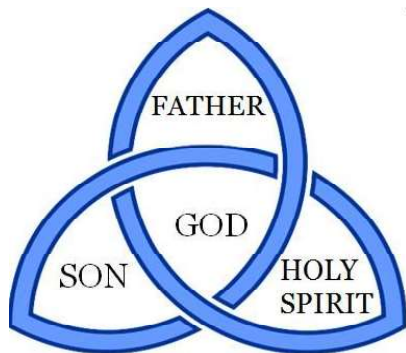


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messenger

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

June 2023



**Join us as we celebrate
the Holy Trinity**

All are welcome to attend St. Mark's Divine Service on Sunday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate the Festival of the Holy Trinity. During this day, we will remember who God has revealed himself to be—one God, yet 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and it will include the confessing of the Athanasian Creed.

We hope you will make plans to join us!



SEMI-ANNUAL
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

**Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting
to take place on June 4**

All St. Mark's members ages 18+ are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting! It will take place on Sunday, June 4 directly following the Divine Service in the Fellowship Hall. The Agenda will include a report from our Pastoral Call Committee, as well as a discussion regarding some options for calling our next pastor.

Please attend this important meeting, if you can!

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2. St. Mark's Current Bible Studies
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5. In our Thoughts and Prayers
6. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church Directory Update, Special Fund Donations, Come Worship God This Summer, June's Special Decade Birthdays, Please Remember These Folks in Your Prayers
7. Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized (4/18/23)
8. For the Latest Church News Visit our Website, Thanks so Much to our Wonderful Volunteers!
9. June's Church Calendar (insert)

The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Fax: (866) 649-6870
Website: www.stmarkwb.org

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Sunday

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday

Wed. Nights in Christ for Youth at 5:15 p.m. (Sep. - May)

First Saturday of each month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m. (on hold for now)

Handicap accessible

Bible Study



St. Mark's current Bible studies

Even though St. Mark's is currently in a pastoral vacancy, we continue to offer the Bible Study opportunities listed below. We hope you will take advantage of them!

Adult Bible Class

During the month of June, our vacancy pastors will be preaching on the scripture readings for that day in the Fellowship Hall, and they would love to have you join them! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith, so please come if you are able! Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m., after our Divine Service.

Read Through the Bible in 2023

For us Christians it is a great joy to read the Bible, for we know that it is the very Word of God, revealing to us Christ for our salvation and encouragement. Therefore, in 2023 we are again reading through the entire Bible in a year! But this time it is a joint effort with other congregations in our Circuit. Will you consider joining us? You can pick up any time. Please visit crafteddaily.com for the reading plan.

Men's Bible Study on June 3

Calling all men of St. Mark's! Our monthly Men's Bible Study will resume meeting on the first Saturday of each month starting on Saturday, June 3, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Our church member, Chris Gerard, has volunteered to lead the study using a series from Concordia Publishing House called "God's Word for Today," specifically the book titled "Revelation: Worthy Is the Lamb."

We hope you will join this study and learn more about what's inside the book of Revelation, and we thank Chris for volunteering to teach Men's Bible Study each month!



**Happy First Day of Summer
on June 21, 2023!**



Pastoral Call Process update

St. Mark's has been blessed so far in our pastoral vacancy in that Pastors Pies, Zwonitzer, and Nelson have offered to take turns preaching on Sundays, and also teaching the Sunday Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall after worship each week. Pastors Pies & Zwonitzer are both Emeritus pastors from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hartland. Pastor Nelson just retired as the long-time pastor at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in South Lyon and was also our previous Circuit Visitor. Several area LCMS pastors have also volunteered to visit St. Mark's shut-ins, so we are very grateful for their service in Christ.

Our Call Committee has also established a Salary Schedule for those pastors who will assist us during our vacancy. Their next order of business will be to start going through the somewhat lengthy call process to help find our next permanent pastor.

What can you do to help our Call Committee? First, we ask that you continue to CONSISTENTLY attend our worship services, and CONSISTENTLY tithe as you are able. Attendance really dropped off the first few weeks after Pastor Vergin's departure, so if we want to be able to afford to call a full-time pastor, it's important that everyone continue to support St. Mark's as when we have a permanent pastor here. Secondly, pray for our Call Committee as they work through the call process. Please pray that the Lord would send St. Mark's a wonderful and faithful servant as its next pastor. And lastly, please keep the Vergin family in your prayers as Pastor Vergin has begun his new call at St. John Lutheran, Grand Haven, and as the Vergin family slowly transitions their belongings to their new home (and makes the final move there in mid-June).



Registration for VBS is now open!

This summer's Vacation Bible School program is called "God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace". It will take place from July 17-21 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Focusing on Jesus, the Living Water, this program stretches from creation to the Early Church, as believers experience the grace of God.

All kids, age preschool (must be potty-trained) through those going into 5th grade in the fall, are welcome to attend this free and exciting program! The VBS registration form is now active on St. Mark's website: www.stmarkwb.org.

We'll also need a lot of volunteers to assist with VBS. The roles we'll need filled include:

- Snack Leader & Assistants
- Music Leader & Assistant
- Storytime Leader & Assistant
- Craft Assistants (Lynn Thomas has volunteered to lead crafts)
- Science/Games Leader & Assistant
- 2 Registration Table volunteers
- Transporters (you'll stay with one age group of kids and help them get from one station to the next)

The Board of Family & Youth will also need volunteers to help with VBS set-up/decorating on Sunday, July 16 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. A pizza dinner will be included for volunteers.

A VBS sign up poster is now located on an easel in the lobby. If there is any way you might have some extra time that week to help, our Board of Family & Youth would greatly appreciate it!

In Loving Memory



A Memorial Service will be held for Cindy Parks

The family of Cindy Parks invites those who knew her to attend a short memorial service to be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on Friday, June 2 at 1:30 p.m. Cindy was a long-time, very active church member here at St. Mark's and she went to be with Jesus on November 29 of last year. Pastor Vergin will be coming into town to preside over the interment.

If you would like to pay your respects, her family would love to have you there.



We are still accepting cans/bottles for Ziah Town Lutheran 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 on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

Thank you for your continued support of this very important outreach ministry!



Bring your dad to church on Father's Day

On Sunday, June 18, St. Mark's will remember dads in a special way. Each dad who attends church here on that day will receive a special treat in celebration of his role as a father. You may also make a donation to St. Mark's Flower Fund in honor, or in memory, of your father. Just complete a pink flower slip found in the Sunday bulletins, place your donation (any amount) and this slip in a pink envelope (located in the pew racks), write "Father's Day" on the envelope, and put it into an offering plate **by June 11**. The names of these dads will then be listed in the Father's Day bulletin on June 18.

Thanks so much for helping to support St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund with your donations!



We are accepting donations for Vacation Bible School

St. Mark's Vacation Bible School will take place here from July 17 – 21 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. In order to help offset the program costs, we will be receiving free-will door offerings each Sunday from **now until mid-July**. If you'd like to donate, you can place either cash, or a check (made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) into a green offering envelope (found in the pew racks), write "VBS" on the front, and place it in the offering plate near the sanctuary doors.

Thanks in advance for your support of this summer's VBS program where the kids are taught about Jesus' love for them and all people!

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

Carolyn Achimov—is receiving chemotherapy again.

Gail Arnold—is battling cancer.

Helga Gonzalez—has health issues; is in rehab. for therapy.

Barbara Jewell—is recovering from back surgery.

Julia Ligon—has moved into a memory care home.

Taylor Lockwood—needs extra prayers.

Rose Mielke—is suffering from Dementia.

Rod Oehring—has health issues.

Marlene Steck—has memory/health issues; is in Hospice.

Marilyn Turner—is having health issues.

Art Vermeersch—is having health issues.

Lynne Welty—has health issues; requires blood transfusions.

Carl & Carol Zienert—are having health issues.

Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—being treated for Leukemia.

Friend of St. Mark's, **Allen Geer**—is recovering from a fall.

Friend of St. Mark's, **Jean Pilot**—has cancer; is in Hospice.

Nancy Geer's friend, **Kate Kever**—needs less pain & healing.

The Hyrkas' son-in-law, **Matt Emery**—cancer is in remission.

Barbara Jewell's family & friends:

- Brother, **Fred Schwartz**—had hip replacement; undergoing physical therapy
- Sister, **Marilyn**—recovering from surgery, is receiving therapy
- Friend, **Dick Mason**—has lung cancer
- **Joyce Mason**—caregiver for her husband, Dick
- Nephew, **Steve Lichtman**—having heart surgery soon
- **Tammy Lichtman**—caregiver for her husband, Steve
- Niece-in-law, **Peg Feiler**—is recovering from surgery; receiving therapy
- Nephew, **Carl Feiler**—diagnosed with prostate and spinal cancer and is caregiver for his wife
- Nephew's grandson, **Brently Moses** (age 3)—fell and broke his leg
- Friend, **Pam Perez**—recovering from a hip replacement; 1 finger amputated.

Jennie Kaufman's nephew, **Jeff Balhoff**—is battling cancer.

The LoCascio's family & friends:

- Acquaintance, **Marti Edens**—is battling bladder cancer, has multiple health issues
- Debbie's father, **Bob Tippet, Sr.**—health is failing; Hospice has been called in.
- Friend, **Chip Cryderman**—is battling cancer, can no longer swallow well
- Friend, **Rhea Thomas**—is receiving chemotherapy
- Friend, **Dale Thomas**—recovering from surgery

Lexi Powell's grandfather, **Dave Grau**—diagnosed with multiple cancers.

Stephanie Reynolds' son, **Emmett Reynolds**—has Autism.

Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.

(continued next column)

Lynn Thomas' good friend, **Kristy Fresh**—has been diagnosed with a rare cancer.

Lynn Thomas' daughter-in-law, **Linda**—needs strength as caregiver for her mom who has Vascular Dementia.

Cindy Turner's friend, **John Carlton**—has medical issues; is receiving therapy.

Marilyn Turner's friend, **Sue**—needs extra prayers.

Marilyn Turner's friend, **Tony**—needs extra prayers.

Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, **Marilyn Eipper**—diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a brain bleed.

The Whitehead's family & friends:

- Larry's cousin, **Andra Bruce**—is having heart issues
- Lori's brother-in-law's sister, **Nita Duggin**—may have lung cancer
- Lori's friend, **Ray Baker**—is recovering from surgery
- Lori's friend, **Fran Schutz**—has had another stroke
- Lori's friend, **Mary Ann Saliba**—recovering from surgery
- Lori's friend, **Vickie Tucker**—receiving cancer treatments
- Lori's relative, **Callie Weatherford**—diagnosed at 7 years old with terminal brain cancer; continues to receive radiation treatments
- Lori's sister, **Linda Head**—is hospitalized for congestive heart failure
- Friend, **Bruce Collins**—diagnosed with prostate cancer
- Friend, **Leonard Pittaway**—will be undergoing cancer testing
- Friend, **Mary Baker**—is hospitalized

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Joan & John Freeman—they are both having health issues.

Friend of St. Mark's, Erika Williams—needs guidance prayers

Barbara Jewell's niece's son, Tim Bridges—recovering from surgery

Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home

Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having health issues

Kay Joslin—is receiving therapy for her hip

Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Cheryl Tippet—is battling cancer

Debbie LoCascio's brother, Bob Tippet, Jr.—has a lesion on his liver; will be undergoing more tests

The LoCascio's neighbor, Laura Jones—is battling cancer

Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—having health issues.

The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—is recovering from a stroke; receiving therapy

Jean Swainson's friend's son, Connor Donahue—is in an intensive inpatient rehab center recovering from being hit by a car

Mandy Vergin's father, Bruce Ketcher—has health issues

Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has medical issues

Larry Whitehead's daughter, Tracy Whitehead—prayers for wisdom and guidance

Carl & Carol Zienert—are having health issues



June Birthdays

- 2 Blake Ingram, Debbie Sidelinker
- 7 Trent Johnson, Claire Swainson
- 18 Elijah Williams
- 22 Jennifer Johnson
- 26 Jennie Kaufman
- 29 Lynn Thomas

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations in April:

Lenten Coin Holders for Joe Boway/ Liberian Lutheran School: Sue Williams, Mary Ann Lockwood, Jennie Kaufman, Janet Moriarty, Cindy Turner, Rod & Leslie Oehring, Judy Schassberger, Dorothy Vermeersch, Nancy Salo, Cathy Fitzgerald, Gail Fitzgerald, Nancy McInnis

Remodeling - Sanctuary: Nancy McInnis

June's special decade birthdays

This month, we wish a happy Special Decade birthday to our church member Blake Ingram whose birthday falls on June 2.

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 Blake both now and always.



June Anniversaries

- 10 Rick & Sandy Schmaltz 39th
- 20 Tom & Debbie LoCascio 42nd

Come, worship God together this summer

Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow mankind. Consider the tips below for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up in person, if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Second, come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the Divine Service displays the gospel: singing, confessing, Scripture readings, the sermon, praying, the Offering, Holy Communion, etc.

Third, be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of your life. Instead, consider how you'll carry God's good gifts to you into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let those gifts fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come!



Transferred from St. Mark's:

Marlene Steck to Faith Lutheran Church, Highland, MI on 5/31/23.

Pastor, Mandy, Evy, Naomi, Selah, Isaiah and Gabby Vergin to St. John Lutheran Church, Grand Haven, MI on 5/31/23.



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 Pilot family as St. Mark's former member, Jean Pilot, went to be with Jesus on May 13.

✠ The Saliba family as Lori Whitehead's friend, Lori Saliba, passed away in late May.



Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized April 18, 2023

In attendance: Tom LoCascio, Karen Kaufman, Darryl Swainson, Trent Johnson, John Reardon, Lori Whitehead, and Nancy McInnis

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Opening Prayer – Tom LoCascio

Previous minutes from February 21, 2023 submitted by Nancy McInnis and accepted as submitted.

Vice President's Report per Trent Johnson – trying to come up with an activity for the Young Adults Group, possibly bowling.

Financial Secretary's Report per Lori Whitehead – as of the end of March, expenses were under budget by \$2,884.

At 7:10 p.m. Joshua and Sarah Cook joined the meeting. Joshua is joining the Properties board and wanted to sit in on a meeting.

Karen Kaufman will be calling St. Paul, Pontiac to see if May's dinner will be "to go" or not.

BOARD REPORTS

Elders/Call Committee per Darryl Swainson – they've been working on lining up our vacancy pastor(s). It has now been determined that three pastors (Nelson, Pies and Zwonitzer) will serve in rotation during our vacancy. The Call Committee approved a Salary Schedule for pastors who assist St. Mark's with pastoral duties during our vacancy.

Pastor Vergin sent out emails to three or four area LCMS pastors regarding our eight shut-ins and these pastors have agreed to do those visits. Pay will coincide with the Salary Schedule mentioned above.

Darryl was approached by one of our members who wants to add a pastor's name to our upcoming Call List stating that this pastor is interested in serving at St. Mark's. Darryl explained the call process to her and will provide her a nomination slip when the time comes that the Call Committee is accepting names of pastors who might be interested in serving here.

Discussed ways to keep the congregation updated on the Call Process.

The possibility of having a "dual pastor" situation here due to budget concerns was also discussed. This would entail

(Continued next column)

having a Sunday worship service at one time at one church and then a bit later in the morning at a sister congregation.

The Men's Bible Study for May 1 is cancelled.

The Ascension of our Lord Divine Service on May 18 has been cancelled. Area sister congregations holding this service include: St. Stephen, Waterford and Our Savior, Hartland-- both at 7:00 p.m.

The Elders will now be taking over some of Pastor's duties:

- Changing of Banners – Tom LoCascio
- Updating Hymn Selection Spreadsheet – Lexi and Charlie Powell
- Writing out birthday/anniversary postcards and the visitor "thank you for Visiting" note cards – Larry Whitehead

Properties per Trent Johnson – the aluminum siding has been fixed with \$1,000 out of pocket for us. Lori Whitehead is working to get bids to fix the cracks in the parking lot.

Spring Clean-Up will be May 7 or May 13, but we will play this by ear depending on the weather.

Lobby Updates – we want to make the lobby area more welcoming. Karen Kaufman and Debbie Sidelinker will start meeting about this.

Lawn mowing – we are waiting for quotes for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Lori Whitehead is working on getting information for the Employee Retention Act from the federal government to see if St. Mark's qualifies for funds.

Lori Whitehead is working with Debbie LoCascio to find the best "interest-earning" accounts where we can move our investment funds and some of our checking account funds.

The next Semi-annual Voters' Meeting will be on Sunday, June 4 after church.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. & closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

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Email: info@stmarkwb.org

Website: www.stmarkwb.org

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!



Visit us
on the Web



Thanks so much to our wonderful volunteers!

This month, we offer our sincerest gratitude to all those
who volunteered their time and talents to St. Mark's over the
past few months as follows:

- Everyone that helped with our Spring Clean-Up May 7
- Everyone who helped make our Wednesday Nights in
Christ youth program a success: those who donated
desserts each week, our kitchen crew--Nancy McInnis,
Cathy Fitzgerald, Tom LoCascio and Gail Fitzgerald, our
teachers Kelly Lekas, Sarah Cook and Debbie LoCascio,
our "Life Skills" teachers, the Board of Human Care for
assisting the kids with crafts, and our program leaders
from the Board of Family & Youth, Lynn Thomas and
Debbie LoCascio.
- All those who helped pack and serve dinners to the
church members and surrounding community at St. Paul
Lutheran Church on May 31.

June 2023

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Nights in Christ 5:15 p.m. (Sep. - May)

Men's Bible Study - First Sat. of each Month 9:00 a.m.

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 2pm Cindy Parks' Memorial	3 9am Men's Bible Study
4 Holy Trinity Pastor: Rev. Frank Pies Elder: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 11am Semi-Annual Voters' Mtg.	5	6 7pm - Elders' Mtg.	7	8	9	10
11 First Sun. after Trinity Pastor: Rev. Terry Nelson Elder: Charlie Powell 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 10am Quilting Bee	16 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	17
18 Second Sun. after Trinity Pastor: Rev. Frank Pies Elder: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class FATHER'S DAY	19	20 7pm - Council Mtg.	21 1st Day of Summer	22 10am Quilting Bee	23 Sec'y Debbie off in P.M. DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	24
25 Third Sun. after Trinity Pastor: Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer Elder: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	26	27	28	29 10am Quilting Bee	30	

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Kaufman/Sandy Krus
COUNTERS: Nancy Hewson/Joanne Wisti

GREETERS:	USHERS:	VIDEO TECH:
4 Kelly Lekas	4 Tom Kaufman	On hold for now
11 Jennie/Karen K.	11 Trent Johnson	
18 Tom/Debbie L.	18 Matt Maier	
25 Gail Fitzgerald	25 John Reardon	