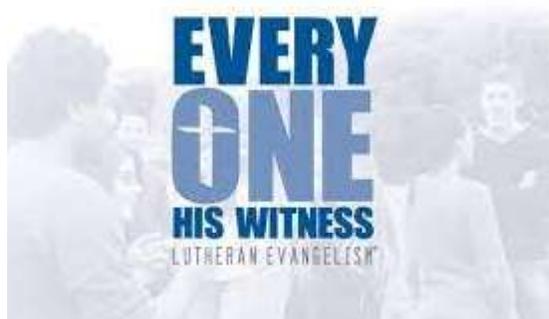


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messenger

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

May 2022



Sign up now for the *Every One His Witness* Workshop!

God calls each of us to witness to Christ in our daily lives, so others also might share His salvation. But how do we do this in a loving, respectful, and Biblically-faithful way, especially in a world that has fallen so far away from the Truth of God?

On Saturday, May 21, Pastor Vergin will be leading a workshop titled “Every One His Witness” in which we will learn exactly that. Please consider attending! The workshop will be held in St. Mark’s Fellowship Hall and will last all day, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided). The cost to attend is \$15 (no cost for those who have previously attended).

A sign-up sheet can be found on the back table in the sanctuary. Space is limited so sign up now!



Circuit joint service will be held to celebrate Christ’s Ascension

On Thursday, May 26, the Church will remember the ascension of Jesus, that glorious moment 40 days after Easter, when our Lord ascended into heaven to sit down at the right hand of God, so that He might reign over all things for our good.

On this day, St. Mark’s will be hosting a joint service for the congregations of our circuit. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will include special music and Holy Communion. The pastors from our circuit congregations will be helping to lead the liturgy.

The service will be preceded by a potluck dinner, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share!

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The *Messenger* is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

7979 Commerce Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48324

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E-mail: pastor@stmarkwb.org

Editor: Debbie LoCascio

E-mail: debbie@stmarkwb.org

Sunday

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

One Saturday/month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Handicap accessible

Bible Study



Choose a Bible Study that is right for you!

St. Mark's offers Bible study classes for all ages: Adult Bible Class, Sunday School for kids (ages Preschool through 5th Grade), Men's Bible Study, and Confirmation Classes (contact Pastor Vergin for details) for kids in grades 6-8. With all of these choices, we hope you will attend a Bible study that is right for you!

Adult Bible Class: The Book of Genesis

In the month of May, we will be continuing our study of the book of Genesis in our Adult Bible Class!

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin.

We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m., after our Divine Service.

Children's Sunday School

Weekly Sunday School for kids at St. Mark's takes place each Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Kids should gather in the upstairs youth room located behind the choir loft. Classes are held from September through May each year. Here, children will join with other kids to learn the stories of the faith and the Truth of Christ in a fun and age-appropriate setting.

Please consider getting your kids or grandkids involved in this program! We'd love to have them there!

Men's Bible Study Will Meet on May 28

Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, May 28. We will gather from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will continue our study of the book of Revelation.

We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

Pastor's Page

The Presence of Jesus: No Greater Gift

My friends, over the past few years, the devil has been working extremely hard to disconnect people from Jesus. Of course, this has always been true. Indeed, for quite some time we've seen in our society a diminishing interest in Christ and His Word. Church attendance has been declining. Biblical literacy has been dropping. Congregations have been closing. As I'm sure you know, these trends have been around for a long time. But even so, it seems to me that over the past two or three years, the devil has been working especially hard to disconnect people from their Savior. Maybe you've noticed this, too.

It started, I believe, with the pandemic. There, the devil used the fear of a highly-transmissible virus to keep us isolated at home, cutting us off from the gathering of the saints in the Divine Service. At first, many Christians were happy to watch services online. There was a novelty to it, especially with all the uncertainty regarding the pandemic. However, gradually many fell away from any sort of participation. Online viewership declined. People stopped logging in. They developed other habits and other routines. Their hunger for the Word disappeared. And, sadly, after leaving church, many never returned. Here, the devil used fear to disconnect so many souls from Christ.

But now the devil's tactic is changing. While for some time his primary weapon has been fear, we now see him unsheathing a new tool: despair. All over the world, people are struggling more and more with severe mental health issues – depression, anxiety, loneliness, addiction – behind which often lie deep-seated spiritual issues. And to these vulnerable souls, the devil constantly speaks his lies: “God doesn't love you. You're too tired. You wouldn't fit in. You've got so many other things to worry about. There's nothing for you at church. Your situation is hopeless. You might as well give up.” Sadly, this too is now keeping many people disconnected from Christ. The devil, by his lies, is swallowing them up in a pit of despair.

But compare this to how the crowds received Jesus during the days of His public ministry. We hear about it in the Gospel of Matthew:

And [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to

him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan (Matthew 4:23-25).

Do you see the zeal with which the people pursued Jesus? Do you see their passion? Do you see their desire to be near Him and to receive what He gives?

I wonder: What do these people know that we so often forget?

First, *these people knew that they desperately needed rescue*. Today, we're easily deceived into thinking that we don't need rescue, that we've got everything under control. That's the spiritual danger of our wealth and decadence. But the fact is this: Our idols can't save us. We desperately need rescue. We need a Savior. We've transgressed the holy Law of God. And we've subjected ourselves to death, both temporal and eternal. The great Day of Christ's visitation will make this clear for all the world to see, when He will come to judge the living and the dead.

And these people realized this. They were the poor, the blind, the lame, and the distressed. They were the outcasts and the sinners. They were the prostitutes and the tax collectors. They knew that they needed rescue, in matters both temporal and eternal. They couldn't save themselves.

But even more, *they knew that Jesus was the one who will provide that rescue*. Indeed, this is Jesus' promise to us, on the basis of His cross and resurrection. In Him, “Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). In Jesus, we will be delivered from death. We will be rescued from every trouble. Our bodies will be restored. And we will inherit God's kingdom, where we will dwell with Him in Paradise forever. Jesus gives this freely to all who believe. It is ours in Baptism. And it will be revealed in all of its glory on the Last Day.

And these people knew this. They knew that Jesus would give this rescue. He alone could do it. And in His love, He would. This is why these people ran to Jesus with such zeal and fervor. This is why they pressed in upon Him. This is why they went to such lengths to be near Him.

And for us today, when the devil is working so hard to disconnect us from Christ, this is such an important thing to remember. These crowds should be to all of us a call to

(Continued next column)

(See Pastor's Page, Page 10)



Volunteers needed to package meals for St. Paul Lutheran, Pontiac

St. Mark's will be packing dinners to serve to the members and friends of St. Paul Lutheran in Pontiac on Wednesday, May 18. If you'd like to help assemble the meals, please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 p.m. If you'd like to help serve the pre-packaged meals, meet at St. Paul, Pontiac, at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the lobby for those who'd like to donate food items for the dinners.

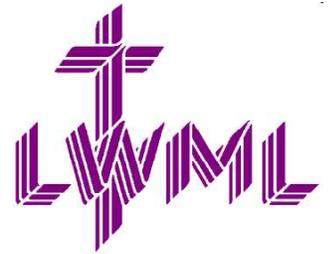


Two events will be held at St. Mark's on Sunday, May 1

On Sunday, May 1, we will have two events going on here at church. The first will be St. Mark's Spring Clean-Up that will take place directly following the Divine Service. A list of chores that we hope to accomplish on this day is now located on the table in the lobby. Many hands make for light work, so we hope you'll be able to participate!

The second event is another Can/Bottle Drive for the students at Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia, Africa. We have already sent them 50 small catechisms, but would like to send more. Therefore, the Can/Bottle Drive proceeds will be mostly used for that purpose. If you have any cans or bottles you'd like to donate, just bring them to church on May 1 and Karen Kaufman will collect them.

LWML Rally will occur on May 14



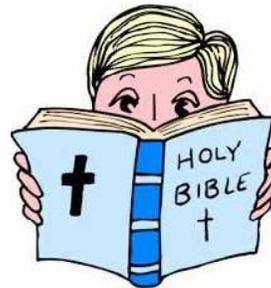
On Saturday, May 14, St. Mark's will be hosting the Spring Rally from the Multi-Lakes Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Here, women from all the congregations of our Zone are invited to come together to worship the Lord, learn more about missions, support one another in Christian fellowship, and enjoy some good food!

The theme of our rally will be "Into Every Tongue and Nation" and our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, the executive director of Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), an organization that translates, publishes, and distributes Lutheran materials all around the globe. At this rally, we will be collecting an offering to support LHF's work among the Ukrainian refugees.

To all the women of St. Mark's: we hope you will consider attending this rally! It will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon and will include lunch.

Also, if you would be able to help with the lunch, please contact Jennie Kaufman at (248) 363-5425! We would appreciate your assistance!



Read through the Bible in 2022

The Apostle Paul, referring to the Scriptures, once said, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Therefore, so that we might learn the Scriptures better and might abound in hope in Christ, St. Mark's Board of Elders is leading a Bible reading program, in which we will be going through the entire Bible in a year. Reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary, and weekly readings will be printed in the bulletin. The readings in May will begin at 1 Chronicles 7. Please consider participating! You can pick up any time!



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers



MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

Carolyn Achimov—recovering at home from a hospital stay.
Joan Freeman—recovering from surgery.
John Freeman—is at home recovering from a broken leg.
Chris Gerard—is receiving rehab following COVID-19.
Helga Gonzalez—is in rehab to get stronger.
Dean Hyrkas—is having medical issues.
Barbara Jewell—is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery and receiving rehab.
Kay Joslin—broke her hip; is recovering at home from surgery.
Mike Lockwood—needs extra prayers right now.
Nancy McInnis—is undergoing chemotherapy.
Marlene Steck—has memory & health issues.
Art Vermeersch—is having health issues.
Carl & Carol Zienert—are having medical issues.
Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—is undergoing treatments for Leukemia.
Joe Boway's wife, **Glendora**—is having health issues.
Cathy Fitzgerald's friend, **Randy Collins**—is very ill.
Friend of St. Mark's, **Allen Geer**—is receiving therapy.
Nancy Geer's friend, **Kate Keever**—prayers for decreased pain & healing, and the stress of having to move.
Friend of St. Mark's, **David Drake's, grandpa**—he has a broken ankle that needs to be replaced; also needs prayers that he'll come to know Christ.
Barbara Jewell's father-in-law, **Leonard Jewell**—is in a nursing home; has Dementia; is having seizures.
Barbara Jewell's nephew-in-law's daughter, **Tammy**—is recovering from knee surgery.
Barbara Jewell's niece's son, **Tim Bridges**—is recovering from back surgery.
Barbara Jewell's niece-in-law, **Peg Fieler**—keeps falling.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Joanne English**—is recovering from neck surgery.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Brian**—needs a liver test.
Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's sister, **Carol**—is undergoing radiation.
Glenn Jewell's insurance agent, **Vicky**—is receiving chemotherapy.
Olivia Krog's mother, **Julie Shrivnen**—is being treated for cancer.
Debbie LoCascio's cousins, **the Vandenbosch family**—the mom & some of her small children have COVID and are pretty sick.
Debbie LoCascio's father, **Bob Tippett, Sr.**—has Dementia.
Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Betty Ebejer**—has COPD.
Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Judy Miller**—is having health issues & depression.
The LoCascio's friend, **Rhea Thomas**—is receiving chemotherapy.
The LoCascio's sister-in-law's mom, **Dotti Raczkowski**—had a bad seizure; is undergoing tests; suffers from Dementia;

(continued next column)

has been moved to a group home.
Mary Ann Lockwood's uncle, **Nick Zazula**—his cancer is worsening; Hospice has been called in.
Taylor Lockwood's aunt, **Patti Hodges**—is battling breast cancer.
Cindy Parks' friend, **Linda**—is battling breast cancer
Cindy Park's mom, **Rose Mielke**—is having health issues.
Stephanie Reynolds' mom, **Pam Williams**—has health issues.
Stephanie Reynolds' son, **Emmett Reynolds**—has Autism.
Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.
Lynn Thomas' good friend, **Kristy Fresh**—has been diagnosed with a rare cancer.
Mandy Vergin's sister, **Bethany Goers**—is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy.
Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a brain bleed.
Larry Whitehead's cousin, **Leonard Pittaway**—is battling bladder cancer.
Lori Whitehead's great niece, **Morgan Duggin**—needs extra prayers.

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Joan Freeman's brother, Ernie Sampson—has medical issues
Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—has health issues
Friend of St. Mark's, Erika Williams—needs prayers for guidance
Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law, Phyllis Tharp—has lung cancer
Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—is confined to home
Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—is having health issues
Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—is having medical issues
Barbara Jewell's nephew-in-law, Carl Fieler—his cancer is in remission
Barbara Jewell's friend's brother, Johnny—diagnosed with cancer
Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission
Debbie LoCascio's brother, Bob Tippett, Jr.—is having liver issues
Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Michon Thompson—is recovering from cancer removal
Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Cheryl Tippett—is battling cancer
The LoCascio's neighbor, Laura Jones—is battling cancer
Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—they are having health issues
Cindy Parks' sister, Jeane Schaefer—awaiting back surgery
Cindy Park's brother, Jerry Mielke—is having medical problems
The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—is recovering from a stroke and receiving therapy
Jean Swainson's friend's son, Connor Donahue—is in an intensive inpatient rehab center recovering from being hit by a car
Marilyn Turner—is recovering from back surgery
Mandy Vergin's father, Bruce Ketcher—is having health issues
Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has medical issues
Lynne Welty—is having health issues
Larry Whitehead's daughter, Tracy Whitehead—prayers for wisdom and guidance



May Birthdays

- 3 Brynlee Lockwood,Carolynn Taylor
- 6 Kevin Hurley, Mike Lockwood
- 7 Kim Olsen
- 9 Annetta Lekas, John Sidelinker
- 10 Dante Hilton
- 12 Gail Arnold
- 15 Maia Zienert
- 16 Nancy Salo
- 17 Rick Schmaltz
- 21 Lauren Maier, Evelyn Powell
- 22 Taylor Lockwood
- 26 Freddie Arnold
- 28 Aaron O'Brien, Art Vermeersch



May Anniversaries

- 2 Dave & Cindy Turner 49th
- 26 Charlie & Lexi Powell 3rd
- 28 Mel & Karen Maier 34th
- 29 Art & Dorothy Vermeersch 54th



Transferred from St. Mark's:

Marcy McConnell transferred to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Waterford, on 4/13/22

Transferred to St. Mark's:

Rose Mielke transferred here from Hope Ev. Lutheran Church in Hudson FL on 4/13/22

Removed from our roles due to self-exclusion on 4/5/22:

Mike Tolman
Kyle Tolman

Changed of address:

Kari Kosmalski
7613 Woodview Drive
Waterford, MI 48327

Given a Peaceful Release to a WELS congregation:

Steve & Alicia Barnum on 4/5/22



Please remember these folks in your prayers

Those shown below have lost a loved one this past month. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

✠ The Barduca family as Tom LoCascio's cousin, Angelo Barduca, fell asleep in the Lord on 4/9/22



May's special decade birthday

This month, we wish a happy Special Decade Birthday to our church member, Lauren Maier!

As always, we can't tell you which decade, but we know all of you will join us in praying that our Lord will continue to bless her with faith, peace, strength and happiness throughout her life.

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations in **March**:

Joe Boway/Liberian Lutheran School:

Lynn Thomas

Memorials: Carolynn Achimov (in memory of Gail Hardy), Nancy Geer (in memory of Gail Hardy, Tom Gonzalez & Sharon Williams), Lee Katterman (in memory of Barbara & Derald Katterman)

Remodeling - Sanctuary: Nancy McInnis

Thrivent: Allen Geer, Nancy Geer, Patricia Grunewald, Richard Grunewald, Thisvi Steiger.



Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized April 26, 2022

Attendees: Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, Trent Johnson, Kari Kosmalski, Karen Kaufman, Charlie Powell, Debbie LoCascio, Jim O'Brien

Meeting called to order by Tom LoCascio at 6:59 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Devotion per Pastor Vergin: Matt. 5:23-25

Agenda approved with two additional items added.

Previous Minutes accepted as submitted.

Vice President's Report per Trent Johnson – The Young Adults group met last month and played trivia games. Their next meeting will be on Friday, May 13 for a Game Night.

Treasurer's Report submitted per Kari Kosmalski

Financial Secretary's Report submitted by Tom LoCascio for Debbie Sidelinker

Pastor's Report per Pastor Vergin

- Saturday, May 7 – Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller speaking at St. Stephen, Waterford. Pastor Vergin plans to attend and invites our members to attend also.
- Saturday, May 21 – “Everyone His Witness” workshop here from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Thursday, May 26 – All-Circuit Ascension Divine Service at 7 p.m. Seeking handbell ringers and singers. There will be a Potluck beforehand from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 28 – May's Men's Bible Study (had to be moved from May 7) at 9 a.m.
- Congregational Spiritual Growth Surveys received; Tom, Trent, and Pastor will meet to discuss

BOARD REPORTS

Elders per Pastor

- They actively working on our long-time inactive members.

Family & Youth per Debbie LoCascio

- VBS will take place from July 18 thru 22. We will be receiving free-will door offerings to help offset expenses from mid-May through mid-July. The board will meet again on May 14 to continue planning VBS.
- Easter Egg Hunt & Fun on Saturday, April 16 went extremely well! We had more kids this year than last year (30+ kids). The Egg Hunt on Easter morning also went well. We were grateful to have small animals here again from Turtle Creek Farms in Waterford. A thank-you letter was sent to them re: this.

(continued next column)

Gospel Outreach per Charlie Powell

- Working on the “Everyone His Witness” Workshop

Human Care per Karen Kaufman

- May 1 – Bottle/Can collection for Ziah Town Lutheran School
- May 18 – serve dinner at St. Paul, Pontiac. St. Paul's kitchen only recently opened back up at Easter (due to COVID), so we will be packing meals to go again. We will be serving sloppy Joe's. Karen will put out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to package the dinners (on May 18 starting at 3 p.m.) and serve the dinners at St. Paul around 6 p.m.
- Rummage Sale discussion – Have a rummage sale at St. Mark's? The Open Door will be having an outdoor rummage sale in their parking lot on June 18. People can rent tables from them and sell their own personal items. Karen recommended we participate in the Open Door's rummage sale and Council members agreed.

LWML per Pastor Vergin

- Need to find a new chairperson to replace Gail Hardy
- LWML Spring Zone Rally will take place here on May 14 from 9 a.m. until Noon. Jennie Kaufman will need help with food donations & serving the lunch.

Properties per Jim O'Brien

- Spring Clean-Up following church on May 1 – A list of chores to be placed on the table in the lobby. Trent will get lawn bags for the event. Per Jim, do we have the event rain or shine? Per Council, yes and if it pours, we can do inside chores.
- Lawn Cutting Estimates - Jim and Council thanked Tom for cutting the church grass for several years. Jim requested 5 bids, received 3. Jim made a motion that we secure the services of Kurt's Lawn Service at a cost of \$125/cut for the 2022 season beginning April 29. Council approved. Trent will try to sell our old lawnmower for a minimum of \$700 as it needs a lot of work.
- Janitorial Services - Received only one bid for janitorial services for \$540/month. Jim would like to continue doing the janitor's job (cost of \$380/month). Council was fine with Jim continuing to clean.
- Water Fountain Repair – water comes out just fine, but will not refrigerate. Diagnostic testing would cost \$99 for first half-hour and \$177 for the next half-hour.

(See Council Minutes, Page 9)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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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
- Event Registration Forms
- Those on Duty (scheduled to help out at church)

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



A VBS free-will door offering will be received mid-May through mid-July

Even though St. Mark's Vacation Bible School won't take place until July 18 – 22, preparations for it have already begun! This year's VBS program is called: "God's Wonder Lab: Jesus Does the Impossible," and it looks to be a very scripture-based, fun and educational program.

Our annual Vacation Bible School program is always such a wonderful Christian outreach to kids in our community. Last year, we had 62 kids attend VBS!

Again this year, in order to help offset the expenses of VBS, we will be receiving free-will door offerings from mid-May until July 10. Watch for more VBS news in our Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters as our Board of Family & Youth continues their planning work!

Council Minutes

(Continued from Page 7)

A new fountain would cost \$499. Jim recommended we keep our current unit without repair for now. Council was fine with that.

- Lobby Idea Committee - Debbie Sidelinker and Karen Kaufman have volunteered to be on this committee.
- Updates on A/V equipment in basement - Per Trent, we are considering purchasing a sound bar, projector, screen and an audio piece with Bluetooth capabilities. A motion was made to purchase a projector, screen, audio and video with hardware at a cost of up to \$850 to be taken from Thrivent Funds. Council approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **May 8** - Mothers' Day – bring your mom to church and she'll be given a carnation in celebration of her role as a mom
- **May 30** – church closed for Memorial Day
- **June 5** – Semi-annual Voters' Meeting after church
- **Parish Report & May's Church Calendar** were distributed by Debbie
- **Security Discussion** – Tom, Trent & Jim will meet to discuss some church security issues.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer



Calling all young adults!

All young adults are welcome to attend the next Young Adult Event on Friday, May 13 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This will be another Game Night and should be a lot of fun for both adults and any kids that attend.

We look forward to seeing you there! Any questions can be directed to St. Marks' Vice President, Trent Johnson.



Bring your mom to church on Mothers' Day!

Here at St. Mark's, we'll be celebrating Mothers' Day in a very special way. All moms that attend that church morning will receive a carnation in honor of their role as a mother.

You may also choose to make a donation to St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund in honor, or in memory, of your mom. The names of these moms will then be included in the Mothers' Day bulletin on May 8.

To submit your mom's name, please use the pink flower form located in our Sunday bulletins by May 6.



St. Stephen, Waterford, to host the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller

St. Stephen Lutheran Church located at 3795 Sashabaw Road in Waterford will be hosting the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.). Rev. Wolfmueller has written a book titled "Has American Christianity Failed?" and has also written for *Portals of Prayer*, *Lutheran Witness*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources* and more! He is the senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, TX.

The event is free, but seats are limited, so registration is required by **Tuesday, May 3**. If registering, please indicate your intention for ordering lunch (from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.) and your sandwich choice (ham & cheese, roast beef, or turkey) at a cost of \$11. Payment for lunch may be made the day of the event.

Time for questions will be limited and so St. Stephen's encourages participants to read Rev. Wolfmeuller's book ahead of time. Books are available at St. Stephen for \$15 (call ahead to reserve your copy), or can be ordered online at Christianbooks.com (\$12.99 + shipping). Copies will also be for sale on the day of the event.

For questions or to register, contact St. Stephen at: (248) 673-6621 (ext. 100), or Email them at: office@ststephenwaterford.org.

Joint Service

(Continued from Page 1)

Also, the service will include a circuit handbell choir and a circuit vocal choir.

If you are interested in participating in the handbell choir, please contact Lexi Powell as soon as possible (lexi.michel@gmail.com). Handbell practices will be held at St. Mark's on Wednesdays, May 4, 18, and 25, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the vocal choir, please contact Tim Prueter (timothy.prueter@yahoo.com). Choir practices will be held at Christ Lutheran, Milford on Wednesdays, May 18 and 25, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

We hope you will join us for this joyous celebration!

Pastor's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

repentance. For this Jesus is still among us, giving to us the blessings of His grace. There at church, He stands before us to bring us true healing in the refuge of His love. In His body and blood, we have the medicine of immortality. In His Word, He casts out Satan and His demons. In His baptism, He claims us as His own, in body and soul.

Is there anything more valuable? As Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44).

May we all rejoice to come to Christ and receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament! May we flock to Him with excitement and joy! But if we don't, let us take heed, for as Jesus says, "If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned" (John 15:6).



We offer a big 'thank you' to our volunteers this past month

Our congregation is so blessed to have people who volunteer to help when they are needed. And this past month was a busy one, so we have a lot of folks to thank!

We are so grateful for those who sang during Holy Week and/or played handbells for those services. Thanks so much! We also thank the ladies who oversaw the Easter Breakfast. You gals rock!

Many thanks also go to St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth as they put on a wonderful Community Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event, as well as stuffed all the eggs for both egg hunts Easter weekend (with lots of help, of course). And the Hunt & Fun wouldn't have been complete without a certain Pastor wearing a bunny suit and posing for photos with the kids. We thank Nancy Salo for letting us use the bunny suit again!

And what about those volunteers who went with Pastor Vergin to pray throughout the neighborhood behind us, and also those who went with Pastor to deliver Easter worship invitations to our neighbors? Yep, we thank you also!

Lastly, we thank the Clucas family, owners of Turtle Creek Farms in Waterford, for bringing several small animals to St. Mark's for the Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event. Lucy and her family stayed the full two hours, helping kids and adults alike hold the animals properly, and also teaching them about each one. Even the baby alligator and the tarantula got held a lot! Thanks so much, Clucas family!

Going forward, we could really use more volunteers to be greeters on Sunday mornings (about 15 minutes before church starts), and we are still looking for a woman to take over the reins of St. Mark's LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) board (see the Sunday bulletin for an explanation of duties). If either of those sounds like something you'd be interested in, please let Debbie LoCascio know (regarding greeters), or pastor or Jennie Kaufman know (regarding the LWML position). Thank you!

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m.

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast - One Saturday per mo. 9 a.m.

May 2022

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 3rd Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Spring Clean-Up 10:45am Sunday School	2 Pastor's Day Off	3	4 6pm Bell Practice	5 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	6 Ofc. Mgr. Debbie Off	7
8 4th Sunday of Easter MOTHERS' DAY Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School	9 Pastor's Day Off Ofc. Mgr. Debbie Off	10 7pm - Bd. Of Elders Mtg.	11	12 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	13 6pm Young Adults	14 9am LWML Zone Rally 10am Fam. & Youth Mtg.
15 5th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 7pm Council Mtg.	18 6pm Bell Practice 6pm St. Pauls Dinner	19 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m.	20 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	21 Armed Forces Day 9am "Every One His Witness Workshop"
22 6th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School	23 Pastor's Day Off	24	25 6pm Bell Practice	26 The Ascension of our Lord 10am Quilting Bee Pastor out of office in p.m. 5:30pm Potluck 7pm Divine Service Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio	27 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	28 9am Men's Bible Study
29 7th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31				

ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Sidelinker
COUNTERS: Nancy Salo &Carolynn Taylor

GREETERS:	USHERS:	VIDEO TECHS:
1 Gail Fitzgerald	1 Trent Johnson	1 Debbie Sidelinker
8 Mary Lockwood	8 Tom Kaufman	8 Karen Kaufman
15 Tom/Deb LoCascio	15 John Reardon	15 Charlie Powell
22 Sue In./Judy S.	22 Matt Maier	22 Debbie Sidelinker
29 Carolynn Taylor	26 Darryl Swainson	26 Karen Kaufman
	29 Tom Kaufman	29 Debbie Sidelinker