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# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Messenger

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

March 2022



## Dinner and the Divine Service offered on Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, March 2, the Church will observe Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a special 40-day period of penitence through which we prepare ourselves to celebrate our Lord's death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday, we focus especially on the depths of our sin and the death that we deserve, so that we might better appreciate the sacrifice of Christ.

At St. Mark's, we will be holding our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. that evening. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes as well as Holy Communion. We hope you will join us, and begin your Lenten preparations with the Word of God!

Also, before our service, we will be holding our annual Soup and Salad Supper. This will go from 5:30 - 6:30 and will include delicious food as well as good Christian fellowship. We hope to see you there!



## Please join us for Midweek Lenten Services

As we do each year, during the season of Lent, St. Mark's will once again be holding our Lenten Midweek Services. These services will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent (March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6), and will begin at 7:00 p.m. They are a great way to fill your Lenten preparations with the Word of God!

At these services, we will be following a series titled "Holy Habits." Here, we will be looking at different habits of the Christian life, that we might repent of our sins and rededicate ourselves to living out the life of faith by the power of Christ's redemption. Furthermore, we will be doing these services "round-robin" style, with pastors from our circuit rotating to different congregations.

We hope you will join us for these services, and enjoy the Word of God proclaimed to you by a number of His faithful servants!

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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**Sunday**

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Holy Communion Service (masks worn) 4:30 p.m.

**One Saturday/month**

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

Handicap accessible

# Bible Study



## Study God's Word and let it be your guide

In addition to doing home devotions, we hope you'll consider attending any of the Bible study opportunities listed below.

**Adult Bible Class: The Book of Genesis**

In the month of March, 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.

**Men's Bible Study Will Meet on March 5**

Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, March 5. We will gather from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will be beginning a new study on 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!

**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!

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# Pastor's Page

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## The Spiritual Growth of Christ's Church

My friends, what do you think about when you hear the words, “The Growth of the Church?”

Typically, when we hear those words, we think in terms of numbers, we think about how God daily brings more souls into His kingdom through faith. And, indeed, that’s an entirely appropriate answer to this question. This truly is a part of the “Growth of the Church”—and it’s something that we all ought to desire and work toward. God grants this growth where and when He wills, working by His Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word. As it says in the book of Acts, “The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). God does this because He “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Like a shepherd, He seeks out His lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7).

However, there is another aspect to the “Growth of the Church” that is often overlooked, though equally as important: That God works *within His Church* to cause us to grow in faith and love through the Holy Spirit. Put another way, God grants to His people not just numerical growth, but also spiritual growth, sanctifying us day by day, that we might bear even more fruit for Him. Although we will never be perfect in this life, the Spirit does work continually in us to conform us more and more to the image of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Jesus talks about this growth in John 15. There, He says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, *and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit*” (John 15:1-2). In other words, God takes us fruitful believers and works in us daily to make us even more fruitful. Although this “pruning” may be painful—for God does it through suffering (Romans 5:3-5)—it is nevertheless a good work of God, for the sake of His glory.

Likewise, the Apostle Paul considers this aspect of “Church Growth” in Ephesians 4. There, Paul says regarding the goal of the Church’s life, “Speaking the truth in love, we are to *grow up in every way* into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, *makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love*” (Ephesians 4:15-16). In other words, the life of the Church, as we live it now in this world, is to grow into Christ, as Jesus continually builds us up in love.

But what is the means by which God accomplishes this in us? None other than His Word and Sacraments, proclaimed to

us regularly in the midst of all our sufferings. As Paul says, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). And in another place: “When you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, *which is at work in you believers*” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

In fact, it is the special role of Ministers of the Word to foster this spiritual growth among their people through their preaching and teaching. Again, as the Apostle Paul says, “[God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13). Paul himself described His ministry in such terms for the Corinthian church: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

And what a joyous reality this is! Here, God takes us broken, sinful people and He restores us, step by step, until the life of Paradise is fully manifested in us. It is the life of our Baptisms, in which we are buried with Christ, that we might thereafter be raised with Him and so “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). It is the power of God to set us free from the darkness of sin, that we might dwell with Him in the light of life. Although the remnants of sin will still cling to us until death—and are forgiven in believers for the sake of Christ—here the Spirit works in us to fashion us daily into holier instruments of His grace, just as God fashioned Adam long ago, as we grow in faith and love.

Therefore, to help advance this good work of God in our congregation, the leadership of St. Mark’s will soon be distributing a “spiritual growth survey” to all Voting Members. This survey will be your opportunity to assess the spiritual growth of St. Mark’s in various areas according to God’s Word. Where are we just making a beginning? Where has God blessed us with abundant fruit? This will help the leaders of our congregation determine where we would best focus our attention in the days ahead.

So if you are a Voting Member of St. Mark’s, I hope you will participate in this survey. And all the while, I hope you all will rejoice to see how God continually grants growth to His Church in every age, not just numerically, but also spiritually. Yes, even among us.

(Continued next column)



## Ziah Town Lutheran School update

St. Mark's will continue to fundraise in order to purchase school supplies and catechisms for the students at Ziah Town Lutheran School. You may also take a copy of the list of needed school supplies from the bulletin board at the top of the basement stairs, and then place the purchased supplies in the bins located in the lobby. School supply cash donations through February 20 total \$1,156. Included in that amount were several \$20 donations to purchase catechisms for the students.

Plans are to order the catechisms in early March, and use the remaining cash donations to buy additional school supplies. All of these will then be shipped to Joe Boway in Fort Wayne, IN so he can take them with him on his next trip to Liberia.

Thanks so much to everyone that donated school supplies and/or gave a cash donation for supplies and catechisms! Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated!



## 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 now 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 throughout 2022. The readings in March will begin at Deuteronomy 26. Please consider participating! You can pick up any time!

## Beautiful Easter plants are available to order

You can help beautify St. Mark's sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing beautiful, flowering, spring plants that will then be placed in and around the altar area that morning. Following the Easter worship service, you 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 (see plant costs below). 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 into the offering plate, OR mail your order (include number/type of plant(s), any plant tributes and your check made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) NO LATER THAN MARCH 20. **Only pre-paid orders will be accepted.**



### Cost

6" Lily (White Only)	\$ 9.00
6" Tulip (Red, pink, yellow, lavender)	\$ 8.00
6" Hydrangea (Blue, pink)	\$10.50
8" Hydrangea (Blue, pink)	\$17.00
6" Hyacinth (Pink, blue, white)	\$ 8.00
6" Daffodil (Yellow)	\$ 8.00
4" Mini Daffodil (Yellow)	\$ 3.00

Thank you in advance for any orders you might place!

## Volunteers needed for neighborhood outreach



As a Christian congregation, God calls us to be reaching out to our community with the Gospel of Christ, that His Word might be spread abroad and that His kingdom might grow.

Therefore, in the weeks leading up to Easter, we will be engaged in some special outreach efforts in our neighborhood.

First of all, on Sunday, March 27, we will be going out into our neighborhood to do a "prayer walk." Here, we will be walking around our neighborhood as a group, praying for the people there as we pass by their homes, that God would bless them in body and soul. This prayer walk will take place after the Divine Service, following an abbreviated Bible Study.

Second, on Sunday, April 3, we will again be going out into our neighborhood to deliver invitations to our Easter service. Here, we will be going door to door in small groups to personally deliver the invitations.

We hope you will consider joining us for these outreach efforts, especially as we look toward Easter—a day which brings good news for the entire world!



# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

## MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

**Joan Freeman**—recovering from surgery.

**John Freeman**—fell and broke his leg on 2/17.

**Chris Gerard**—is hospitalized/slowly recovering from COVID.

**Helga Gonzalez**—is having some medical issues.

**Dean Hyrkas**—is having medical issues.

**Barbara Jewell**—is receiving shoulder rehab.

**Del Joslin**—has been diagnosed with Myeloid Leukemia.

**Mike Lockwood**—needs extra prayers right now.

**Nancy McInnis**—is undergoing chemotherapy.

**Rod Oehring**—is suffering from COPD.

**Marlene Steck**—Hospice has been called in.

**Marilyn Turner**—is recovering from back surgery.

**Art Vermeersch**—is having health issues.

**Larry Whitehead**—is recovering from foot surgery.

**Carl & Carol Zienert**—are having medical issues.

Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—is undergoing Leukemia treatments.

Joe Boway's wife, **Glendora**—is having health issues.

Cathy Fitzgerald's friend, **Randy Collins**—is very ill.

**Nancy Geer**—recovering from an appendectomy.

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 in March.

Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's sister, **Carol**—is undergoing radiation.

Glenn Jewell's insurance agent, **Vicky**—had cancerous tumor removed & will be receiving chemotherapy.

Debbie LoCascio's cousin, **Michon Thompson**—battling cancer.

Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Betty Ebejer**—has COPD.

Debbie LoCascio's friend, **Judy Miller**—has health issues.

The LoCascio's friend, **Rhea Thomas**—receiving chemotherapy

Tom LoCascio's cousin, **Angelo Barduca**—is hospitalized.

Mary Ann Lockwood's friend, **Sharon Richards**—has cancer.

Mary Ann Lockwood's sister, **Sandra Kempisty**—is having health issues.

The Lockwood children's grandfather, **Milton Javery**—is battling cancer.

Taylor Lockwood's aunt, **Patti Hodges**—has 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.

Carolynn Taylor's son-in-law's dad, **Larry Ford**—has COVID. Lynn Thomas' good friend, **Kristy Fresh**—has been diagnosed with a rare cancer.

Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandpa, **Dave Scroggie**—Alzheimer's is worsening.

Mandy Vergin's father, **Bruce Ketcher**—health issues have gotten worse.

Mandy Vergin's sister, **Bethany Goers**—has been diagnosed with breast cancer; will be undergoing aggressive chemo.

Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—healing from a brain bleed

Larry Whitehead's youngest daughter & her family, **Ron, Jennifer, Ron, Rileigh & Evelyn**—the children have tested positive for COVID-19.

Larry Whitehead's cousin, **Leonard Pittaway**—has bladder cancer.

Lori Whitehead's friend, **Vickie Tucker**—is undergoing cancer treatment.

Lori Whitehead's great niece, **Morgan Duggin**—needs prayers.

## ONGOING PRAYERS:

Joan Freeman's brother, Ernie Sampson—is recovering from surgery

Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—is having 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—confined to home

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

Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—is having medical issues

Barbara Jewell's nephew-in-law, Carl Fieler—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.—has liver issues

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

Debbie LoCascio's father, Bob Tippett, Sr.—has memory issues

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

Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—are ill

Kim Olsen—needs extra prayers

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; receiving therapy

Jean Swainson's friend's son, Connor Donahue—is in an intensive inpatient rehab center

Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandma, Margaret Scroggie—needs extra prayers

Mike Tolman's wife's uncle, David—is recovering from a stroke

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

Lynne Welty—is having health issues

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

(continued next column)



## March Birthdays

- 2 Joanne Wisti
- 3 Mary Ann Lockwood
- 5 Del Joslin
- 8 Karen Maier
- 15 Liz Lonsberry
- 18 Lynne Welty
- 20 David Turner
- 23 Brayden Higgins, Anna Lockwood, Jim O'Brien
- 27 Charlie Powell
- 30 Marlene Steck
- 31 Helga Gonzalez



## Please remember these folks in your prayers

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

- † The Swainson family as Darryl Swainson's mom, Gladys Swainson, fell asleep in the Lord on 1/28.
- † The Goepfrich family as Barb Allen's friend, Julie Goepfrich, passed away on 1/31.
- † The Smith family as Barb Allen's boyfriend's father, Dale Smith, passed away on 2/15.
- † The Sovoreen family as the LoCascio's friends dad, Robert Sovoreen, fell asleep in the Lord on 2/21.

# Washed Clean

Make customized jelly soaps to banish dirt and grime.

### What you need:

- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- ¾ cup very warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- ¾ cup gel body wash
- Food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol in spray bottle
- Silicone baking molds

### What you do:

1. In a bowl, stir gelatin and warm water until dissolved.
2. Add salt, body wash and a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Spray molds with rubbing alcohol (to prevent bubbles). Place molds on a tray.
4. Pour mixture into the molds. Refrigerate until set, about two hours.
5. Pop soap out of molds and store in an airtight container.

## A prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."

## Special Fund Donations

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

**Joe Boway/Liberian Lutheran School:**  
David Hagen, Jennie Kaufman, Lynn Thomas, Rod & Leslie Oehring  
**Remodeling - Sanctuary:** Nancy McInnis



## Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized

### January 25, 2022

**Attendees:** Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, Trent Johnson, Karen Kaufman, Darryl Swainson, Kari Kosmalski, Charlie Powell, Deb Sidelinker, Jim O'Brien

**Called to Order** at 7:01 p.m. by Tom LoCascio

**Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Galatians 1:11-24 by Pastor Vergin

**Agenda** presented by Tom LoCascio. No additions made. Council approved.

**Previous minutes** submitted from November 23, 2021. Council approved.

**Vice President's Report** - as this is Trent Johnson's first meeting as our Vice President, he has no report this month.

**Pastor's Report** by Pastor Vergin

- Transfiguration Service February 6
- Pre-Lent "Gesima" Sundays February 13, 20, 27
- Next Men's Bible Study February 5
- Working on a Congregational Assessment Survey based on the new Vision Statement
- Elected as new Circuit Visitor for the Kensington Circuit – will be installed in September
- "Round Robin" pastor exchange for Lenten Midweek Services to be held at 7:00 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report** submitted by Kari Kosmalski - W-2's and 1099's have been distributed.

**Human Resources** per Tom LoCascio - all 2021 employees/called worker reviews were completed prior to year-end.

#### Board Reports

**Elders** - Darryl Swainson reported that they are continuing to work on long-term inactive members.

**Family and Youth** submitted by Mandy Vergin (unable to attend meeting)

- The first quarterly kids' devotional packet was mailed to parents earlier this month. These will continue to be mailed each quarter.
- Will be meeting soon to plan the Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event
- Pastor also reported that they are working with other circuit churches to develop and build relationships with our junior and senior high school age students. There have been two events held already, one at Christ, Milford and the other at Faith, Highland.

**Gospel Outreach** - Charlie Powell in attendance, nothing to report this month

**Human Care** - Karen Kaufman reported that our next Bottle/Can drive will be held on February 6. Proceeds will be used to purchase school supplies for the Ziah Town Lutheran School. We hope to have people sponsor Catechisms to be sent as well. Each Catechism is \$20.

**Properties** - Trent Johnson reported

- The organ was repaired this month at a cost of \$3,400
- Lightbulbs replaced in the Altar Cross
- Ordering signs to put on our lawn – "No Motor Vehicles"

#### General Business

This year's Lenten Coin Holder donations will be going toward school supplies for Ziah Town Lutheran School.

**Chairpersons needed for the following Boards:** Board of Fellowship (Nancy McInnis out until June), Board of Gospel Outreach (Sharon Williams passed away, John Reardon unavailable), LWML (Gail Hardy passed away), Board of Family & Youth (Mandy Vergin is chair, but is unable to attend Council meetings). Chairpersons needed so all will know what each group is doing.

Ash Wednesday Soup/Salad Supper - volunteers needed to bring food as the Board of Fellowship is unavailable.

Next meeting: February 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Charlie Powell; second by Kari Kosmalski at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by *Debbie Sidelinker*



## Seeking a volunteer to serve on St. Mark's LWML board

St. Mark's Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) board is seeking someone to fill the role of president. Our long-time member, Gail Hardy, had served as president for many years until she went to be with Jesus a few months ago. We now need a woman from St. Mark's to fill this position.

The LWML is the leading group for Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod's women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness. As Lutheran Women in Mission, these ladies joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Some of the duties St. Mark's LWML president would perform include being the liaison between the LWML office in St. Louis, Missouri and St. Mark's LWML board, attending a few LWML Zone Rallies in our local area, overseeing some small mission fundraising events here in order to help support the work of missionaries, and assist with St. Mark's Quilting Group.

Jennie Kaufman is the current treasurer of St. Mark's LWML board. If you have any questions about the LWML, or the duties of the LWML president, feel free to talk to Jennie for more information.

We'd love to find our new LWML president as soon as possible, so if you'd be interested, please let Pastor Vergin know quickly.



## March to usher in spring and more daylight!

Spring and longer days will be arriving soon, first with Daylight Saving Time starting on March 13, and then with the First Day of Spring arriving on March 20. Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour on the 13th so you can arrive on time at church, and enjoy the warmer temperatures and additional sunlight these changes will bring!



## Seeking singers, ringers and musicians for Holy Week services

We are currently seeking singers, handbell ringers and/or instrumentalists to participate in our Holy Week services in mid-April. If interested, please let Debbie LoCascio know as soon as possible so that music can be selected and practice times scheduled.

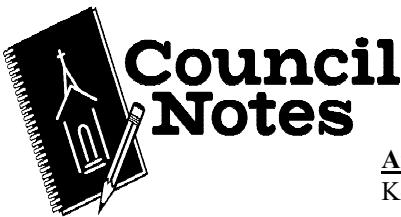
Watch future Sunday bulletins for practice information.



## St. Stephen, Waterford, is hosting a free seminar on May 7

St. Stephen Lutheran Church located at 3795 Sashabaw Road in Waterford is hosting a free seminar called "Has American Christianity Failed?" on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.). The main speaker will be the Rev. C. Bryan Wolfmueller, writer of the book of the same name. The event is free, but seats are limited, and registration is required by phone (248-673-6621) or by email ([office@ststephenwaterford.org](mailto:office@ststephenwaterford.org)) by April 21. Lunch will be available (Jimmy John's boxed lunches) for \$11 upon request when you register. Payment for lunch can be made the day of the event.

If you'd like to buy the book to read it prior to the seminar, copies will be available for pick up at St. Stephen for \$15 (call ahead to reserve your copy), or can be ordered online through Christianbooks.com (\$12.99 + shipping) or Amazon.com (\$16.99 + shipping). For any additional information or questions, call St. Stephen directly.



## Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized

### February 15, 2022

**Attendees:** Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, Trent Johnson, Karen Kaufman, Darryl Swainson, Kari Kosmalski, Charlie Powell, Deb Sidelinker

**Called to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by Tom LoCascio

**Opening Prayer and Devotion:** Ephesians 4:15-16 by Pastor Vergin

**Agenda** presented by Tom LoCascio - no additions. Agenda was approved by Council.

**Previous minutes** from the January 25, 2022, meeting - Council approved minutes.

**Vice President's Report** - Trent Johnson reported that he is working on a Young Adult Group to get more people involved. The first activity will be on March 22 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. It will be a fun event, game night with light refreshments.

#### Pastor's Report by Pastor Vergin

- Next Men's Bible Study March 5
- Working on a Congregational Assessment Survey with Trent and Tom, will be out soon
- "Round Robin" pastor exchange for Lenten Midweek Services to be held at 7:00 p.m. (No communion)
- Michigan District Convention is in Ann Arbor the end of June, one lay representative needed.

#### Board Reports

**Elders** - Darryl Swainson reported that they are gearing up to assist the Pastors at Lenten Midweek Services

**Family and Youth** submitted Debbie LoCascio (unable to attend meeting), read by Tom LoCascio

- Quarterly devotional booklets, including three monthly Christian family activities, are being mailed to parents of elementary-aged students.
- Mandy to remain chairperson for now. However, Debbie L. will report to Council for this board through June and Lynn Thomas will do it from July - December
- Mandy emailed the secretary at Our Savior Lutheran, Hartland, to see which VBS program they'll be using this year, so we'll know which "starter kit" to purchase.
- Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Board met on February 13 to begin planning. Board will meet again on March 26 to finalize plans. Sign-up sheets to appear soon for candy and supply donations, as well as volunteer openings.

(Continued next column)

**Gospel Outreach** - at their meeting, Charlie Powell was named their new chairperson. Charlie reported –

- They are hoping to train members in "Everyone His Witness"
- Additional greeters needed if we know that someone new is coming
- Will be working with other boards to encourage members to get involved.

**Human Care** - Karen Kaufman reported that the funds collection for Joe Boway continues. Catechism orders end this month. Additional funds have been received for school supplies

**LWML** – need to find a new chairperson to replace Gail Hardy

#### **Parish Fellowship** written report, read by Tom LoCascio

- Cindy Parks notified Tom, Pastor and Debbie L. that she'll have to step down from this board for now as her mom, who is now living with her full-time, is having major health issues.
- Ash Wednesday Soup/Salad supper is March 2 from 5:30 – 6:30pm. Per Jennie Kaufman, she has enough volunteers, and this event is ready to go.

**Properties** - Trent Johnson reported (Jim O'Brien not in attendance)

- The broken chair was fixed in Pastor's office
- Looking for a dehumidifier
- Looking for a large screen projector for fellowship hall
- The main doors and back doors need work
- Tom reported that the plow truck is starting to act up and the lawn mower is starting to leak hydraulic fluid

#### General Business

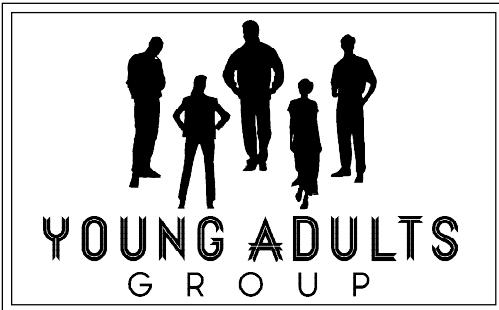
**Public Relations** - the question was asked if there will be advertising for the Young Adult Group? No decision yet.

**Easter Breakfast discussion** – Tom reported that our last Easter Breakfast was in 2019. It's quite a bit of work and Larry Whitehead, who has headed up this event in the past, is recovering from foot surgery. After discussion, Council agreed that we should have an Easter Breakfast, but this time make it an Easter Breakfast Potluck. Karen Kaufman will make a sign-up sheet for the lobby. Tom will assist.

Next meeting March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Adjournment at 7:33 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by *Debbie Sidelinker*



## St. Mark's establishes new Young Adults Group

St. Mark's will be having its first young adults' event on Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. The event is for all young adults and their families. Our first event will be a game night with some arts and crafts for the young children.

Please bring your family and friends to this event. We are looking forward to seeing you! Any questions regarding the Young Adult Group can be directed to Trent Johnson.



## Here are April's upcoming events

The month of April contains Holy Week, so it will, for certain, be a busy month. Below are some important dates and events at St. Mark's for April.

- 3 Distribute Easter invitations to the neighborhood behind church
- 6 Final midweek Lent service at 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Palm Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Maundy Thursday Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service at 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Easter Egg Community Hunt & Fun from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- 17 The Resurrection of our Lord Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast  
Kids' Easter Egg Hunt



## Please join us for an Easter Breakfast Potluck

St. Mark's Church Council has decided that our congregation will be having an Easter Breakfast Potluck this year on Sunday, April 17 following the Divine Service on Easter morning. It will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.

Since this is a potluck, we are asking attendees to bring a breakfast item, if possible. The items needed include:

- Breakfast dishes (quiches, casseroles with eggs & sausage, French toast bakes, etc.)
- Cookies
- Desserts
- Orange juice and other juices
- Anything breakfast-related would be good

A sign-up sheet for breakfast items will be posted soon in the lobby. Set up for the meal will take place on Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. and we will need help with this also.

Any questions regarding the Easter Breakfast Potluck can be directed to Karen Kaufman or Tom LoCascio.



## Lenten Coin Folders are now available

The season of Lent officially begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2 this year. Once again, during Lent, we will be receiving donations via our Lenten Coin Folders that are now located on the table in the entryway. Since St. Mark's is working hard to raise funds for school supplies and catechisms for the kids attending Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia, this year's Lenten Coin Folder donations will also go toward the purchase of these items.

How do the coin folders work? Just place one quarter each day during Lent into the corresponding slot (excluding Sundays, which are celebrated as "mini Easters" and are IN Lent, but not OF Lent), and by Easter Sunday, your holder will be full and equal \$10! Then you can just place the full folders into any offering plate on Easter Sunday or before! It's an easy and fun activity to do, especially for kids!

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**LEFT BLANK FOR ST. MARK'S CHURCH CALENDAR  
(arrow down two pages)**

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## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



7979 Commerce Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Phone: (248) 363-0741  
Fax: (866) 649-6870  
Email: [info@stmarkwb.org](mailto:info@stmarkwb.org)  
Website: [www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org)

***Address Service Requested***

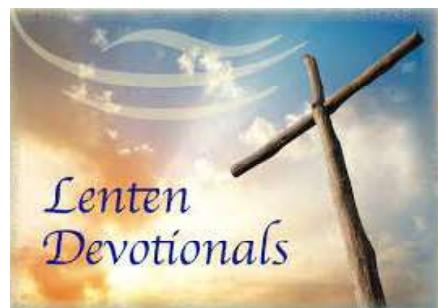
### For the latest church news, visit our website

What types of information can you find on St. Mark's website ([www.stmarwb.org](http://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!



### Lenten Devotional booklets are now available

As you prepare for the season of Lent, we hope you will grab a copy of the Lenten Devotional Booklets provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries that are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. These booklets offer scripture readings and devotions for each day during Lent. They make for excellent reading and study during this penitential season!

We thank Lutheran Hour Ministries for making the booklets available to us free of charge, and hope they will enhance your Lenten studies.

# March 2022

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Communion Svc. (masks worn) 4:30 p.m.

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

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 7pm - Bd. Of Elders Mtg.	2 Ash Wednesday 4:30 Holy Commun. Svc. 5:30 Soup/Salad Supper 7pm Ash Wed. Svc. Elder: Tom LoCascio	3 Pastor out of office in p.m.	4	5 9am Men's Bible Study
6 1st Sun. in Lent Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 9am Pastor's Winkel	9 4:30 Holy Commun. Svc. 7pm Midweek Lent Svc Elder: Daryl Swainson	10 Pastor out of office in p.m.	11	12
13 2nd Sun. in Lent Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 7pm - Council Mtg.	16 4:30 Holy Commun. Svc. 7pm Midweek Lent Svc Elder: Tom LoCascio	17 St. Patrick's Day Pastor out of office in p.m.	18 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	19
20 3rd Sun. in Lent Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School 1ST DAY OF SPRING	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 6pm Young Adult Mtg.	23 4:30 Holy Commun. Svc. 7pm Midweek Lent Svc Elder: John Sidelinker	24 Pastor out of office in p.m.	25 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	26 10am Family/Youth Mtg.
27 4th Sun. in Lent Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Sunday School 11:30 Neighborhood Prayer Walk	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30 4:30 Holy Commun. Svc. 7pm Midweek Lent Svc Elder: Darryl Swainson	31 Pastor out of office in p.m.		

<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> Cathy Fitzgerald
<b>COUNTERS:</b> Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

ACOLYTES:	GREETERS:	USHERS:	VIDEO TECH:
6 TBD	6 Carolynn Taylor	6 Matt Maier	6 Charlie Powell
13 TBD	13 Jennie/Karen Kaufman	13 Tom Kaufman	13 Karen Kaufman
20 TBD	20 Tom & Deb L.	20 Trent Johnson	20 Debbie Sidelinker
27 TBD	27 Gail Fitzgerald	27 John Reardon	27 Charlie Powell