

# St. Mark's Messenger

## April, 2023

The monthly mailed newsletter of St. Mark's Lutheran Church



### **Holy Week Worship Services**

#### **Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

Holy Communion Worship

Saturday April 1 at 5:00 pm    Sunday April 2 at 10:15 am

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Tri-Congregational Holy Communion Worship

Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's

#### **Good Friday**

Tri-Congregational Meditation Worship Service

Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm at First English Lutheran Church

#### **Easter**

Holy Communion Celebration Worship

Saturday April 8 at 5:00 pm    Sunday April 9 at 10:15 am

## **The Stranger**, by O.J. Hunlock

The small meager cottage stood nearby the road  
Where an elderly couple dwelled.  
Their life had been hard, but they never complained.  
For love, in their hearts, they both held.  
The night wind blew cold, deep snow covered the ground.  
But the fire on their hearth burned bright,  
Their evening meal over, and all cleared away  
They felt safe from the blast of the night.  
The warmth made them drowsy, they nodded a bit,  
When a sudden rap on the door,  
Roused them abruptly and startled them some,  
Not knowing what it could be for.  
The old man carefully unlatched the string,  
The wind pushed the door open wide,  
And there on the doorstep, shaking with cold  
Was a stranger, he welcomed inside  
"I'm sorry to bother, "the stranger began,  
But I seem to somehow lose my way,  
The snow must have blinded me far back down the road,"  
"Come on in, you're welcome to stay."  
His clothing was thin and tattered and worn,  
But his manner was pleasant and kind.  
He was pale with hunger and cold, they could see,  
But the stranger was meek and benign.  
Their hearts went out to him,  
"Please, sit down and eat,  
Warm yourself by the fire, "they both said.  
"And when you have finished, you must stay the night,  
While you eat, I will make up your bed."  
Outside the wind raged, but inside it was warm,  
And they rested the night, so lighthearted,

With first morning light the old couple awoke  
To find their guest had departed.  
At first, they were shaken and filled with alarm,  
But all was still there in its place.  
They felt they felt that the stranger had done them no harm  
As they both recalled his gentle face.  
The old man discovered the wood was piled high  
At the side of the cottage small,  
Enough to last well into spring, he thought,  
And no more to gather till fall.  
The old woman was equally thrilled,  
For the larder was full to the brim.  
They looked at each other, and knowingly said,  
"We helped, not a stranger, but Him."

## **The Road to Emmaus**

*As the two disciples came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."*

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Renovation Pictures



The ceiling girders are going up and the bathroom plumbing is being roughed in.

# Catechism Retreat Photos



## **Cookies Needed for Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross has renewed its request that area organizations donate cookies for the blood drives. This was suspended during Covid. We have agreed to supply ten dozen cookies on Thursday, April 20. They need to be delivered to the St. Joe Parish Hall by 10:30. They cannot have nuts or peanut butter in them. A sign-up will be available.

## **Restoring the Luster**

When the renovation work is completed, at least the dust making part of it, we will be cleaning the woodwork in the sanctuary, including the pews. The woodwork will be wiped down with Murphy Oil soap. Since many hands make light work, you will be invited to clean "your pew." The week that this takes place will be announced when the timing is right.

## **Crossover Aisle Created**



Two pews in the center and the last two were removed to make it easier to cross from one side of the sanctuary to the other. Three were set out in the evening and were gone by morning!

## 2023 Easter Flowers

**Pastor Doug & Carol Pretorius**



**Courtney Wilson**

**Richard & Kay Ault**

**Linda Link**

**Kim & Tina Waltz**

**Denny, Robbin, & Mariah Hoge**

**Mark & Sandy Swaney**

**Richard & Kay Ault**

**Laura Heitz**

In Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus  
and the power of the Spirit to raise the dead to life  
In Honor of the Good People of St. Mark's  
In Remembrance of all of our ancestors in the faith,  
personal, historical, and biblical.

To the Glory of God

In Honor of Our Grandchildren

In Memory of my grandma

In Memory of Our Parents - Fred and Toni Waltz  
In Memory of Our Grandparents - Fred and Mildred Waltz  
In Memory of Our Grandmother - Christa Wash  
In Memory of Our Great Grandmother - Bess Waltz McGuffin  
In Honor of St. Mark's Congregation

To the Glory of God

In Honor of Jean Thompson's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday

In Honor of our grandchildren

To the Glory of God



## Worship Services for April 2023

**April 1/2 Palm/Passion Sunday** Sunday Holy Communion  
Matt. 21:1-11 Philippians 2:5-11 Psalm 31:9-16 Matt. 26:14--27:66

### The Spirit Brings Us to Places of Praise & Passion

Today is both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. First, we join the first disciples in praising Jesus as we enter Holy Week. Then we remember how the week ends with Jesus being tortured and murdered. We all, like Jesus, also experience moments of praise and passion events.



**Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's,**  
Communion, Pastor Mark Bishop preaching

Exodus 12:1-14 Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Cor. 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
On Maundy "Commandment" Thursday we remember Jesus gave us the gift of Holy Communion when he celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. He also modeled the servant role he expects out of us when he washed the disciples' feet. Finally, he gave us a new commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."

**Friday, April 7 Good Friday at 7:00 pm at First English**

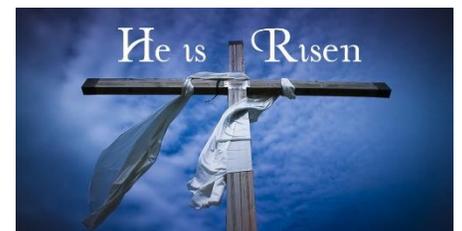
Isaiah 52:13--53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1--19:42  
This will be service of reflection on the meaning of the cross.

**April 8/9 Easter** Sunday Holy Communion  
Colossians 3:1-4 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Matthew 28:1-10

### The BIG "If"

A child's top spins on a single point.

The resurrection of Jesus is the single point around which our life revolves.



**April 15/16 Easter 2** Kaiden Hinegardner preaching Sunday Holy Communion  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

The disciples' reaction to Jesus being raised from the dead is similar to our own, belief, acceptance, and doubt.

**April 22/23 Easter 3** Youth Sunday  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Luke 24:13-35

### Open Our Eyes

Those who recognizing Jesus have a teachable mind and an open heart.



**April 29/30 Easter 4**  
Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

### The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not Want.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always Shepherd Sunday for the analogy of sheep and shepherd to people and Jesus is timeless.

## April Financial Information as of March 30

### General Fund

(Needed per Sun.	\$ 4,718)
Income Last week	\$ 5,381
YTD Income	\$ 53,279
YTD Expenses	\$ 49,671
Balance	\$ 4,609

### Renovation Project Pledges

Total Needed	\$ 610,000
Total Pledged to Date	\$ 570,015
Received Last Week	\$ 1,627
Total Received	\$ 299,186

### Worship Attendance for March

	Saturday	Sunday	Streaming	Adult SS
March 4 & 5	18	51	51	16
March 11 & 12	29	62	47	15
March 18 & 19	28	59	38	15
March 25 & 26	24	64	99	12



## Who Does What?

10:15 am Sunday	April 2, 2023	April 9, 2023	April 16, 2023	April 23, 2023	April 30, 2023
Greeters Pearl St	Braden Fisher, Heidi Lisi	Cindy Klosterman, Bob Kinn	Ron & Karen Lenhart	Ethan Jeanneret	Rod & Sheila Metz
	x	x	x	x	x
Bulletins, Offering	Ethel Shawver	Tina Waltz	Kent Welch	Nate Garber	Robert Wiesenmayer
Bulletins, Offering	Barb Srisonkham	Kim Waltz	Karen Welch	Kerrigan Lenhart	Shirley Wiesenmayer
Reader	Kristi Fisher	Julie Miars Golden	Chris Sorensen	Jacob Hicks, Lyla Wilder	JP Metz
Communion	Howard Garber	Rodney Metz	Joe Landry	x	x
Servers	John Price	Sheila Metz	Paul Rogers	x	x
Song Leader(s)	Julie Miars Golden	Nelson Golden	Jen Garber	Addi Fisher, Lyla Wilder	JP Metz
				Kaylee Dickey, Gabby Raney	
Fellowship	Jen Garber	Carol Rogers	Karen Lenhart	Amanda and Ashley Schmerge	Tina Waltz
Sound Tech	Nelson Golden	Chris Sorenson	Rich Garber	Nathan Doll	Rod Metz
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00 PM Saturday	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
Greeter	Mark Swaney	Joe Hornung	Carol Jeanneret	Dan Shoemaker	Dianne Knipp
Bulletins	Sandy Swaney	Wanda Hornung	Sue Jeanneret	Gloria Headapohl	Kathryn Ferguson
Reader	Sue Jeanneret	Laura Heitz	Melissa Grunden	Anne Grove	Mark Swaney
Communion	Carol Jeanneret	Laura Heitz	Betty Elsass	Lowell Headapohl	Sandy Swaney
Servers	Sue Jeanneret	Dianne Knipp	Carol Pretorius	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney
Singer	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius
Musician	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden
Altar Guild for the Month of April: Amanda Schmerge, Ashley Schmerge, Paula Schmerge					

## Thank You Notes Received

I had the privilege of receiving one of your Thursday meals this month and what a treat! I am so grateful for what you do. God bless.

*~Marty Shaw*



We give you a special thank you for your friendship and support. You are the heart of Wernle. May you be blessed in this new year.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		28			31	1 5pm - Communion
2 Palm Sunday 9am - Adult Sun. Sch. 10:15am - Communion 	3	4 7am - Reno & Construction Team	5 10:30am - Gardens 6pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Choir	6 7pm - Maundy Thursday	7 Easter Break - No Preschool 7pm - Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday 5pm - Communion 
9 Easter Break - No Preschool Easter Sunday 9am - Adult Sun. Sch. 10:15am - Worship 	10 Easter Monday 8pm - Finance Meeting 	11 7am - Renovation Team 9am - Preschool Chapel 12:15pm - Preschool	12 12pm - Community Worship 7pm - Catechism 7:30pm - Choir	13 9am - Preschool Chapel 12:15pm - Preschool 7pm - Council	14 	15 5pm - Communion
16 9am - Adult Sun. Sch. 10:15am - Communion 10:15am - TSC Taping	17	18 Tax Day 7am - Reno & Construction Team	19 10:30am - Gardens 7pm - Catechism	20	21	22 5pm - Communion 
23 9am - Adult Sun. Sch. 9am - High School SS 10:15am - Worship	24 	25 7am - Renovation Team 9am - Preschool Chapel 12:15pm - Preschool	26 7pm - Catechism	27 9am - Preschool Chapel	28	29 5pm - Communion
30 9am - Adult Sun. Sch.	31 					

## **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2023**

Laura Heitz **called the meeting to order** at 7:02 PM.

**Members Present:** Laura Heitz, Mark Swaney, Pastor Doug, Tina Waltz, JP Metz, Mike Burton, and Dustin Jeanneret.

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with a **prayer and devotion**.

**Council Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were emailed to all the members for February 9 and the 23. Tina Waltz made a motion to approve the minutes, JP Metz seconded; motion carried.

**Financial Report:** The February Treasurer's Report and Paul Rogers' Report of the March 6 Finance Meeting was mailed to all the council members. Tina presented the highlights of that financial report and the Treasurer's Report. There are two treasury bills, both just over \$100,000 at 4% interest. The first will mature on April 4 and the second on April 15. Some line items from the property and maintenance section had increased and those were discussed. One item was in relation to the discovery of the sump pump requiring a replacement and another was in relation to the property insurance.

**Old Business:** Betty Winemiller's estate gift, which is currently in the Miscellaneous Giving Dedicated Fund, is awaiting transfer to a Treasury Bill in the Endowment Fund. Doug made a motion to have the finance committee to purchase that T-bill and make that transfer in June. Mark Swaney seconded; the motion carried.

**New Business:** Preparations were made for the upcoming congregational meeting. In addition, we will tell the congregation we are removing pews in order to make room to cross back and forth. This would involve removing a total of four pews, a set from the back of the sanctuary and another set from the middle. In addition, the ends of some damaged pews will be swapped for ones in good condition. Mike Burton made a motion to remove and repair these pews, JP Metz seconded; motion carried.

**Renovations Committee Update:** Mike Burton presented an update regarding the church renovation. The council reviewed a detailed list regarding the total projected and the authority requested costs. These will be presented and handed out during the congregational meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Doug provided the following dates that he intends to take for vacation; May 24-31, June 5-11, July 10-16, and August 19-26. JP Metz made a motion to accept the proposed dates, Tina seconded; motion carried. Pastor brought to the council's attention four complaints and/or recommendations that he received this past week. They were regarding excess dust in the sanctuary, additional electrical outlets in the preschool rooms, accounting practices, and the need of Sunday school options/resources. These topics were discussed at great length in **Executive Session**. The following was decided:

- Additional plastic will be installed to protect the large openings into the sanctuary.
- Council is awaiting a cost estimate of the additional five electrical outlets in the preschool rooms before making a decision.
- The council decided to ask Thelma Hunlock to train Libby Pothast to handle all the church financial records as soon as possible. The church council further authorized Libby Pothast to have full signatory privileges at Minister Bank on all of St. Mark's Lutheran Church's financial accounts.
- The key issue is that we need to find an effective way to pass on the faith to our children and youth. Although a couple ideas were suggested it was tabled until the next meeting.

**The next council meeting** will be Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7PM.

Tina Waltz made a motion to **adjourn**, Mark Swaney seconded, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Cordially submitted,

*Dustin Jeanneret*

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## Pastor's Report for the March 9 Council Meeting

Council, I learned when I was a young pastor that complaints are gold. Complaints tell me three things:

1. Something needs attention, and the person telling me the complaint believes that I can provide a solution.
2. The complainer is bothered by something and wants someone to listen to them. That need to be listened to is so strong that the complainer will tell the whole complaint without stopping. If the complainer is interrupted in mid complaint, the complainer will go back to the beginning and tell it all again until he or she is able to reach the end.
3. When the full complaint has been expressed, he or she wants to hear "I'm sorry." Sometimes they need to hear, "I am sorry that you were treated badly." Other times it is enough to say, "I am sorry that you had that experience" without admitting fault of any kind.

Therefore, I take complaints seriously. However, I only listen to them if there is a name attached to the complaint. I will not listen to someone who says, "I have a complaint that you need to hear but the person refuses to let you know their name." If they are not willing to own the complaint, I will not accept criticism lobbed in from the bushes.

I have heard four complaints this week:

- Complaint #1: There is heavy dust in the sanctuary.
- Complaint #2: Have we considered adding more electrical outlets in the preschool rooms for there is only one in each room.
- Complaint #3: Our church accounts are not being kept in a timely manner.
- Complaint #4: "We must get Sunday School back in place ASAP or we will not have a church of the future."

### Upcoming Events:

- **Catechism Retreat @ Maria Stein:** March 24-26, Friday – Sunday.  
I will be posting a video sermon for that Sunday.
- **Vacation Dates:** May 24 – 31, June 5-11, July 10-16, August 19-26
- **Continuing Education Events:**
  - June 17-20 National Rostered Ministers Gathering
  - August 2-4 Festival of Biblical Storytellers
- **Annual Prayer Retreat:** October 25 – November 2 Loyola house, Guelph, Canada

Peace,

*Pastor Doug*

## **St. Mark's Special Congregational Meeting Minutes, Sunday, March 12, 2023**

Laura Heitz called the meeting to order at 11:20 am with 57 voting members present. The opening prayer was led by Pastor Doug Pretorius.

Laura then stated the procedures for the voting process on the three (3) motions, pertaining to the current renovation, being brought before the congregation for approval.

Laura then invited Mike Burton, Chairman of the Renovation Committee, to speak to the status of the renovation project.

Mike then provided the attached in-depth Construction Budget update.

(Copies were given to members.)

During the question period, George Hengstler asked for clarification on the \$200,000 loan from congregation members. Mike stated that there are several members he's spoken to that are willing to participate in loaning St. Mark's additional funds to complete the renovation project, and that if any other members are interested to call him. The \$200,000 loan will be for 15 months at 4% interest.

With no other questions from the floor the voting process began. Laura read the motion.

Motion 1:

**The church council moves that St. Mark's Lutheran Church accept the \$50,000 grant from the Auglaize Board of County Commissioners. This amount is a portion of the Auglaize Development Funds, and it was granted to fund "in whole or in part: Asbestos abatement/reconstruction of childcare-pre-school spaces."**

There was no further discussion.

The Voice Vote resulted in a unanimous Aye. Motion approved.

The second motion also came from the church council. Laura read the second motion.

Motion 2:

**The church council moves that St. Mark's Lutheran Church authorize the church council to increase overall project authority to \$75,000 for Phase #2 and to \$585,000 for Phase #1, total of \$660.00. Subtracting the grant this means authorizing all-in spending of \$610,000, an increase of \$60,000 (\$25,000 related to Phase #2 and \$35,000 related to Phase #1).**

There was no further discussion.

The Voice Vote resulted in a unanimous Aye. Motion approved.

The third motion from the church council was read by Laura.

Motion 3:

**The church council moves that the St. Mark's Church Council be authorized to borrow up to \$200,000 from members for 15 months at a 4% interest.**

There was no further discussion.

The Voice Vote resulted in a unanimous Aye. Motion approved.

Julie Golden spoke to the movement of some of the Sanctuary pews. The more damaged ones, due to wear and tear, will be donated and replaced with those in better condition. The work takes place March 20, 2023.

Laura asked for a motion to adjourn. Dick Alt made a motion to adjourn, Willie Winter seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

# Happy Birthday!

Jean	Thompson	April	1
Carol	Jeanneret	April	3
Brandon	Wilson	April	4
Mark	Swaney	April	7
Stephanie	Kiefer	April	8
Rylie	Jeanneret	April	12
Avery	Kiefer	April	12
Caleb	Kiefer	April	12
Gerald	Malueg	April	18
Julie	Golden	April	19
Caleb	Hicks	April	20
Rodney	Miller	April	22
Bryce	Converse	April	24
Jeanne	Clark	April	26
Sarah	Garber	April	27
Nathan	Doll	April	30



## **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.

<b>Pastor</b>	Doug Pretorius	<a href="mailto:PastorDougP@gmail.com">PastorDougP@gmail.com</a>	419-512-4491
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Libby Pothast	<a href="mailto:StMarksWapak302@gmail.com">StMarksWapak302@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Church Musician</b>	Melissa Grunden		
<b>Janitor</b>	Amanda Wilder		
<b>Technology Coordinator</b>	Dustin Jeanneret		

## **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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