

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

# St. Mark's Messenger, February 2026



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## Pastor Doug's Letter

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:1-5*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was the substitute teacher for the adult class last Sunday and the above Bible passage was one of the one's we were looking at. The theme for the day was putting on the armor of God, particularly the "the shoes of the gospel of peace." The Romans 5:1 verse was given as a text to describe what that peace might be like, but what was interesting was that the class focused the discussion on endurance. I found that surprising.

What triggered our discussion was how endurance seems to be a vanishing trait in our society. With the abundance of immediate gratifications available to us and the proliferation of sensory stimulations, endurance seems like too much effort. One of the teachers was describing how many students give up after the first failure to solve a difficult math problem. The endurance to keep on trying to find a solution isn't there and the students simply conclude "I'm no good at math."

What I found surprising about the discussion is that I had never really thought that much about endurance. In reflecting on the four-fold progression—affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope—endurance is the one I've thought the least about. I want to be a person of hope and good character. I certainly do not boast about my afflictions, but I have seen how they made me stronger. Endurance is just what you do.

What if, however, endurance is the whole key? Afflictions just come to us without our choosing them or wanting them. Hard stuff just happens. I think of all the people I know who endure the lifelong commitment of taking care of a disabled child, who refuse to let physical disability or infirmity confine them, or who patiently care for a spouse slowly dying of a progressive illness. These folks talk about their faith sustaining them and the hope they have in God.

Endurance is answering the same question twelve times in an hour from someone suffering from Alzheimer's. It is rocking the colicky baby at two, three, and four in the morning. Endurance is working the stubborn math problem until you get it. Endurance is repetitious, slow to get results, and unseen.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-3

## Ash Wednesday Worship at Noon at Holy Face of Jesus

The annual noon community Lenten worship services and a meal begin on February 18 at the Roman Catholic Church now called the Holy Face of Jesus. The theme for this year is **The Beatitudes: Attitudes of the Heart Personally and Communally**. Father Sean Wilson will lead the worship service which includes the imposition of ashes. The theme for the day is "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." A meal will follow worship. A freewill offering will be taken.

The following week on February 25 the new pastor of St. Paul UCC, Pastor Paul Bomeli, will lead worship on the theme of "Blessed are those who mourn..."



## Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 pm

You are invited to St. Paul UCC on Wednesday evening February 18 at 7:00 pm when St. Mark's will join First English Lutheran Church in our annual tri-congregational Ash Wednesday worship. The worship service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. It is anticipated that Pastor Lorenzo Thomas will be the preacher. First English is voting to call him at their congregational meeting on February 1.

## Lenten Midweek Services at St. Mark's Begin February 25

Lenten Midweek Worship begins on Wednesday February 25 with a meal from 6:00 to 6:45 and a worship service from 7:00 pm to 7:25 pm. A feature of the worship service is a humorous skit featuring BoxBob and BoxSue learning about the meaning of Lent. The Altar Guild will be serving soup and sandwiches.



## First Communion Classes

First Communion classes will be Sundays, February 1, 8, and 15, from 9:00 to 10:00. First Communion will be Sunday, February 15, at the 10:15 am worship service. Any child from second to fifth grade whose parents feel that the child is ready for First Communion is invited to participate.

## Bev Cummins Dies

Bev Cummins died on January 6 after battling cancer for a long time. At her request no funeral service was held. Our condolences and prayers are with her family and friends.



# **Administrative Assistant Position Open**

Elaine Hawkins, our administrative assistant, has resigned to better care for baby Winnie. If you know of anyone who might serve well in this capacity, please contact Pastor Doug.

## **St. Mark's Office Administrator and Bookkeeper Qualifications**

### **Scope of work:**

- Be the office administrator:
  - Handle all the first contact in person, on the phone, by email, and through social media.
  - Liaison with church leaders and members to facilitate church activities.
  - Manage St. Mark's office including filing, record-keeping, attendance, and reporting.
  - Generate all communications written and electronic.
  - Contact vendors for repairs and to schedule regular maintenance.
- Be the church bookkeeper.
  - Record all contributions.
  - Pay all the bills.
  - Maintain the financial accounts in accordance with standard accounting practices.
- Supports the pastor by handling all administrative and financial tasks. Reports to the pastor.

### **Skills needed:**

- Knowledge, acceptance, and participation in Christianity's teaching and practices.
- Warm friendly personality, confidentiality, and trustworthiness.
- Proven experience as an administrative assistant.
- Knowledge of office management systems and procedures.
- Proven experience of good accounting and bookkeeping skills.
- Working knowledge of copiers, computers, and printers.
- Organizational, secretarial, and problem-solving skills.
- Strong computer skills including:
  - Keyboarding and data entry.
  - Mastery of financial data base programs.
  - Mastery of Microsoft Office, including Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.
  - Social media skills, including maintaining and updating Facebook.
  - Ability to learn evolving and new computer programming.
- Video editing skills a plus.



### **Compensation:**

- \$ 18 per hour.
- 20 hours per week, flexible schedule.
- No benefits, but potential for paid vacation and paid holidays.
- Starting ASAP.

**Application:** Send resumes in care of Pastor Doug Pretorius at [PastorDougP@gmail.com](mailto:PastorDougP@gmail.com)

## Poinsettia Donations

**Curtis E. Copeland** in memory of Babara E. Copeland.

**Pastors Doug & Carol Pretorius** in memory of their parents, grandparents & siblings; in honor of the good people of St. Mark's & St. Peter; and in honor of the birth of Christ in each of us.

**Linda Sue Link** in memory of Barbara Humphreys-Pastor Carol's Mom and in memory of her grandmother Lucinda Link.

**Carol Jeanneret** in memory of Dennis Jeanneret; always on her mind, forever in her heart. In memory of Louis & Velma Jeanneret and Lawrence & Helen Zuercher, their loving parents.

**The Hoge's** in honor of their family & friends.

**Laura Heitz** in memory of her sister, Lynne Loebach.

**Tina & Kim Waltz** in memory of their parents Toni & Fred Waltz; in memory of their grandparents Mildred & Fred Waltz; and in honor of St. Mark's Congregation.

**Carol Rogers** in memory of Bill & Anita Rogers.

**Bob & Shirley Wiesenmayer** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. Wiesenmayer and Dr. Chet Wiesenmayer; in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Peter McKay and Dr. Peter McKay; and in honor of their family.

**Thank you to everyone who helped make our sanctuary look beautiful for the Christmas Eve services!**

### A Message from God's Storehouse

We are called God's Storehouse and we are a food pantry. Due to renovations at St. Joseph Church, we are currently located at the First English Lutheran Church. We serve the people in our community that need help with grocery items, in the Wapakoneta School District. We are solely funded through donations with no government help, and all workers are volunteers. We have currently been serving around 500 people a month with about 1/2 of them being children. Our food comes from the Boy Scout Food Drive, the Letter Carriers Food Drive, which we split with Mercy Unlimited, the Barb Norton Food Drive, plus any donations that we receive.

At this time as everyone knows the prices for food items have gone up and our supplies are very low. We are asking for your help. Anything in monetary donations or supplies would be greatly appreciated.



You can drop off your items at God's Storehouse on Thursday through Saturday from 9 – 11:30 AM. You can also send any monetary donations to PO Box 72, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895. We thank you for anything you can give.

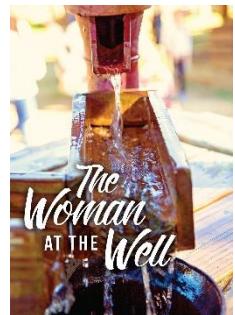
# ••• Worship Services for February •••

Jan. 30 & Feb. 1 **The Woman at the Well** Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Communion

Psalm 42 John 4:1-42

## Thirsty No More

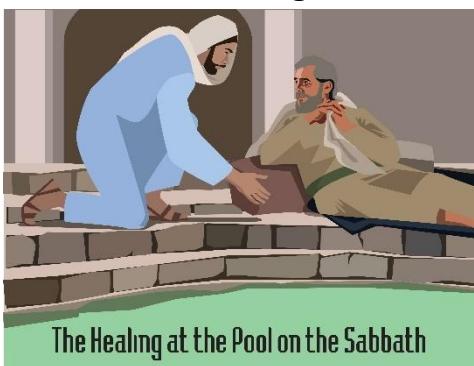
Today's Gospel story is of Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well in the middle of the day. She is an outcast from her society, and yet Jesus engages with her in a deep theological discussion of what it means to be thirsty. The conversation starts out talking about our body's need for water and ends up being about the deepest spiritual thirsts that people have.



Feb. 7 & 8 **Healing Stories** Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Prayers for Healing

Psalm 40:1-5 John 4:46-54, 5:1-18

## Healing With or Without Faith



The Healing at the Pool on the Sabbath

In today's Gospel Jesus heals two people, a royal official's son and a paralyzed man. The royal official believed Jesus that his son would recover from his life-threatening illness even though the boy was in a distant town. The paralyzed man barely had enough faith to do what Jesus told him to do, "Stand up, take your mat and walk."

Feb. 14 & 15 **The Man Born Blind** Transfiguration of Our Lord Communion

First Communion

Mark 9:2-8 Psalm 27:1-4 John 9:1-41

## Open the Eyes of My Heart

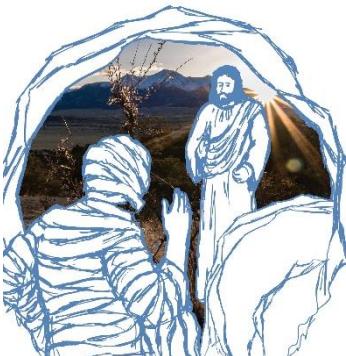
Epiphany—the season of light—ends today with the story of the transfiguration of Jesus and the story of the healing of a blind man. We cannot see light but without light we cannot see. Jesus is the light of the world through whom we see clearly.



Feb. 21 & 22 **Jesus Raises Lazarus** First Sunday in Lent Youth Sun.

Psalm 33:18-22 John 11:1-53

## The Plot Thickens



We begin the season of Lent with the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. In the Gospel of John this triggers the religious leaders to want to kill Jesus because he has now become so popular and powerful that they are feeling displaced. This Lenten season we are going to hear the passion of Jesus as told by John.

## **Worship and Music Minutes- Jan 7, 2026**

Members Present: Kristin Doll, Tina Waltz, Shelley Schlegel, Ashley Schmerge, Amanda Schmerge, Jen Garber, Melissa Grunden, Pastor Doug Pretorius

1. Meeting opened by Kristin Doll with an opening prayer at 6:00pm.
2. Feedback on August-Dec regular worship: A church member would like the choir to wear robes and sit up front. It was determined that due to the small size of the choir who may have multiple responsibilities during a service, it is no longer practical or efficient for choir members to sit up front. It was also noted we no longer have choir robes.
3. Positive feedback was received on the advent skit and all members who played parts in the weekly skits.
4. Review of church calendar Jan-May:
  - a. Melissa will be off the weekend of March 14, Wednesday March 10th, and the weekend of March 22nd due to taking her school choir to Florida. Julie has agreed to cover those dates.
  - b. High school graduation recognition will be the weekend of April 25/26. Pastor Doug will recognize college grads in the May or June Newsletter.
  - c. May 16th will be the Mother's Day Blessing and recognition.
  - d. Confirmation will be May 31st.
5. Planning Lent midweek services
  - a. A box will be at the base of the Lenten cross to collect items. Jen Garber and friends will make the Boxes for the skit characters and Tina Waltz will gather the props for the midweek skits. Kristin will ask members to be in the weekly skits.
  - b. Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Service is at St. Paul UCC
  - c. Feb 25 - Boxbob Learns About Lent: The Season.
    - i. Altar Guild hosts Soup & Sandwiches
    - ii. Will collect clothing items for Mercy Unlimited.
  - d. March 4 - Boxbob Learns About Lent: Prayer.
    - i. Youth Parents host Soup & Sandwiches
    - ii. Will tie prayer requests to the Lenten cross.
  - e. March 11 - Boxbob Learns About Lent: Fasting
    - i. Property & Maintenance hosts Soup & Sandwiches
    - ii. Will collect food items for Mercy Unlimited.
  - f. March 18 - Boxbob Learns About Lent: Good Works
    - i. Congregational Ministries hosts Soup & Sandwiches
    - ii. Will collect cards for shut ins
  - g. March 25 - Boxbob Learns About Lent: Good Friday
    - i. Finance Committee hosts Soup & Sandwiches
    - ii. Will collect pet care items for the Humane Society
  - h. March 28/29 - Palm Sunday
  - i. April 2nd - Maundy Thursday Service is at St. Mark's
  - j. April 3rd - Good Friday Service is at First English
  - k. April 4/5th - Easter Sunday
6. Next Meeting: May 6 at 6:00pm. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 6:55pm



Claire Burton	February 1	Jason Carpenter	February 18
Michael A. Burton	February 1	Lauren Doll	February 18
Bill Long	February 1	Greg Koerner	February 18
Tori Gegel	February 2	Tom Baeumel	February 20
Lee Winemiller	February 4	Landon Baeumel	February 20
Kevin Ruck	February 5	Sawyer Baker	February 22
Emilia Woehrmyer	February 5	Zach Rogers	February 24
Claude Hengstler	February 6	Erika Lisi	February 25
Lynn Hengstler	February 7	Ruth Doll	February 26
Debra Carpenter	February 9	Blake Rogers	February 26
Addie Newman	February 11	Travis Baeumel	February 27
Heidi LaMarr	February 12	Anne Grove	February 27
Austin Krites	February 16	Brett Place	February 28
Becky Jeanneret	February 17		

### **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>	Elaine Hawkins	<a href="mailto:StMarksWapak302@gmail.com">StMarksWapak302@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Church Musician</b>	Melissa Grunden		
<b>Custodian</b>	Amanda Wilder		
<b>Technology Coordinator</b>	Dustin Jeanneret		

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

302 East Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

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# February 2026 – St. Mark’s Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Communion	2	3 9a & 12:15p- Preschool Chapel 5:30p- Social Ministry Meeting	4 10:30a- Gardens 6:45p- Catechism 7p- Choir Practice	5 9a- Preschool Chapel	6	7 8a- Men’s Bible Study 5p Communion
8 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Worship <i>TSC Taping</i>	9 7:30p- Property Meeting	10	11 6:30p- Handbell Practice 6:45p- Catechism 7p- Choir Practice	12 10:30a- Otterbein Worship	13	14 5p Communion <i>Valentine’s Day</i>
15 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Communion <i>First Communion</i>	16	17 9a & 12:15p- Preschool Chapel	18 10:30a- Gardens 12p- Lenten Serv. 6:45p- Catechism 7p- Tri-Cong. Ash Wednesday Serv.	19 9a- Preschool Chapel 6p- Council	20	21 8a- Men’s Bible Study 5p Communion
22 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Worship <i>Youth Sunday</i>	23	24	25 12p- Lenten Serv. 6p- Simple Supper 7p- Lenten Serv.	26	27	28 5p Communion

# February Who Does What?

10:15am Sunday	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb
Greeters, Pearl St	Ron & Karen	Bob & Doreen	Jeremy & Hannah	Kelsey Schneider
	Lenhart	Kinninger	Dickey	Marlow Johnston
Greeters, Seltzer St & Offering	Beth & Rod	JP Metz	Karen Numbers	Jennings MvEvoy
	Miller	George Hengstler	Tracy Blake	Landon Baeumel
Bulletins & Offering	Mandy Wilder	Jen & Rich	Cindy Klosterman	Jacob Hicks
	Ethel Shawver	Garber	Jeanne Clark	Ethan Dickey
Candle Lighter	Ella Price	Marlow Johnston	Ethan Dickey	Avery Newman
Cross Bearer	Evelyn Oen	Ethan Jeanneret	Kelsey Schneider	Ella Price
Reader	Jen Garber	Heidi LaMarr	Mike Burton	Marlow Johnston
PowerPoint	Paul Fox	Ashley Schmerge	Chad Doll	Ethan Jeanneret
Communion	John Price	N/A	Karl Schlegel	N/A
Servers	Paul Rogers		Bob Wiesenmayer	
Song Leader(s)	Kristin Doll	Julie Miars Golden	Jen Garber	Kids
Fellowship	Elaine Hawkins	Tina Waltz	Shirley Wiesenmayer	Kathy & Tim Schneider
Sound Tech	Chad Doll	Nelson Golden	Chris Sorensen	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Ryan Schneider	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00pm Saturday	31-Jan	7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb
Greeter	Laura Heitz	Mark Swaney	Marguerite Wallen	Dianne Knipp
Bulletins	Marguerite Wallen	Sandy Swaney	Dianne Knipp	Barb Srisongkham
Reader	Melissa Grunden	Mark Swaney	Carol Pretorius	Laura Heitz
Communion	Betty Elsass	Carol Pretorius	Barb Srisongkham	Sandy & Mark
Servers	Sue Jeanneret	Terry Shoup	Dianne Knipp	Swaney
Singer	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius
Musician	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden
Altar Guild for the Month of February: Hannah Dickey, Kim Harter				