



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Messenger

March 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!

Midweek Lenten Services Continue

The midweek Lenten services that follow Ash Wednesday will be held at 3 of our sister churches—Peace Waterford, Faith Highland, and Christ Milford—at 7:00 p.m. (pastoral preaching schedule to be determined). The pastors of those congregations will be rotating in a round-robin style and parishioners are encouraged to select ONE location to attend so that they get to see/hear all 3 pastors preach over the 5 week Lenten period. Please attend, if you can!

Please join us for Holy Week Worship Services!

Throughout the season of Lent, we have been solemnly preparing our hearts and minds through meditation on God's Word, that e might celebrate with highest joy in the death and resurrection of Jesus -- the culminating moment of our salvation. In March, we will reach the fulfillment of this season of preparation as we enter into Holy week. During this week, we will have several special services.

First, on **Sunday, March 24**, we will observe Palm/ Passion Sunday. On this day, we remember our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, when He rode on a donkey into the city while the crowd laid palm branches on the road before Him. The service on this day will be held at the normal time, **9:30 a.m.**, and will include a reading of the Passion account, which tells the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

Then, on **Thursday, March 28**, we will observe Maundy Thursday. On this day, we remember our Lord's

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

What's Inside...

1. Adult Bible Study on Sundays, Midweek Lenten Services, Please join us for Holy Week Worship Services
2. Lenten Coin Holders, Pastoral Call Committee Update, Open Positions Boards, New Phone Call Committee, Potluck Retirement for Debbie LoCascio, St. Mark's Quilting Bee, Collecting Bottles/Cans for Ziah Town Lutheran School, Last Day to Order Easter Plants,
3. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Fund Donations, Transferred Membership
4. Address Page
5. Church Council Minutes (Summarized)
6. March's Church Calendar (insert)

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

Editor:

Debbie LoCascio/ Lilli Harmon
E-mail: debbie@stmarkwb.org
lillian@stmarkwb.org

Sunday Worship

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by
Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.
Handicap Accessible

Page 2, Column 1

Please join us for Holy Week Worship Services!
(Continued from Page 1)

Institution of Holy Communion on the night of His betrayal. The Service will begin at **7:00 p.m.** and end with the traditional stripping of the Altar.

On **Friday, March 29**, we will observe Good Friday. On this day, we remember our Lord's crucifixion. The service on this night will be the service of Tenebrae Vespers (Service of Darkness) and will begin at **7:00 p.m.**

Then, on **Sunday, March 31**, we will celebrate Easter Sunday, as we remember and rejoice in our Lord's resurrection from the dead. Our service on Easter Sunday will be held at **9:30 a.m.** and will be followed by a Potluck breakfast and children's egg hunt. Planning to attend? Please Sign-up on one of the easels which are located in the lobby located outside sanctuary door, or by entrance located near the Church office.

(By the way, donations are needed for pre-wrapped candy so that we can place them in Easter eggs.) Please drop off your candy donations by the Church office. Thank you in advance!

We hope you will join us for these special service! And be sure to invite your friends and family as well!

Lenten Coin Holders— Reminder!

This is just a reminder that if you are working to fill your Lenten coin holder with quarters (or any other type of monetary donation), we ask that you please place your filled folder into an offering plate on or around, Easter Sunday. The funds will be used to help support the students at Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia, Africa. Thank you!

Pastoral Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met on **Wednesday, February 7**, They are continuing to work diligently to determine what the needs of our church are, so they can move forward in the next steps in our quest for a dual parish pastor. Please keep the Committee in your prayers.

Open Positions on our Boards

As we prepare for a dual parish Pastor, we now realize that we need to shore up our boards to assist the incoming Pastor. St. Mark's has some vacancies on the boards. If you can prayerfully consider serving on a board, we would greatly appreciate it. Nomination forms can be found in the bulletin. If needed, additional forms can be found on the back tale next to the completed Nomination form box. We are implementing steps to achieve this goal in preparation to better

(Continued next column)

assist our future Pastor.

New [Phone] Call Committee

St. Mark's is looking to start a new phone call ministry. The phone calls would be made once a month to all members from St. Mark's to:

- Update members on St. Mark's happenings
- Encourage them to attend church and
- Say a prayer with them

The information and prayer would be provided to each Call Committee member each month. I am looking for 4-5 people who like to talk on the phone to help with this committee! It probably would take about an hour of your time each month. Please contact Lori Whitehead at 586-206-9470 if you are interested in helping.

Mark your Calendars! Retirement POTLUCK Luncheon in honor of Debbie LoCascio

The potluck luncheon in honor of Debbie, will be held on March 17th after Service. There is a sign - up sheet located in two areas. 1 just outside the Sanctuary doors, the other by the church office on the easel board. Last day for sign up will be on March 10th.

St. Mark's Quilting Bee

St. Mark's Quilting Bee group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help tie knots and/or sew. You don't have to know how to quilt in order to help out! Feel free to just show up on Thursdays! Any questions regarding the Quilting Bee can be directed to Jennie Kaufman.

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*.

Accepting Orders for Easter Plants Last day March 3rd.

You can help beautify St. Mark's altar area on Easter morning by purchasing beautiful, flowering, spring plants that will adorn that area for Easter. Following the Easter Divine Service, you

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

Page 3, Column 1

may then take your plants home and transplant them into your garden.

Plants may be ordered in honor or memory of a loved one, or just to help beautify the sanctuary for Easter. The names of your loved ones will then be included in the Easter morning bulletin. To place an order, either complete a pink flower order form (found in the Sunday bulletins) and place it and your check (made payable to St. Mark's) into the offering plate, OR mail your order (include number & type of plant wanted), any plant tributes, and your check (made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) to the Church Office NO LATER THAN MARCH 3. **Only pre-paid orders will be accepted.** Prices are as follows:

6" Lily (White)	\$10.00
6" Tulip (Red, Pink, Yellow, Lavender)	\$8.25
8" Hydrangea (Blue, Pink)	\$18.00
6" Hyacinth (Pink, Blue, White)	\$8.25
6" Daffodil (Yellow)	\$8.25
4" Mini Daffodil (Yellow)	\$3.50
6" Azalea (Pink, Red, White)	\$18.00

(See Easter Plants, Page 4)

March's Anniversaries

13 Matt & Julie Komalski 31 years

March's Birthdays

2 Joanne Wisti
8 Karen Maier
13 Anna Lockwood
James O'Brien
25 Aaron O'Brien
Dillon O'Brien
31 Mary Lockwood

Special Fund Donations for January:

Liberian Lutheran School: Nancy McInnis,
Lynn Thomas
Sanctuary Remodeling: Nancy McInnis

Transferred Membership out:

Charles, Lexi and Evelyn Powell to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn—February 6, 2004

This Month's Prayers

For Our church members:

Sarah Cook, 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:

Nancy, Lisa, Ian, Ed, Angel, Mary Lou, Josh, Judy, Alex, Chip, Rhea, Cheryl, Dale, Dan, Johnny, Sandy, Dave, Kristy, Rick, Rich, Ray, Truman, Callie, Mary, Leonard, Peg

For Those Who Lost Loved Ones Recently:

Barbara Jewell's step-son, Ron, who passed away earlier in the month of February.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Website: www.stmarkwb.org
Phone: (248) 363-0741
Fax: (866) 649-6870

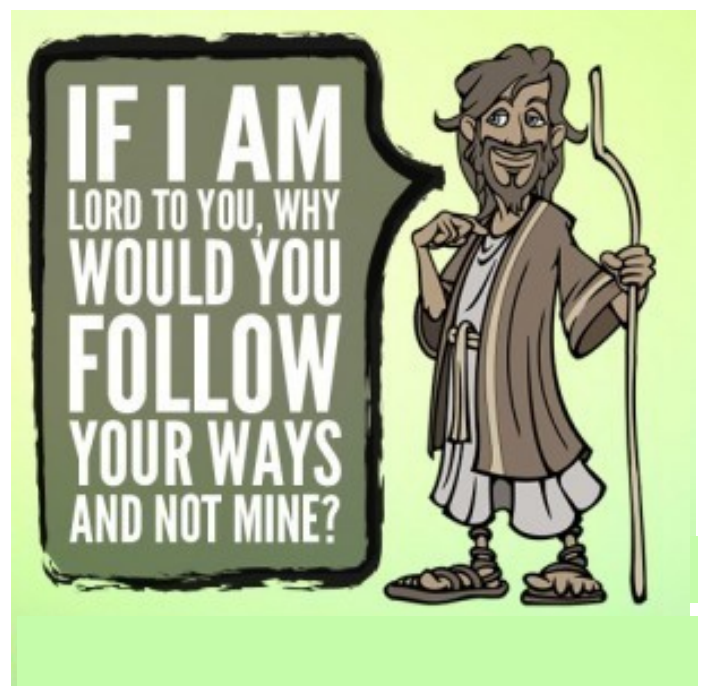
Address Service Requested

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!



Church Council
Business Meeting Minutes - Summarized
January 16, 2024

In attendance: Karen Kaufman, John Reardon, Darryl Swainson, Trent Johnson, and Nancy McInnis

Call to order at 7:00 pm

We opened with prayer.

Treasurer's Report – Kyle Albert not in attendance. Trent Johnson advised that the \$50,000 was moved over to a CD and is now showing up on the financial report. It has grown by about \$600. We also got rid of the investments accounts that were losing money each month.

Vice President's Report Per Trent: We are still averaging 40 people per Sunday.

BOARD REPORTS

Elders & Call Committee per Darryl Swainson –

- Regarding Ash Wednesday/Lent – our Circuit pastors are working to put together a round robin schedule for the midweek Lent services. No moving from church to church like Advent. We would select one church to attend. Christ Milford, Faith Highland or Peach Waterford for all midweek services. That way we would see all three pastors. Pastor Moyer will send us the schedule when it is finished. Ash Wednesday begins on February 14. . It was suggested that we select one of the churches that we would consider the dual parish with and attend their services for Lent.
- We have the confirmation class going and Darryl will be calling to see how that is going.

Human Care per Karen Kaufman –

- Debbie LoCascio would like to put the Lenten coin holders out soon and the proceeds would go to Joe Boway again.
- On January 21 we will celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord festival.
- We are also making Valentine cards for the nursing homes.

Properties per Trent Johnson (Joshua Cook was not in attendance) –

- the water leak continues to be an issue. Lori Whitehead was going to use a plumber that she used in the past but that has not worked out so she will continue to work on this.
- The sanctuary windows will be repaired in the spring when it is warmer.
- The plow truck stopped working this past weekend. We were able to find someone to plow the lot for \$300. Realistically we will need to purchase a new truck. We will try to make it through this winter and look for something in the spring/summer.

LWML per Leslie Oehring via notes – the Quilting Bee will resume on February 1.

NEW BUSINESS

Call Committee Update – the Committee will be meeting with Pastor Meckes (MI District) and Pastor Moyer (our Circuit Visitor) tomorrow night to further discuss the Dual Parish (or Multipoint) pastor option. Hopefully we will have constructive conversation and get this moving.

Hiring of new Secretary Update – after reviewing the duties of the office manager and the secretary's duties, it is obvious that we will need a full time person, especially if we go with a dual parish pastor. The person who was interested in the part time position is not interested in anything full time. There is someone interested in the full time position and she has church office experience in both LCMS and ELCA churches. John Reardon, Trent Johnson and Debbie LoCascio will interview her some time this week.

Faith Lutheran Church in Highland invites all sister churches to attend their Trivia Night on Saturday, February 3 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. They will be serving pizza, snacks and drinks. St. Mark's is encouraged to form a team or two and attend. We will ask Debbie LoCascio to add this to the calendar.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7 pm.; Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

March 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 3rd Sunday in Lent Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer <i>Assistant: Darryl Swainson</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class	4	5	6	7 10 am Quilting Bee	8	9
		7pm - Elders' Mtg.				
10 4th Sunday in Lent Pastor: Frank Pies <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class	11	12	13	14 10 am Quilting Bee	15 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent Pastor: Terry Nelson <i>Assistant: Darryl Swainson</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 11:00 am Debbie LoCascio Retirement Potluck	18	19	20	21 10 am Quilting Bee	22 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	23
		7pm - Council Mtg.				
24 Palm/Passion Sunday Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Adult Bible Class	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday 10 am Quilting Bee 7 pm Divine Service Pastor: Frank Pies <i>Elder: Tom LoCascio</i> Usher: Matt Maier	29 Good Friday 7 pm Tenebrae Vespers Pastor: Terry Nelson <i>Elder: Darryl Swainson</i> Usher: Tom LoCascio	30
31 Resurrection of our Lord Pastor: Rod Zwonitzer <i>Assistant: Tom LoCascio</i> 9:30 am Divine Service 11:00 am Easter Potluck 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt	ALTAR GUILD: Cathy Fitzgerald/Gail Fitzgerald COUNTERS: Barbara Jewell/Lori Whitehead			GREETERS: 3 Jennie Kaufman 10 Karen Kaufman 17 None 24 Tom/Debbie LoCascio 31 Mary Ann Lockwood	USHERS: 3 Matt Maier 10 Tom Kaufman 17 Trent Johnson 24 John Reardon 31 Tom Kaufman	