

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

St. Mark's Messenger, April 2026



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Pastor Doug's Letter

God Speaks through Isaiah: But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;
my LORD has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her nursing child
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these might forget,
yet I will not forget you.
See, **I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;**
your walls are continually before me.
Your builders outdo your destroyers,
and those who laid you waste go away from you.

Brothers and Sisters,

These words came to me in the middle of the night as I was pondering what to write you: "I have written your name on the palm of my hand." As you can see, I did not remember it exactly for the word is not "written" but "inscribed." To be inscribed is almost like a tattoo but conveys an even weightier connotation. It is more like being chiseled into stone like the name on a grave maker. Names chiseled onto monuments last for millennium.

But this is no stone. This is the living hand of God, or more specifically the hands of God, like hands cradling a baby. The people of God were feeling forgotten and forsaken for their situation was that of living in Exile, slaves in a foreign land. Yet, God says that their very being is in the hands of God.

Note that I remembered that it was the "name" written on the palm of the hand but the exact quote is "you" (yourself, your being, your life, your circumstances, all of you) are inscribed on the palms of God's hands. And this is not a singular "you" but a plural "you," literally "all you all" as they say in the South. This is a communal promise that we are not forgotten.

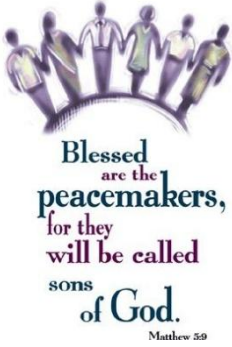
To be forgotten is to cease to exist. It is as if you no longer matter or have significance of any kind. We remember what is important to us and we forget what is not. It is simply beyond our human capacity to remember every person and every experience in our lives, and so our brains selectively forget. Part of that forgetfulness is forgetting the accumulation of minutia which matters not. Who cares if we forget whether we had iced tea or lemonade last summer at the pool party? Far more serious is the "forgetting" of a childhood trauma when the brain disassociates itself from the trauma; "This cannot be happening to me!" When this happens, the person has no memory of the trauma until a trigger causes remembrance.

God has no amnesia. Inscribed on the palms of Jesus is forever the mark of the nails. Those nail marks forever remind God of his great love for us and the preciousness we are to him.

Peace,

Pastor Doug

St. Mark's Hosts Final Community Noon Lenten Worship



The Annual Noon Community Lenten Worship services conclude Wednesday April 1 at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church. The theme for this year is **The Beatitudes: Attitudes of the Heart Personally and Communally**. Pastor Doug Pretorius will lead worship that week. The theme for the day is "**Blessed are the peacemakers...**" A meal provided by St. Mark's will follow worship. A freewill offering will be taken. **Cookies** are needed for the noon meal at St. Joseph Church. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the entryway.

Maundy Thursday Worship

A Maundy Thursday Tri-Congregational Worship Service will be held at St. Mark's on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. Pastor Paul Bromeli from St. Paul UCC will be preaching. First English Church will also be attending.



Good Friday

A Good Friday Tri-Congregational Worship Service will be held at First English Lutheran Church at 7:00 on Friday evening. This will be a Tenebrae Service which retells the Passion story.



Holy Week at St Mark's

Wednesday, April 1:

12:00 pm WAMA Lenten Service at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tri-Congregational Worship Service @ St. Mark's

Good Friday, April 3:

7:00 pm Good Friday Tri-Congregational Worship Service @ First English

Holy Saturday, April 4:

5:00 pm Festival Communion Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 5:

10:15 am Festival Communion Worship Service

Boxsue teaches Boxbob about Lent and Lenten Practices



Ron & Karen Lenhart



Ryan & Kara Schneider



Jacob Grunden and Melissa Grunden



Karl & Shelley Schlegel

Spring Fling Photos

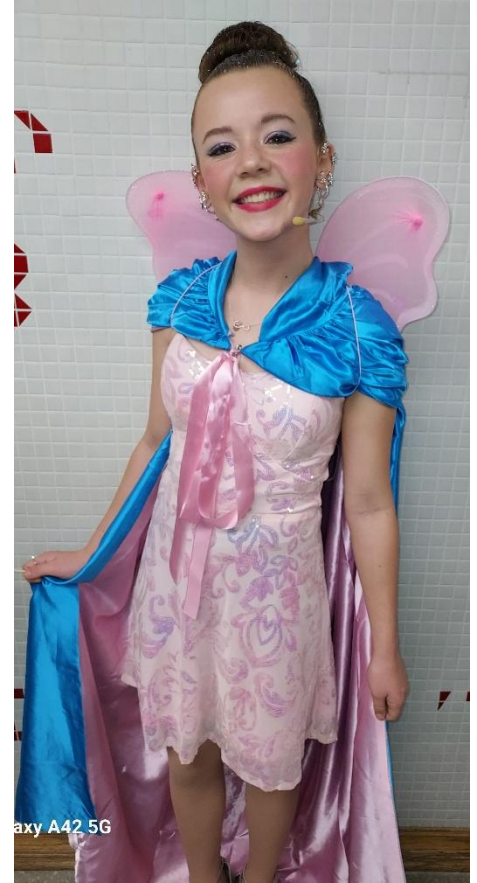


Nineteen people stayed for dinner on Saturday night to celebrate the Spring Fling. Fifty people enjoyed the meal on Sunday noon.

Top right: Saturday night.

Middle: Sunday in Room 2

Bottom: Sunday in the Gathering Space



The Junior Bells performed on Sunday March 22. **Evelyn Oen** was the Fairy Godmother in the middle school play *The Trial of the Wicked Witch* where she presided as the judge.

Attendance 2026						
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Live Stream	SS Adults	SS Children	SS Total
2/25/2026	Wednesday:	32				
3/1/2026	25	66	131	15	0	15
3/4/2026	Wednesday:	40				
3/8/2026	20	53	167	14	3	17
3/11/2026	Wednesday:	30				
3/15/2026	26	53	129	16	5	21
3/18/2026	Wednesday:	30				
3/22/2026	26	79	87	17	7	24

There are no council minutes for March since the meeting was canceled.

Worship Services for April

April 4 & 5 **Resurrection** Resurrection of Our Lord Communion
Psalm 118:21-29 John 20:1-18

I Have Seen the Lord

Today is Easter, the day of Jesus' resurrection. We celebrate that death no longer has the final word. All is made new. We rejoice and sing. Our sorrow has passed and resurrection is our new reality.



Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet
have come to believe.

John 20:29, NRSV

April 11 & 12 **Thomas** Second Sunday of Easter
Psalm 145:13-21 John 20:19-31

Do not Doubt but Believe.

On this second Sunday of the Easter season we hear the story of Thomas and his doubts. The disciples' claim that they saw the Risen Jesus clearly seemed to him to be an outlandish, impossible tale. Most likely he had seen the death of Jesus and knew that there was no recovery possible. We too wrestle with the impossibility of the resurrection.

April 18 & 19 **Paul's Conversion** Third Sunday of Easter Communion
Psalm 108:1-6 Acts 9:1-19a

Converting the Deeply Religious

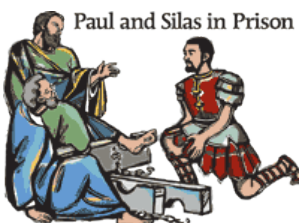
The Apostle Paul is one of the most significant people in the New Testament. His insights, theology, and actions have greatly influenced all of Christianity. We hear today the story of his conversion from deep faith in God to an even deeper understanding of the nature and character of God.



April 25 & 26 **Paul and Silas** 4th Sunday of Easter Youth Sun. Honor Grads
Psalm 145:1-9 Acts 16:16-34

Outward Bound

Following his conversion Paul cannot stop talking about Jesus. He takes Silas as a companion on his journey throughout the Roman Empire. First he speaks with the Jews in every place about Jesus and then he speaks to anyone who will listen. In today's story





Wilson, Brandon	4-Apr	Jordan Jr., John	18-Apr
Schlegel, Klaus	6-Apr	Golden, Julie M.	19-Apr
Swaney, Mark A.	7-Apr	Tabler, Mary	19-Apr
Kiefer, Stephanie K.	8-Apr	Hicks, Caleb M.	20-Apr
Nicol, Micah	9-Apr	Schlegel, Annika E.	20-Apr
Jeanneret, Rylie S.	12-Apr	Miller, Rodney R. (Rod)	22-Apr
Kiefer, Avery R.	12-Apr	Blauvelt, Brenda L.	22-Apr
Kiefer, Caleb N.	12-Apr	Converse, Bryce M.	24-Apr
Jeanneret, Carol S.	13-Apr	Clark, Jeanne L.	26-Apr
Krites, Richard L. (Dick)	16-Apr	Garber, Sarah J.	27-Apr
Malueg, Gerald	18-Apr	Doll, Nathan E.	30-Apr

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		StMarksWapak302@gmail.com	
Church Musician	Melissa Grunden	pridd16@yahoo.com	419-204-1420
Custodian	Amanda Wilder	corrinyla@icloud.com	567-204-2726
Technology Coordinator	Dustin Jeanneret	djeanneret@flex-corp.com	567-319-0278

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 East Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office Phone: 419-738-3122

Office Cell Phone: 567-356-6799

Website: www.StMarksWapak.Org

April

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9 am SS for All 10:15 am Communion	30	31	1 10:30 am Gardens Wors. 7:00 pm Catechism 7:30 pm Choir	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs. Worship @ St. Mark's	3 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship @ First English	4 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Communion
Easter 5 NO SS 10:15 am Communion	6	7 9:00 am Preschool Chapel 10:15 pm Preschool Chapel	8 7:00 pm Catechism 7:30 pm Choir	9 9:00 am Preschool Chapel 10:30 am Otterbein	10	11 5:00 pm Communion
12 9 am SS for All 10:15 am Worship 6:00 pm Jr. Climbers	13 Pastor on Vacation	14 8:00 pm Finance Team	15	16 6:00 pm Council	17	18 5:00 pm Communion
19 9 am SS for All 10:15 am Communion	20 Pastor Returns from vacation	21 9:00 am Preschool Chapel 10:15 pm Preschool Chapel	22 7:00 pm Catechism	23 9:00 am Preschool Chapel	24	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Communion
26 9 am SS for All 10:15 am Worship 6:00 pm Jr. Climbers	27	28 5:30 pm Social Ministry	29 7:00 pm Catechism	30	1	2 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Communion

April Who Does What?

10:15am Sunday	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
Greeters, Pearl St	Rod & Beth Miller	JP Metz Willie Winter	Rod & Sheila Metz	Ethan Dickey Evelyn Oen
Greeters, Seltzer St & Offering	Mike & Courtney Burton	Jen & Rich Garber	Jeremy & Hannah Dickey	Jacob Hicks Susie LaMarr
Bulletins & Offering	John & Kelli Price	John Doll Kim Harter	Paula & Tom Schmerge	Landon Baeumel Jennings McEvoy
Reader	Taryn Newman	Bob Wiesenmayer	Kristin Doll	Avery Newman
Candle Lighter	Ella Price	Marlow Johnston	Kelsey Schneider	Ethan Dickey
Cross Bearer	Avery Newman	Evelyn Oen	Ethan Dickey	Ella Price
PowerPoint	Ashley Schmerge	Paul Fox	Tina Waltz	Marlow Johnston
Communion	Jeanne Clark	N/A	Mike & Courtney	N/A
Servers	Bob Wiesenmayer		Burton	
Song Leader(s)	Nelson Golden	Julie Miars Golden	Jen Garber	Youth Cantors
Fellowship	Shirley Wiesenmayer	Tim & Kathy Schneider	Karen Lenhart	Elaine Hawkins
Sound Tech	Chris Sorensen	Nelson Golden	Rich Garber	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Ryan Schneider	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00pm Saturday	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr
Greeter	Mark Swaney	Marguerite Wallen	Laura Heitz	Dianne Knipp
Bulletins	Sandy Swaney	Dianne Knipp	Barb Srisongkham	Marguerite Wallen
Reader	Laura Heitz	Sue Jeanneret	Carol Pretorius	Melissa Grunden
Communion	Laura Heitz	Betty Elsass	Barb Srisongkham	Sandy & Mark
Servers	Dianne Knipp	Sue Jeanneret	Terry Shoup	Swaney
Altar Guild for the Month of April: Ruth Doll, Mark Swaney, Tina Waltz				