



St. Mark's Lutheran Church Messenger

APRIL 2025



PEACE LUTHERAN, CONTINUES HOSTING LENT MID WEEK SERVICES INTO APRIL. APRIL 2ND AND 9TH.



St. Mark's will have Holy Week Services provided as follows:

Palm Sunday: April 13th

at 9:30 am as a Remembrance of God's Triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday: April 17 at 7:00 pm

This includes Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday: April 18 at 7:00 pm We observe this night with the Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness) as we remember the Crucifixion of our Lord.

Then on Sunday, **April 20th** at 9:30 am We gather to remember and celebrate **The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter).** Followed by **Easter Potluck Breakfast.**

It is our prayer that you and yours will be able to join us and that it will find meaning.

COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET WITH CONGREGATION...Select Council members visited other congregations and have met with the congregation on March 16th as to the Candidates they felt best align with St. Marks. The congregation voted and has agreed to open dialogue with the top 3 candidate Churches to see if it

What's Inside...

1. Lent Midweek Services continue, Holy Week Schedule, Council members Meet with Congregation
2. Council members Meet with congregation con't., Quilting Bee, LWML Co-Chair Needed, LWML Multi-Lakes Spring Rally, 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,
- 4-5 Council Ministry Meeting Minutes
- 6-7 Special Voter's Meeting Minutes
8. LCMS Christian Counselor
9. 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

would be a viable option to merge. The Congregation will be updated with progress as it becomes available.

QUILTING BEE :St. Mark's Missionary League continues to seek donations of sheets and blankets to be used to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have any gently-used sheets or blankets that you are no longer using, please consider donating them to this cause! Items can be left next to the Secretary's office and they will be forwarded to the Quilters.

LADIES OF ST. MARK'S: The LWML Multi Lakes Zone is in need of a Co-Chair as the current one has had to resign. Our zone is in need of a delegate for the National convention in Omaha, NE in June. If you have any interest in these positions, please call Leslie Oehring for further information. Thank you!

LWML – MULTI – LAKES ZONE SPRING RALLY is being held on Saturday, April 5th at Hope Lutheran 7355 W. Silver Lake Rd., Linden, MI 48451. It will run from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. It will include: Continental Breakfast and Lunch (to be determined), they intend to have Loose Senior Choir at the event. They also will be collecting "Pay It Forward" non-perishable food items. They request that you register by calling: 810-735-4807 by March 30th.

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

(Continued next column)

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)

We want to thank those who made special donations:

Liberian School-Joe Boway:

Lynn Thomas





Birthdays:

- 5 Hannah Williams
- 6 Barbara Jewell
- 7 Andrew Veermeersch
- 11 Haley Benson
- 15 Chris Gerard
- 22 Rose Mielke
- 25 Sophia Hurley
- 27 Steven Allen

Anniversaries:

- 9 Darryl & Jean Swainson
- 28 Jacob & Lauren Grech

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IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

For Our church members:

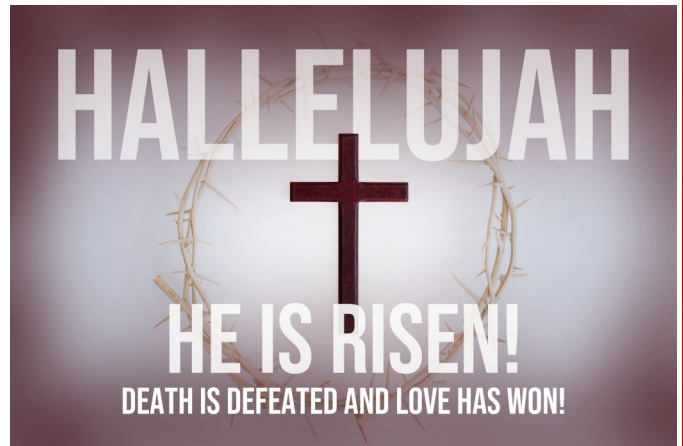
Barbara Jewell , Nancy McInnis
Dorothy Vermeersch

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;



**Church Council
Business Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025**

Attendees: John Reardon, Larry Whitehead, Darryl Swainson, Lori Whitehead, Karen Kaufman, Barbara Jewell, Lillian Harmon sitting in on behalf of Nancy McInnis

Call to Order by John Reardon 7:05 pm and Opened with Prayer

Any additions to Agenda? John Reardon made a suggestion to suspend the regular order of business to discuss Merger items and revisit regular business at the end of the meeting instead. Darryl Swainson made the motion and Larry Whitehead seconded.

Previous Minutes submitted by Lillian Harmon for December and January were reviewed and motion made and seconded to accept the submissions as written

Treasurer's Report submitted by Kyle Albert (absent) was reviewed

Financial Secretary's Report submitted by Lori Whitehead was reviewed

Parish Report & March's Church Calendar submitted by Lillian Harmon was reviewed

Vice President's Report by Larry Whitehead. Property has been plowed.

Board Reports

Assimilation & Stewardship – No report

Elders Report by Darryl Swainson. Kathy Wong is joining the Congregation.

Family & Youth by Sarah Dwyer. Absent. No Report

Gospel Outreach by John Reardon. No Report

Human Care by Karen Kaufman. No Report

Parish Fellowship Nancy McInnis. No Report

Properties Lori Whitehead

Elevator was inspected by the state inspector on January 6th and failed;

Received a letter from the State saying that we still owed them re-inspection fee which was paid already. Lillian was in contact with the state and it was verified that they did receive the payment. Lillian also inquired about the re-inspection nothing is happening at the moment. Lillian is getting back to Mei Elevator and the Inspector himself to see what else can be done as all repairs have been made. Current Documents have been placed in the Elevator room. Josh from Mei has contacted us via email and stated that they will be back in March and will inspect everything and send report back to state.

The main entry doors need new weather stripping as the old is not good any longer. Properties is aware of the situation.

50 lb. bag of new salt has been purchased and put in Closet near the door to parking lot.

LWML Leslie Oehring – No Report

Council Minutes for February 2025 Con't.

Merger:

meeting on 1/22 with Pastors Meckes and Johnson went well. Darryl Swainson was provided with some information regarding the congregations. Which was provided to Council Members. Lori Whitehead compiled a listing of active congregants using their addresses and zip codes to pin down the churches that are closest to the people in the area. The following are the churches that were selected first based on that data: Faith, Highland Christ Lutheran, Milford and Peace Lutheran, Waterford.

On February 9th:

John Reardon Visited Faith, Highland:

Darryl Swainson Visited Christ Lutheran, Milford

Larry & Lori Whitehead Visited Peace Lutheran, Waterford

Round table discussion regarding to the visits to each of the congregations. Discussion included a comparison of worship style, friendliness, bible study, congregational involvement and overall layout and condition of the properties.

After some discussion, Council held a brainstorm session as to what the next steps should be. John Reardon suggested reporting to the congregation and setting up a date for a congregational meeting. At the last Congregational Meeting, the congregation gave a mandate to Council to **“Investigate and report back to the congregation”**. Darryl Swainson, Karen Kaufman and Lori Whitehead suggested the date of having the congregational meeting on March 16, 2025 following the service. It was suggested to send a letter out with information on the Congregations visited so everyone would be familiar with discussion and hopefully have a vote to secure the ability to take the next steps. Also need permission by congregation to pursue Merger if that is still their choice.

OLD BUSINESS

Convention will be held on June 21, 22, 23 of 2025. As of now, John Reardon will be the delegate to go.

Truck having issues 4- wheel drive doesn't work. Leaking fluid. Larry and Lori Whitehead will contact All Tire to see if they can fix the issue with the 4 - wheel drive and fluid leak.

NEW BUSINESS

Lori made the motion to adjourn. Karen seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting:

Special Congregational Voter's Meeting: March 16, 2025 10:45 a.m.

Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment at 8:54 p.m.; Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by: Lillian Harmon on behalf of Nancy McInnis

Special Voters' Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2025

of Voters in Attendance: 20

John Reardon, President; Darryl Swainson, Chairman - Elder

Opening Prayer by Pastor Mark Arendell at 10:30 am

DISCUSS POSSIBLE OPTIONS OF CALL OR MERGER

John Reardon explains reasons for convening.

They are:

The mandate that the congregation currently had given: Investigating the feasibility of whether St. Marks could be provided with a Dual Parish Pastor or not, was never officially lifted after exhaustive exploration. Unfortunately, it was found not feasible.

Then following up with the overall decision of whether or not we should attempt to call a Seminarian Student, 3rd Year or try to merge with another congregation.

John Reardon and Darryl Swainson: Together reviewed with the congregation the copy of the slide presentation that was presented at the last congregational meeting. A copy was provided for people to follow along as it was reviewed.

It was mentioned that at the Council meeting there were 2 Guest Pastors: Meckes and Johnson. They are well versed as to defining the positions, the same positions being reviewed during the voter's meeting today, and they also are familiar as what the Missouri Synod would consider feasible when matching up candidates with congregations making the calls. One of which is the viability of the congregation, the other, sustainability: ability to support the called candidate not just spiritually but financially and administratively.

After Council finished having the discussion all the Council, but one, felt that we didn't see an alternative other than merging and as such, the reaction was that a letter should go out, which was sent to the congregation, recommending investigating merging.

Extensive conversation ensued:

Congregation reminded that we have about \$132,000 which is only good for one year

Reviewed the idea of calling Seminarian Pastor- John Reardon reminding the congregation pro's and con's. He Also mentions that it would be unfair to extend call, uprooting family and only be able to be here one year. Lori Whitehead stated her belief that our income is sustainable.

John continues: It may take more than a year for congregation to bounce back. May not have enough funding for beyond a year. Also what happens if we lose more people, they leave or worse they die? Our financing decreases.

Question as to whether a discussion was conducted with our current Vacancy Pastors as to how long can they continue. Darryl Swainson stated not with all but Pastor Pies and Pastor Arendell were asked. It was mentioned that Pastor Pies though supports our congregation, he is spread thin and has other issues and he and others have other obligations as well.

Discussion ensued to merger topic. Questions included trying in the past. Why didn't it happen?

St. Mark's backed out due to feeling like it was going to be an acquisition instead of a merger. Really afterthought was personality issues may have gotten in the way.

Clarification as to the definitions of the terms merger vs. acquisition were reviewed:

Merger: the combining of two entities: churches in this case, with all that is owned by both and make them one creating something brand new with a mutual agreement. It will be a give and take.

Acquisition: Take over; with little or no say as to what happens after.

Also, someone asked what would happen if it was decided to dissolve?

All assets would be returned to Synod.

Sarah Dwyer mentions that everyone needs to be on the same page regarding merger vs. acquisition definition so that we understand what everyone is voting for. Also, Barb Allen mentions that if we go forward with investigating a merger, that we should get a profile on each congregation being considered, which would be beneficial in the long run. Another mentions that even if there is a merger there may be some that elect to go somewhere else. John confirmed that he realizes it too.

A motion by Tom Kaufman was made to investigate a merger and allow council to proceed in investigating a merger then report back to the congregation.

Darryl commenting that Council would be conducting this investigation together. It was seconded by Rod Oehring.

Motion passed with majority vote. 1 stating no.
A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and passed.
Adjournment was at 11:45 am and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lillian Harmon, Church Secretary, on behalf of Nancy McInnis, Recording Secretary

LCMS Christian Counselor

Richard Tino, is a Intern Christian Counselor Working under the supervision of Laurie Lawlor-Clark LMSW While Richard is offering Lutheran Counseling to those who are interested, Mind Over Matters Therapy is a private practice that welcomes and serves all people without bias or judgment.

Background:

LCMS Christian Counselor Richard Tino served as an ordained LCMS Pastor for 28 years. Throughout his service he gained nearly 3 decades of pastoral counseling experience. Physical disability caused early retirement from his pastoral ministry but now he serves as a fully trained mental-health-trained Christian Counselor. He is currently completing his internship as the final requirement for receiving his State license. In addition to currently completing his master's degree in Mental Health Counseling, Richard has a Master of Divinity and two Master of Sacred Theology degrees, one from each of our seminaries. Richard is fully equipped to provide you with sound Christian counseling grounded by a rock-solid Lutheran foundation, no matter what you are enduring: Grief, depression, suicidal thoughts, poor self-worth, marriage problems, enduring chronic pain or affliction, anxiety, anger, questions about God, questions about why we suffer or why children suffer or why God allows the world to be the way it is. There ARE answers!

Through his own afflictions, and constant study, Richard can help you in unison with your Pastor. He offers online and in-office counseling with flexible hours, days and evenings, both weekdays and Saturdays. Call Richard at:

Mind Over Matters Therapy
202 W. Shiawassee Suite 215
Fenton, MI 48430 810-404-3706 or 810-449-7660

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

APRIL 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	2	3	4	5
		Elder's Meeting 7 pm		10 am Quilting Bee		
6 Lent 5 (Judica)	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pastor: Mark Arendell Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class				10 am Quilting Bee		
13 PALM SUNDAY	14	15	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class				10 am Quilting Bee Divine Service at 7 pm with Communion Pastor Frank Pies Assitant: Darryl Swainson NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	Tenebrae Service 7 pm Pastor Terry Nelson Assistant: Darryl Swainson OFFICE CLOSED OBSV.	
20 Resurrection of our Lord	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer Assistant: Darryl Swainson 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Easter Breakfast				10 am Quilting Bee	Church Council 7 p.m. DISTRIBUTE NEWSLETTER	
27 Easter 1	28	29	30			
Pastor: Mark Arendell 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class						
<i>Serving Schedules</i>		USHERS:	ALTAR GUILD:	GREETERS:	COUNTERS:	
		06 Matt Maier 13 Tom Kaufman 17 John Reardon 18 Matt Maier 20 Tom Kaufman 27 John Reardon	Leslie Oehring & Lori Whitehead	06 Mary Ann Lockwood 13 Jennie & Karen Kaufman 17 Cathy Fitzgerald 18 Gail Fitzgerald 20 Kelly Lekas 27 Mary Ann Lockwood	Jennie & Karen Kaufman	