denise Ann Whitehead & Harold & Olive Whitehead
By Larry & Lori Whitehead

IN HONOR OF:

Jeff Adams by Diane Burnett

Our Daughter's and their Families by Dean & Sherry Hyrkas

The Family by Jennie Kaufman

Jennie Kaufman by Kaufman, Krus & Hart Families

Sherry & Dean Hyrkas by Nick & Kelly Lekas

Jeffrey & Michael by Mary Ann Lockwood

Truman Duggin, Victor & Chrsity Whitehead

By Larry & Lori Whitehead

Thank you!

**Church Council
Ministry Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024**

Attendees: John Reardon, Trent Johnson, Darryl Swainson, Karen Kaufman, Lori Whitehead, Sarah Dwyer, Barbara Jewell, Lillian Harmon

Call to Order: 7:02 pm. John Reardon opened with a word of Prayer.

Agenda Additions: Wish to add to Call Committee section: Lori Whitehead's suggestions Motion made to accept Agenda with amendment. Motion was seconded and passed.

Previous Minutes: Motion made to accept previous minutes as presented. Motion seconded and passed.

Calendar/Parish Report: Counters Schedule has changed for December: Volunteers are needed for the Sundays in December. Calendar will be changed to reflect this.

Vice President's Report: Since, at the end of December, Trent's time at Council is ending: Trent officially thanked the Council for the opportunity to work with them and congregation in this capacity. He will not be seeking re-election.

BOARD REPORTS

Elders & Call Committee per Darryl

□ Church Services ○ Advent – Per Pastor Moyer there will be a rotating schedule to be distributed services will be conducted at **7:00 p.m.** The schedule is as follows:

December 04 at Faith Lutheran Church, 3501 E. Highland Road, Highland Twp.

December 11 at Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Road, Milford

December 18 at Peace Lutheran Church, 7390 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford

- Christmas Eve/Day- There will be a Christmas Eve 6 pm and Christmas Day service 10 am at St. Marks.

Also, Pastor Moyer has accepted a call in Florida. Dan Meckes will be our contact until further notice.

Parish Fellowship

Properties :

- F-150 Truck not working. It just needs a jump start. It will be worked on this week and the plow will be remounted on the truck.

LWML –

- Multi-Lakes Zone LWML Fall Rally was held on Saturday, November 9th from 9 am – 1 pm. This was held at: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lake Orion

Call Committee: Reviewed our current options. We have totally exhausted our options under the current guidelines set by the congregation. Lori Whitehead made some alternative compelling points that will be presented to the congregation on December 1st.

Family & Youth: Sarah Dwyer inquired as to how many children are currently a part of the congregation. It was mentioned 5-6 children ages range from 9 and under. She also stated that to bring the youth back, you might have to think outside the box....

Gospel Outreach: Barbara Jewell stated that she would like to advertise in newspapers. It was suggested, by John Reardon, that if we do, just limit to the local Paper, the Beacon. Dar-ryl mention that it is very expensive to advertise these days. Canvassing the neighborhood? It didn't work in the past despite all the efforts. Also, it was not easy to walk the neighborhood without sidewalks. Also, now, people are hanging no solicitation signs on their doors.

Human Care

- St. Marks has adopted 5 Children for Christmas, (Through Open Door). Currently collecting monetary donations instead of congregation actually purchasing gifts because of type of gifts requested. Children elected one big gift each, instead of smaller gifts. They wouldn't be able to afford on their own.
- The Father's Hands Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are ongoing

OLD BUSINESS

Computers: Have now been purchased. Kyle's computer was first and a month later Lilli's computer began to act up again, so it was replaced.

Budget was reviewed some more discussion as to the final numbers for next year.

First year that Lilli ever did a budget, so guidance was needed as to content. A revised corrected copy will be presented to Trent for review prior to the Voter's meeting.

Special Voter's Meeting- Council is in planning stages at the moment for an agenda.

What to do about the vacancies on Boards, how do we conduct business?

How to move forward

Nominations - none, as of yet, were submitted

NEW BUSINESS

Door Hydraulic Closer for main door by office, has to be fixed. Only 2 screws holding onto the Door Closer. Other screws: 1 was stripped and other head broken off with stem still in the hole. Also oil was leaking out of the closer. Need to be fixed immediately. Lilli called for quotes... Called 5 businesses, only 3 responded.

Redford Safe and Lock came in with a bid of between \$709.00 for lighter Closer and \$874.00 for a heavier closer. This is also without them coming out to assess the door. They stated it might be less.

UPDATE: Redford Safe and Lock repaired our entry door on East side of the building near office. HD Closer was replaced and we fixed the issue with latching mechanism at the top of the door as it was sticking and not working correctly upon locking. Total Bill was \$613.

Veteran Program: John Reardon suggested finding someone to run a series open to people that has Military experience to run here at St. Mark's. The hope is that it would attract a younger demographic and hopefully through this would attract interest in the congregation. Darryl Swainson suggested to speak with Pastor Zwonitzer as he has a similar interest and study.

Meeting ended with Lord's prayer and adjourned at 9:26 pm

Next Meeting:

Sunday, December 1st voter's meeting 10:45 am

Council : Tuesday, January 21st 7 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lillian Harmon,
on behalf of Nancy McInnis

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 2, 2024

21 People were in attendance.

The Agenda, Previous Minutes from December 3rd and April 7th Meetings were handed out along with the Parish Report prior to the meeting.

Call to Order by President John Reardon.

Opening Prayer was conducted by Pastor Pies, Emeritus

There wasn't anything in addition to Agenda.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

December 3, 2023: A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

April 7, 2024 (Special Voter's Meeting): was next on the Agenda; The congregation present, paused to read the Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented. It was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President's Report by Trent Johnson: Any Young Adult programs are on hold for now. Nothing else to report.

Treasurer's Report by Kyle Albert: Kyle was absent. **Trent Reported:** 62k CD will be reinvested and the monies cashed in by Feed My Lambs and The Endowment fund will be added to the CD for another 13 months. We are able to stay within our budget. However, we have some bigger bills: Mei Elevator Inspection, Adam's Fire Protection- Inspects, tests and replaces Fire Extinguishers in the building.

Financial Secretary's Report by Lori Whitehead: Donations are down by 5k.

Parish Report **Provided by John Reardon:** We gained a member with infant baptisms of Penelope Tolman & Jason Grech. We lost Helga Gonzales in January and 2 other families. Since then we have been maintaining our membership and we have had some visitors come in as well.

Human Resources Report: Vacant board; nothing to report

Public Relations Report: Vacant board; nothing to report

BOARD REPORTS

Assimilation & Stewardship: **Vacant board;** nothing to report

Con't. page 8

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 2, 2024 (con't.)

Elders: Darry Swainson Reports: That we are very fortunate to have our current vacancy Pastors. Currently in talks and finalizing a 4th Pastor in the rotation. His name is Mark Arendell, Pastor Emeritus from St. Peter's Lutheran in Macomb.

Family & Youth: Sarah Dwyer Absent; Discussion about VBS by various people stating that they understood that VBS maybe pairing up with another congregation. Pastor Tkac, from Peace Lutheran, was talking about 3 days? Still not sure.

Gospel Outreach by John Reardon: Doesn't really have anything to report. We were talking about trying to invite the community through VBS and have a cookout and outside service. But since VBS maybe joining up with Peace Lutheran. Have to reassess.

Human Care: Karen Kaufman Absent. Leslie Oehring states:

Thank you to all who Helped donate and/or served at St. Paul's Dinner. We helped feed 30+ people.

Bottle Collection is still on going all proceeds to go to the Jim Boway fund.

We still are collecting used postage stamps as well as used glasses for Wycliffe Translators thru MOST Ministries.

Sending cards out to those in the Medilodge, for Valentines, Easter and during Spring time. Send about 30 cards at a time.

Parish Fellowship: Nancy McInnis absent;

Contemplating whether or not to have Outdoor service and BBQ after. See Family & Youth above.

Phone Call Ministry in full swing. If there is no answering, starting to send something in the mail. Would request updated listing without deceased people still on the list.

Properties: by Trent Johnson:

Thank you to all who have volunteered to Plow and Mow this year.

The F150 is in need of repair or replacement. Needs to be taken to a repair shop to evaluate issues with it.

Mei Elevator has been in to inspect and do maintenance on the Elevator.

Adam's Fire Protection Company has been in and inspected, tested and replaced as well as tagged all our Fire Extinguishers.

Boiler is next. No time frame available at this time.

LWML by Leslie Oehring:

LWML did not have a rally this year to unforeseen issues.

Quilts are going great! All the quilters are working hard! Lynn Thomas, who lives out of town, came back and worked hard from 7 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon.

She even replaced one of the machines that broke down. Over 40 quilts have now been completed.

Con't. page 9

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
June 2, 2024 (con't.)

OLD BUSINESS

Call Committee Update/Service times discussion by Darryl Swainson:

Had a list narrowed to 2 churches. Both turned us down. Both, Pastors are closing in on retirement and not comfortable possibly putting the new Pastor in this type of predicament.

1 Pastor wanted to discuss Worship time. Which was mentioned. We may have to be flexible as to our time, or day of, worship. Darryl put the question to the members:

What times do you think would be appropriate? The members discussed and decided it is best to table that question and tailor it to the Pastor of choice.

Just wanted reassure everyone that we are working hard and still exploring all the other possible candidates on our listing, that are within 30 minutes of our church.

NEW BUSINESS

Comments:

Pastor Zwonitzer thinks that our church is in good shape and has a lot of Potential.

Recommends working on increasing membership to 40 people and try again to call a Pastor

Consider updating the Vestibule and Sanctuary Altar

Barbara Jewell asked if there can be a midweek bible study. John and Trent stated they will consider the suggestion.

Adjournment a motion to adjourn was made at 11:35 am by Lori Whitehead. It was seconded. Motion was unanimously agreed.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Lillian Harmon on behalf of Nancy McInnis

We Are Not Alone: Engaging Your Community Together

February 1, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church,
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy Lansing, MI, 48917
8:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Have you ever felt isolated in your walk with Jesus? Have you felt like the Church is in decline and your congregation is shrinking and struggling?

Maybe you've experienced the weight of Elijah's words *"The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too"* (1 Kings 19:10b NIV).

We all have moments of doubt and despair, especially when we feel like we're standing alone. But just as God assured Elijah, *"I have reserved 7,000 in Israel who have not bowed down to Baal,"* He reminds us that we are never truly alone. There are countless brothers and sisters in Christ—many more than we realize—who are also committed to the work of the Gospel.

If you're looking for encouragement, spiritual renewal, and practical ways to connect with others in ministry, don't miss this year's Theological Conference, titled "We Are Not Alone." Join us as we discover the power of community in the body of Christ. You are not alone.

Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Jeff Cloeter
Dr. Rachel Ferguson
Rev. Dr. Joel Okamoto
Mrs. Sherri Huston
Rev. David A. Davis - Moderator

Register online at \$35/General \$25/Student
michigandistrict.org/theological25 michigandistrict.org/theological25



Happy NEW YEAR!

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



2025

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 New Years Day	2	3	4
			OFFICE CLOSED			Undecorate the Church 10:00 a.m.
5 2nd Sun. aft. Christmas	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10	11
Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		Elder's Meeting 7 pm				
12 1st Sun. aft. Epiphany	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pastor: Mark Arendell 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion 10:45 am Special Voter's Meeting					NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	
19 2nd Sun. aft. Epiphany	20 Martin Luther King Jr.,	21	22	23	24	25
Pastor: Terry Nelson Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		Church Council 7 p.m.			DISTRIBUTE NEWSLETTER	
26 3rd Sun. aft. Epiphany	27	28	29	30	31	
Pastor: Frank Pies 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion Installation of Servants 10:45 am Adult Bible Class						
Serving Schedules		USHERS:	ALTAR GUILD:	GREETERS:	COUNTERS:	
		05 John Reardon 12 Matt. Maier 19 Tom Kaufman 26 John Reardon	Barb Allen	05 Mary Ann Lockwood 12 Gail Fitzgerald 19 Jennie Kaufman 26 Mary Ann Lockwood	Barbara Jewell	