

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
302 East Pearl Street
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

St. Mark's Messenger, June, 2026



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Pastor Doug's Letter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we begin June, we have a number of transitions happening. You will find enclosed the blessings that Cindy Klosterman and I wrote for each of the seven confirmands. Their confirmation was on Sunday May 31. They completed two years of instruction and growth in faith. They were an animated and inquisitive group seeking to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian. I am going to miss them. Since we combined three years into one, I do not anticipate having any catechism students for next year.

On Saturday May 30 I attended the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly along with delegates Mark Swaney and Ashley Schmerge. We meet in assembly for one day every two years. The most significant action that we took was to elect members of the synod council, delegates to the 2028 Churchwide Assembly, and members of several smaller committees. We approved some constitutional updates, the synod budget and the compensation guidelines for pastors. However, the highlight of the assembly was gathering around the 2026 synodical theme, ***The Way of Love***. The worship services, the reports, and stories that were shared all focused upon the theme and this year's Bible verses, "We love because he first loved us." I John 4:19. In all my years of attending synod assemblies it was the most thematic and streamlined assembly that I have ever attended.

On Monday June 1 DeLynn Epperly began training to be our new administrative assistant under the tutelage of Elaine Hawkins. It will probably take her most of the month of June to get familiar with all her duties.

Sunday School completed its 2025-26 term on the first of May, and due to lack of participation we are uncertain of what we will do in the fall. The adult Sunday School class will resume in the fall.

The choir also sang for the last time in May and will resume in the fall. During the summer months we welcome anyone who would like to share their musical talents during worship.

On Sunday June 28 Evelyn Oen will be giving us her ***God, Flag and Country*** speech. She won the state contest for her age group and will be going to Dallas, Texas in August for the national competition.

A blessed summer to you all. May you have time for relaxation, growth, and deeper connections with family and friends.

Peace,

Pastor Doug

Join Us at the DoGood Restaurant

You are invited to join your fellow members of St. Mark's for dinner at the DoGood Restaurant in Osgood on Friday evening June 26. We have reserved their upstairs banquet room for dinner at 6:30. Meet at the church at 5:30 pm to carpool. Sign up by calling or texting St. Mark's.

New Member Orientation

A new member orientation will be held on Saturday, June 27 from 10-12 for those wishing to join the church. Contact Pastor Doug to sign up.

Thank You Note

.Many thanks to our St. Mark's church family for their prayers, cards, texts, food, visits and thoughtfulness as I recover from knee replacement. Nurse Nelson was busy assisting me, so the gifts of meals provided by the Social Ministry team truly lightened his load. Blessings to all as you blessed us.

Julie Miers Golden

New Administrative Assistant Started

DeLynn Epperly is our new administrative assistant. She started work on Monday June 2. She will be working on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Stop by the church office and say "Hello." The church contact information remains the same: Office Phone 419-738-3122, Mobile Phone 567-356-6799, stmarkswapak302@gmail.com.

Wedding

Tyler Miller & Allyssa Jackson will be married on June 13 at 2:30 pm at St. Mark's Church.

Attendance 2026			
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Live Stream
5/3/2026	20	44	120
5/10/2026	20	68	83
5/17/2026	20	38	95
5/24/2026	22	68	120

Confirmation Blessings

Ella Price,
God has gifted you with an exuberant, cheerful personality,
A positive, optimistic, fun-loving nature,
An active, always in motion, dancing body,
A confident and mature temperament,
An intelligent mind with a strong desire to learn,
A joyful, friendly love of others, and
A steadfast faith.

Ella,
You are a wild flower garden,
Sparkling with beauty and a delight to the soul,
Inviting others to appreciate the glory of God's creation,
Rooted in the deep soil of God's love.

Your chosen Bible Verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



Kelsey Schneider,
God has gifted you with a gentle and kind heart,
A soft-spoken and sensitive nature,
A generous, compassionate concern for others,
A dedicated determination to fulfill responsibilities,
A perceptive and probing desire to learn,
A loving connection to your family and to God, and
A deep and growing faith.

Kelsey,
You are an empathetic collie,
Sensitive to the emotions and situations of others,
Providing comfort, care, and concern when needed,
But also exhibiting a joyful love of life.

Your chosen Bible Verse is Isaiah 43:2:
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.



Evelyn Oen,
God has gifted you with a joyful love of living,
A confident maturity,
A kind-hearted concern for others
A musical soul,
A focused intensity that compels you to give your all,
A strong talent in acting and public speaking, and
A deep hunger to know and love God more.

Evelyn,
You are the lead violin in the orchestra,
With great skill and dynamic expression,
You explore the heights and depths of love,
Connecting all to the music of the universe.

Your chosen Bible Verse is Philippians 4:13:
I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



Ethan Dickey,
God has gifted you with kindness, compassion, and helpfulness,
A thoughtful, generous concern for others,
A respectful attitude towards those in leadership,
An eagerness to learn and to understand,
A desire to stay on track and not to be distracted,
A strong family that enjoys being together, and
A confident, uncomplicated faith.

Ethan,
You are a Golden Retriever,
A faithful, constant companion with an eager desire to please,
A friendly, energetic joy in being together,
And a sensitivity to the moods and feelings of others.

Your chosen Bible Verse is Philippians 4:13:
I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



Ethan Jeanneret,
God has gifted you with an exuberant, excited orientation to life,
A quirky sense of humor
A teasing personality
A desire to be creative and imaginative with technology
A kind and helpful care for others
A strong, courageous spirit, and
A deep assurance that God is with you through it all.

Ethan,
You are a dolphin,
Creative, energetic, and intelligent,
You explore the solitary depths of the seas
And rise to play in the light of the sun.

Your chosen Bible Verse is 1 Corinthians 12:4-6:
Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit,
and there are varieties of services but the same Lord,
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.



Marlow Johnston,
God has gifted you a deep desire to know and love God,
An outgoing, friendly and cheerful personality,
A compassionate and kind heart,
An empathetic understanding of the concerns of others,
A probing, inquisitive asking of deep questions,
An independent spirit, and
A hunger to know and understand God's Word.

Marlow,
You are an oak tree,
Sheltering others in your protective shade,
Stretching out your branches in praise of God,
Sending down deep roots to nourish the life within you.

Your chosen Bible Verse is Luke 10:20:
Jesus said, "Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you,
but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."



Avery Newman,
 God has gifted you with a friendly, outgoing nature,
 An enjoyment of the active life,
 A caring awareness of others,
 A desire to explore the world,
 A love of the outdoors,
 A close family life, and
 A hunger to know God better.

Avery,
 You are a butterfly,
 Exploring your world as you flit from flower to flower,
 Joining the other butterflies in exuberant dance,
 Loving the light and the music of nature.



Your chosen Bible Verse is Isaiah 43:2:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.



Pastor Doug Pretorius	Kelsey Schneider	Ethan Dickey	Ethan Jeanneret	Marlow Johnston	Cindy Klosterman
		Evelyn Oen	Avery Newman	Ella Price	

Confirmation May 31, 2026

Worship Services for June

June 6 & 7 **Gleaning and Hope** Sunday Communion
 Ruth 2:1-23 Psalm 41:1-3 Luke 6:36-38

The Gift and the Responsibility of Abundance

Today we hear the second of four chapters from Ruth. She arrived in Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest with her mother-in-law Naomi after the deaths of both of their husbands. Ruth is gleaning, picking up the heads of grain fallen to the ground after the harvesters, women with sickles, have done their work. The Israelites were commanded to allow the poor to glean the fields to provide for their needs.



For everyone who *asks* receives,
 and for everyone who *searches* finds,
 and for everyone who *knocks*,
 the *door* will be opened.
 Luke 11:10, NRSV

June 13 & 14 **Daring to Act**
 Ruth 3:1-18 Psalm 108:1-6 Matthew 7:7-11

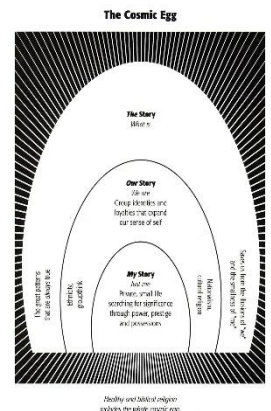
Ask, Search, Knock

Today is part three of the four-part story of Ruth. She boldly makes her desires known to Boaz that she would like to be his wife. This is a great risk for her since she is a foreigner. She asks in a way that allows him to act honorably...or not.

June 20 & 21 **New Life** Sunday Communion
 Luke 1:46-55 Ruth 4:1-22

The Cosmic Egg

Today we hear the conclusion of the book of Ruth. Boaz arranges to marry Ruth, and they have a son named Obed. The book concludes by revealing that Obed is the grandfather of King David. Now it all becomes clear. This is not simply a story of two everyday people who through misfortune find new life. Their story is connected to God's story.



June 27 & 28 **For Such a Time as This** Youth Sunday TSC Taping
 Esther 4:1-17 Psalm 80:1-7 Luke 9:23-24

For Such a Time as This

During this worship service and next week's worship service we hear the story of Esther, an orphan Jew, who is the Queen of Ahasuerus, the powerful king of Persia. Esther has been adopted by her uncle Mordecai. Mordecai's bitter enemy at court is the wicked Haman, the king's right-hand man. Because Mordecai fails to bow before him, Haman plots not only Mordecai's death but also the extermination of all the Jews in the Persian empire. No one knows Esther is a Jew. Mordecai pleads with Esther to save the Jewish people.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council - April 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Nelson Golden, Corrin McBride, Jen Garber, Shelley Schlegel, Amanda Schmerge, Mark Swaney, Richard Ault, and Marguerite Wallen. Pastor Doug was excused from the meeting.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: The meeting was called to order by Nelson Golden at 6:00 p.m. The devotion was from Luke 24: Verses 13-35.

Motto, Mission, and Vision Statements were read aloud in unison.

Secretary's Report: February's report was reviewed and discussed. Richard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Corrin seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Finance Committee did not meet on April 14 due to weather. They are working together to reschedule that meeting. Shelley presented the Income & Expenses report and the Balance Statement from March. March income was \$23,036.27 and the expenses were \$22,551.61. Richard made a motion to accept the finance report as presented. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Social Ministries: Corrin shared that the "Spring Fling" was a success. Many attended and everyone enjoyed themselves. The next meeting is April 28, 2026.

Worship & Music: Nothing new to report at this time - their next meeting is May 6, 2026.

Property & Maintenance: Mark presented a quote from Forge Mechanical, LLC for the repair/replacement of the air conditioner units in the sanctuary. Council will table this discussion about proceeding with the project until more information from the company is obtained.

Pastor's Report: Reuben Maki passed away March 1, 2026, and he officiated at Pat Kreglow's funeral. The pastor authorized \$510 to cover rent for two individuals out of the Mission Wapak Fund. Pastor will be taking vacation from April 13-19 and will also be out July 24 - August 6.

Old Business: No old business to be discussed.

New Business: Council is tabling the discussion on the replacing of the AC units in the sanctuary. Mark brought up the need/desire to create a committee that will be in charge of leading the new screen project for the sanctuary.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6 p.m.

We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Garber



Schlegel, Stein J.	2-Jun
Wiesenmayer, Robert	6-Jun
Werling, Sally	10-Jun
Price, Jillian R.	10-Jun
Schlegel, Shelley M.	14-Jun
Jeanneret, Laurie A.	16-Jun
Presar, Emerson T. (Tate)	19-Jun
Thuman, Seth M.	22-Jun
Rogers, Cortney L.	22-Jun
Large, Linda	23-Jun
Zofkie, Jonathan	25-Jun
Klima, George	26-Jun
Dickey, Jeremy D.	28-Jun
Heitz, Laura	29-Jun

St. Mark's Motto

Be God's Grace in Action

St. Mark's Mission

St. Mark's Mission is to fulfill the Great Commission by extending God's Grace to all people.

St. Mark's Vision

St. Mark's will transform the Wapakoneta area and the world into a community of love by connecting the disconnected to God's grace and salvation.

We welcome, support, and care for all people.

Pastor	Doug Pretorius	PastorDougP@gmail.com	419-512-4491
Administrative Assistant	DyLynn Epperly	StMarksWapak302@gmail.com	
Church Musician	Melissa Grunden	pridd16@yahoo.com	419-204-1420
Custodian	Amanda Wilder	corrinelyla@icloud.com	567-204-2726
Technology Coordinator	Dustin Jeanneret	djeanneret@flex-corp.com	567-319-0278

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Phone: 419-738-3122

Office Cell Phone: 567-356-6799

Website: www.StMarksWapak.Org

June

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 10:30 Gardens Worship	4	5 11:30 Private Event	6 5 pm Communion
7 10:15 Communion	8 7:30 Property Committee	9	10	11 10:30 Otterbein Worship	12 5 pm Rehearsal	13 2:30 Miller/Jackson Wedding 5 pm Communion
14 10:15 Worship 6 pm Jr. Climbers	15	16	17 10:30 Gardens Worship	18 6pm Council	19	20 5 pm Communion
21 10:15 Communion	22	23	24	25	26 5:30 pm DoGood Restaurant	27 10 New Member Orientation 5 pm Communion
28 10:15 Worship 6 pm Jr. Climbers	29	30				

June Who Does What?

10:15am Sunday	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun
Greeters, Pearl St	Mike & Courtney	Paul & Cortney	Braden Fisher	Jacob Hicks
	Burton	Rogers	Collin Lenhart	Ethan Dickey
Greeters, Seltzer St	Tom & Paula	Willie Winter	Bob & Doreen	Susie LaMarr
& Offering	Schmerge	Deb Osborne	Kinninger	Kaylee Dickey
Bulletins & Offering	Susan John	Tim & Kathy	Kevin & Meddy	Jennings McEvoy
	Ethel Shawver	Schneider	Ruck	Landon Baeumel
Reader	Ashley Schmerge	Paul Rogers	George Hengstler	Kelsey Schneider
Candle Lighter	Avery Newman	Ella Price	Kelsey Schneider	Ella Price
Cross Bearer	Ethan Dickey	Evelyn Oen	Marlow Johnston	Avery Newman
PowerPoint	Richard Ault	Paul Fox	Ashley Schmerge	Ethan Jeanneret
Communion	Rod & Sheila	N/A	Chris Sorensen	N/A
Servers	Metz		Barb Srisongkham	
Song Leader(s)	Kristin Doll	Nelson Golden	Jen Garber	Youth Cantors
Fellowship	Jen Garber	Tina Waltz	Kristi Fisher	Brittani McEvoy
Sound Tech	Chad Doll	Rod Metz	Rich Garber	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Ryan Schneider	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00pm Saturday	6-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun
Greeter	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney	Marguerite Wallen	Laura Heitz
Bulletins	Marguerite Wallen	Sandy Swaney	Dianne Knipp	Barb Srisongkham
Reader	Carol Pretorius	Mark Swaney	Melissa Grunden	Laura Heitz
Communion	Sue Jeanneret	Laura Heitz	Betty Elsass	Barb Srisongkham
Servers	Dianne Knipp	Carol Pretorius	Terry Shoup	Sue Jeanneret
Singer	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius
Musician	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden
Altar Guild for the Month of June: Paula, Ashley, & Amanda Schmerge				