



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## *Messenger*



**Thank you to those who took the time to take down the decorations from Advent and Christmas!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING** – was held on Sunday, January 12, and have decided to investigate the option to merge. The voters have given this task to the Church Council. More information will be presented to the congregation as soon as it is available. So please keep watch .

\*\*\*\*\*

**New Members of Council and Board were Installed on January 26th! They are:**

**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!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **What's Inside...**

1. Thank you taking down the Church decorations, Special Voter's Meeting, New Members are Installed
2. 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, Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God
4. Special Ministry Meeting Minutes
5. We Are Not Alone Conference
6. Calendar

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

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

7979 Commerce Rd.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

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

Website: [www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org)

**Editor:**  
**Lilli Harmon**  
E-mail:  
[lillian@stmarkwb.org](mailto:lillian@stmarkwb.org)

**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

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

**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**

**They will be bizzy 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 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 eye-glasses 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 eye-glasses and distributes them via eye-glass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps,

*(Continued next column)*

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.

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!

\*\*\*\*\*

*(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)*

**Special Fund Donations :**

***We want to thank those who made special donations:***

***Liberian School-Joe Boway:***

Lynn Thomas

***Sanctuary Remodeling:***

Nancy McInnis



\*\*\*\*\*



2/02: Paul & Andrea Benson

2/07: Kyle & Paula Albert



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/02: Robert Wheeler

2/08: Dean Hyrkas

2/12: Diane Burnett

2/20: Karen Kaufman

2/22: David Drake

2/26: Elanor Johnson

(See Page 4)



**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;

**Called Home to the Lord:**

Aaron Friend of the Oehrings

\*\*\*\*\*



**Church Council**  
**Special Ministry Meeting Minutes**  
**December 17, 2024**

Special meeting to prepare an agenda for the upcoming Special Voter's Congregational Meeting on January 12, 2025.

**Attendees:** John Reardon, Darryl Johnson, Karen Kaufman, Lori Whitehead, Kyle Albert

Lilli Harmon sitting in on behalf of Nancy McInnis

**Guest Attendees:** Pastor Dan Meckes (District Facilitator), Pastor Andrew Johnson, Circuit Visiting Pastor, Larry Whitehead (soon to be installed as Vice President of Council in 2025)

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m. and opened with prayer by Guest Pastor Dan Meckes  
John opened the session with a quick review of next month's calendar for approval. It was reviewed and approved as submitted.

**Agenda: St. Mark's Status:** 2 years Vacant Pastor.  
Determining what options there are for St. Marks to take going forward.

The present Council met with Pastors' Meckes and Johnson for a round table informational review of the Options that maybe considered and whether or not St. Mark's could be in a position to entertain the ability to provide a call on a selected candidate from any of the different areas that may be offered and whether it is feasible or not. Unfortunately, after listening, the probability would be slim except one.

After a lengthy in-depth conversation as well as questions and answers session, it was determined that, unfortunately, after listening to the Pastors, the probability would be slim except one. the only feasible route would be a merger.

Reasons: Not enough Pastors/Layman graduating so those who are will be picky.

Call process takes time and may take multiple attempts for call, then there are no guarantees

The financial viability beyond the year. May not have sustainable income to ride out the process Don't have the Income to pay Pastor/Sem. Pastor along with cost of living, medical etc. Lori states that we have sustained a financial balance.

Lack of invested congregation (Boards, activities, etc.)

Active members...more likely than not, low number of attendees, less likely to have a call accepted.

This recommendation was voted on by the Council.

Conclusion: Karen Kaufman motioned to recommend Merger to Congregation.

Darryl Swainson seconded. 4 yes and 1 no.

Meeting was concluded at 8:40 p.m. with closing prayer, led by Pastor Johnson and concluded with Lord's prayer by all.

**Next Meeting: Sunday, Sunday, January 12 for Voter's Meeting 10:45 a.m.**

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 7 pm. Will go on as planned.**

**Respectfully Submitted, Lillian Harmon on behalf of Nancy McInnis**

# **We Are Not Alone: Engaging Your Community Together**

On: February 1, 2025

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church,  
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy Lansing, MI, 48917

Time: 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](http://michigandistrict.org/theological25) [michigandistrict.org/theological25](http://michigandistrict.org/theological25)**

# 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](http://www.stmarkwb.org).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Presentation of Our Lord	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Pastor: Terry Nelson</b> <i>Assistant: Darryl Swainson</i> 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		Elder's Meeting 7 pm		10 am Quilting Bee		
9 Transfiguration of Our Lord	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day	15
<b>Pastor: Mark Arendell</b> 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class <b>Super Bowl Sunday</b>				10 am Quilting Bee	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	
16 Septuagesima	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer</b> <i>Assistant: Darryl Swainson</i> 9:30 am Divine Service with Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class		Church Council 7 p.m.		10 am Quilting Bee	DISTRIBUTE NEWSLETTER	
23 Sexagesima	24	25	26	27	28	
<b>Pastor: Frank Pies</b> 9:30 am Divine Service no Communion 10:45 am Adult Bible Class				10 am Quilting Bee		
Serving Schedules		USHERS:	ALTAR GUILD:	GREETERS:	COUNTERS:	
		02 Matt Maier 09 Tom Kaufman 16 John Reardon 23 Matt Maier	Karen Kaufman & Sandy Krus	02 Cathy Fitzgerald 09 Jenny Kaufman 16 Mary Ann Lockwood 23 Gail Fitzgerald	Mary Ann Lockwood & Jean Swainson	