

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

St. Mark's Messenger **September** 2026



Table of Contents

Pastor's Letter	Page 2
Announcements	Page 3-6
Worship Service Schedule	Page 8
Council Minutes	Page 9
Birthdays	Page 10
Church Calendar	Page 11
Who Does What	Page 12

Pastor Doug's Letter

Friends,

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

Carol and I recently returned from 12 days touring Ireland. We learned that Ireland is divided into two countries. The Republic of Ireland encompasses the bottom four fifths of the island, is predominately Roman Catholic, and orients itself to the Irish culture. Northern Ireland is the northern fifth of the island, is predominately Protestant, and orients itself to England. These differences have historical, complex roots. Our tour director was quite informative in describing the various invasions, rebellions, and important persons that brought Ireland to the place it is today. Yet, 12 days are not enough time to comprehend fully the two-thousand-year history and culture of a foreign land. Furthermore, a quick AI search of those historical roots confirmed that I know next to nothing.

However, there are four takeaways from the trip that I want to share with you. First, actions can have centuries-long consequences. Second, peace can come. Third, take the long view. Fourth, be humble.

Actions have consequences. Stone walls are everywhere in Ireland and are obviously the result of centuries of farmers placing one stone upon another. Similarly, the religious partitions in Ireland have been built over the centuries. St. Patrick integrated pagan Celtic images into Christian



culture and practice, but thousands of monks and ordinary people made Roman Catholicism the predominate religion in Ireland. King Henry the Eighth messily turned the Roman Catholic Church in England into the Church of England, but subsequent kings sent Protestant merchants and leaders into Ireland to convince the people to become Protestant and English.

Peace can come. Our tour director, the local Belfast tour guide, and the cabbies of Belfast described the effect of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998, that brought an end to The Troubles. For thirty years I read the news about the bombings and the violence in Belfast, but their firsthand accounts of what they endured then and the peace and prosperity that they experience now brought me a sense of hope. If peace can happen there, then peace can happen here.

Take the long view. As our tour director described the historic events which shaped Ireland, I realized that so much of the news I hear is just snippets. Outrageous, inflammatory snippets. Who can really know how a particular newsworthy event will really be a turning point in history? Instead, I was reminded again that the work of ordinary people does more to shape events than anything else.

Be humble. I learned a lot about the peace that is present in Ireland, but I learned that my knowledge is vastly incomplete. Likewise, I know a lot about the peace of God and its work in the world. Yet, there is so much more to learn. Day by day you and I are invited to practice peace in all our relationships.

Peace,

Pastor Doug

Bible Study on Love Happening in September

The Way of Love is the theme for 2026 as developed by Bishop Daniel Beaudoin. The synod staff has developed a five-week Bible Study based on that theme. Starting on Wednesday September 9 through Wednesday October 7 Pastor Doug will lead this Bible Study. The class will run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm and will be held in the lounge, Multi-Purpose Room #4.

Finding Connection with Your Spouse

Are you and your spouse looking for quality time to spend together? Are you looking for ways to grow in your faith and relationship with God and each other? You are invited to join Chad and Kristin Doll in a 1 year couple's devotional designed to help you and your partner connect to each other and God through a weekly devotional study. Couples are invited to purchase *Devotions For a Sacred Marriage* (Gary Thomas, 2005 edition) and begin the weekly devotional study in September on their own. Each month, those who wish, will gather together to discuss the topics presented. Those who participate in the weekly devotional are not obligated to attend the monthly gathering, and may come to as many or few as desired. We will be limiting each monthly gathering to approximately 6 couples to facilitate discussion. This Couples Devotional is relatable to couples of all ages and relationship duration.

Week 1 (Sept 6-12): The God-Centered Spouse

Week 2 (Sept 13-19): A Prayer to Remember

Week 3 (Sept 20-26): Keeping The Focus Where It Belongs

Week 4 (Sept 27-Oct 3): Growing Old Together

Monthly gathering: Thursday October 1st - The Mason Jar, 6:00pm

Sunday School Starts September 13

A Middle School & High School Sunday School class will begin on September 13 in the lounge, Multi-Purpose Room #4. **We regret that there will be no children's Sunday School this year.**

Adult Sunday School resumes September 13 at 9 AM. Please join us as we explore:

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." *1 Cor. 2:9-10*

The Apostle Paul's words to the Corinthians apply just as much today as 2000 years ago. Come, see, and hear what God is seeking to reveal to you. Grab a tea or coffee from the Gathering Room and join the discussion in Multi-Purpose Room 2. Please contact Julie Miars Golden with any questions: 419-738-9235.

Imitating Christ by Being a Servant: “No Feet Washing”

Servants’ Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 19 with a rain date of September 26. Volunteers are needed to weed, trim bushes, spread mulch, wash windows, paint, and to build. There is a job for every skill level. Information and a signup sheet are on the entry table.

Wanted: Singing Voices, all levels

Chancel Ensemble rehearsals will begin September 2 at 7 PM in Room 2 during the first two Wednesdays each month. All are welcome!

Come Help Plan the Worship Services

The **Worship and Music Committee** will be meeting Sept. 2 at 6 PM in the Choir Room. Everyone is welcome to join!



The Garber gals offering up their gifts of musical talent during a Sunday service in August.

Evelyn Oen placed 2nd nationally in the **God, Flag and Country** speech contest. Congratulations, Evelyn!



Thank You Notes

Thank you to the people who brought food while Howard was in the hospital and after he came home from Otterbein. It was very appreciated. Thank you also for all the calls, prayers and cards. We love our church family. Thank you again!

Howard and Carol Garber

Thank you for all your kind words and visits to Anny Grove during her stay at Otterbein.

The family of Anne Grove

Thank you to those who donated cookies for the Blood Drive on August 27. Your culinary skills are very appreciated!

Thank you to the many church volunteers who help create a warm and welcoming community at St. Mark's. All efforts of outreach and service are deeply appreciated!

New Members Join St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Celeste & Shawn Rose, Brent & Lisa Spray, Tim & Kathy Schneider, and Devin McBride

joined St. Mark's on Sunday August 23, 2026. Welcome!

Diaper Shower for Devin and Corrin McBride

Corrin and Devin McBride are expecting a daughter on October 26, 2026. To welcome their baby, we are holding a diaper shower for them on September 13 immediately following the Worship Service. You are invited to donate diapers or diaper supplies.

Diaper Shower for Devin and Corrin McBride

Corrin and Devin McBride are expecting a daughter on October 26, 2026. To welcome their baby, we are holding a diaper shower for them on September 13 immediately following the Worship Service. You are invited to donate diapers or diaper supplies.

Paint & Praise

Pastor Carol Pretorius offers to anyone interested in enjoying a fun evening of paint and praise to come to St. Peter Lutheran Church, 422 North Pierce Street, Delphos at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 15. The group will be painting an angel in acrylic. The cost is \$15. You do not have to be an expert. Pastor Carol and Terry Nelson will be there to help you paint your masterpiece.



Women's One-Day Retreat at Pretorius' Home

The third annual Women's Retreat at the home of Pastor Carol Pretorius' home will be held on Saturday, October 24. Begin arriving by 8:30 with the program to start at 9:00 am. We are welcome to bring something to share for lunch. Our speaker is again Becky Walker who has a gift for making Bible Study so much fun. The afternoon will give you an opportunity to do crafts or simply to visit. The event concludes around 3:00 p.m.

Tour the Footsteps of Paul

Join Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA following the steps of Paul in Greece and the Greek Islands from Detroit, MI (DTW) April 13 – 24, 2027. Bishop Beaudoin is organizing this tour which is open to everyone. Pastors Doug and Carol will be going on the tour. More information, the brochure, and the registration form are found at the Northwestern Ohio Synod website at [Footsteps of Paul](#).



Repair Work



This summer several projects were completed. The overgrown tree at the entrance to the courtyard was removed. The wobbly handrail was removed, repainted and reset. The sidewalk and curb were replaced.

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat.	Sun.	Livestream
7/25	18	52	144
8/2	18	58	138
8/9	15	55	130
8/16	20	51	87
8/23	22	80	110



Worship Services for September



September 5 & 6 **Do Not Covet** Sunday Communion

Exodus 20:17 Psalm 119:97-104 Romans 7:7-12 Matthew 22:34-40

The Most Difficult Commandment

We conclude our four-part study of the Ten Commandments by examining the most difficult of all commandments to keep, **Do Not Covet**. The rest of the commandments emphasize how we are to behave while the commandment about coveting focuses upon bringing that most rebellious center of our being, our heart, into obedience to God's will.



September 12 & 13 **Flood and Promise** Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 Psalm 69:1-5, 13-18 Matt 8:24-27

Somewhere Under the Rainbow

We begin today the third year of the narrative lectionary in which the Scripture lessons for each Sunday are chosen sequentially from Genesis through Revelation. We begin with the story of Noah and the Flood. This well-known story invites us to ponder the complexities of calamity, rescue, and the activity of God.

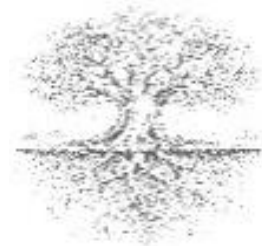


September 19 & 20 **Call of Abraham** Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday Communion

Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 105:1-15 Matthew 28:16-20

The People of Blessing

The historical portion of Scripture begins with the call to Abram and Sarai to begin the journey of faith that will take them from their comfortable home into the wilderness. Their faith becomes the foundation of a people of faith in the LORD God that has utterly transformed the whole world.



September 26 & 27 **Joseph in Prison** Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday

Genesis 39:1-23 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-25 Matthew 5:11-12

Falsely Accused

One fifth of Genesis is the story of Joseph. From his story we learn how the Hebrew people ended up living in Egypt where they eventually became slaves. However, it is also a story of how God is at work in the unexpected challenges and changes that can come in a person's life.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Minutes for June 18, 2026

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

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Pastor Doug shared a reading from 1John 4: 16b-21.

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

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May meeting were presented. Pastor Doug made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor Doug presented the treasurer's report for May. Our income was \$29,331.90. We had \$18,025.10 in expenses, which makes our excess of income over expenses \$11,306.80. The Capitol Improvement fund in our dedicated accounts paid off the AC repairs. Nelson moved to accept the report as presented. Amanda seconded. Motion carried.

Worship and Music: Nothing new to report. The next meeting will be September 2, '26.

Social Ministries: We will be going to the Do Good restaurant in Osgood Ohio on June 26, 2026. Meeting at 5:30 at the church to carpool. The next meeting will be August 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Property & Maintenance: The Property & Maintenance committee met and discussed projects:

- The bell tower has been serviced.
- The shed in the parking lot needs new siding and additional repairs
- Work is currently being done on the wall in the fellowship wing.
- The committee is working to schedule a date for the pine tree to be removed.
- There is a hole in the soffit. Rod is contacting several individuals to determine the best course of action for the repair.
- The AC units in the sanctuary have been repaired and are working well.
- The concrete for the steps & curb in the courtyard needs to be replaced along with some railing. A quote from Hemleben Const. was obtained for the concrete repair.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation was May 30/31. Ethan Dickey, Ethan Jeanneret, Marlow Johnston, Ella Price, Evelyn Oen, Kelsey Schneider, and Avery Newman were confirmed.

Pastor Doug will be holding a new member orientation on Saturday, June 27 for at least two new couples.

Old Business: The screen team consisted of Dustin Jeanneret, Rich Garber, Rod Metz, Nelson Golden, Tina Waltz, and Pastor Doug. They will be meeting soon.

New Business: The property committee moves that council accept the bid from Hemleben Construction in the amount of \$3,750 to remove the handicap railing and to repair the concrete here and at the front of the parking lot. Marguerite made a motion to accept the quote from Hemleben for concrete repair. Corrin seconded.

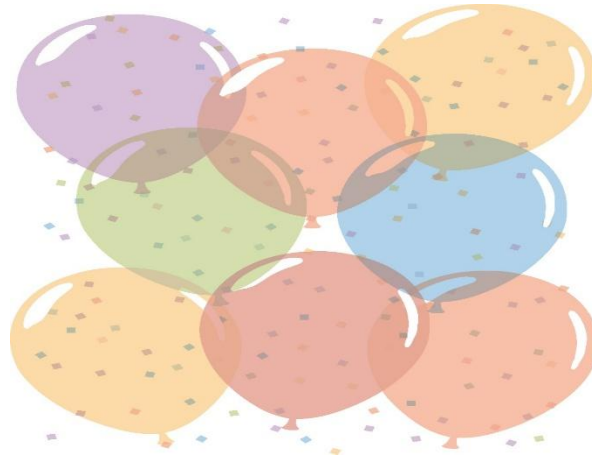
Motion carried.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Jen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Doug seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Happy Birthday to...

Melanie Hicks	September 1	Kathryn Ferguson	September 14
Collin Lenhart	September 2	Debra Osbourne	September 14
Susie LaMarr	September 2	Robert Kinninger	September 18
Easton Alexander	September 2	Rich Garber	September 23
Alexander Chase	September 3	Willie Winter	September 24
Stephanie Sorenson	September 5	Karl Schlegel	September 28
Brittani McEvoy	September 6	Kerrigan Lenhart	September 28
Nathan Schmerge	September 10	Drexler Dobie	September 28
Thomas Willis	September 11	Sue Jeanneret	September 29



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	DeLynn 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

302 East Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office Phone: 419-738-3122

Office Cell Phone: 567-356-6799

Website: www.StMarksWapak.Org

Sept. 2026 – St. Mark's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 AM & 12:15 PM Preschool Chapel	2 10:30A- Gardens Worship Service	3 9 A Preschool Chapel	4	5 5P Communion Service
6 10:15A- Communion	7 Labor Day	8	9 7P-Choir Practice 7P-Bible Study	10 10:30A- Otterbein Worship	11	12 5P Communion Service
13 10:15A- Worship 11:15A-Diaper Shower for Corrin	14 7:30P-Property Meeting	15 9 A & 12:15 P Preschool Chapel 8P-Finance	16 10:30A-Gardens Worship Service 7P-Bible Study	17 9 A Preschool Chapel	18	19 5P Communion Service
20 10:15A- Communion	21	22	23 7P-Bible Study	24 6P-Council	25	26 5P Communion Service
27 10:15A- Worship	28	29	30 7P-Bible Study			

September Who Does What?

A	B	C	D	E
10:15am Sunday	6-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep
Greeters, Pearl St	Tim & Kathy	Ethel Shawver	Bob & Shirley	Ethan Jeanneret
	Schneider	Tina Waltz	Wiesenmayer	Jacob Hicks
Greeters, Seltzer St	Jeremy & Hannah	John & Kelli	Nelson Golden	Jennings McEvoy
& Offering	Dickey	Price	Willie Winter	
Bulletins & Offering	Nelson Golden	Kim Waltz	Bob & Doreen Kinninger	Evelyn Oen
	Deb Osborne	Tina Waltz		Marlow Johnston
Reader	Heidi LaMarr	Mike Burton	Shelley Schlegel	Ella Price
Candle Lighter	Evelyn Oen	Ella Price	Jennings McEvoy	Ethan Dickey
Cross Bearer	Ethan Dickey	Jacob Hicks	Ethan Dickey	Avery Newman
PowerPoint	Shelley Schlegel	Amanda Schmerge	Ashley Schmerge	Marlow Johnston
Communion	Ashley Schmerge	N/A	Karl Schlegel	N/A
Servers	Amanda Schmerge		Bob Wiesenmayer	
Song Leader(s)	Nelson Golden	Kristin Doll	Jen Garber	Youth Cantors
Fellowship	Karen Numbers & Tracy Blake	Carol Rogers	Paula & Tom Schmerge	Shirley Wiesenmayer
Sound Tech	Rod Metz	Chad Doll	Rich Garber	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Ryan Schneider	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00pm Saturday	5-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep
Greeter	Laura Heitz	Dianne Knipp	Marguerite Wallen	Sandy Swaney
Bulletins	Marguerite Wallen	Sandy Swaney	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney
Reader	Laura Heitz	Sue Jeanneret	Melissa Grunden	Mark Swaney
Communion	Barb Srisongkham	Carol Pretorius	Sandy & Mark	Dianne Knipp
Servers	Terry Shoup	Betty Elsass	Swaney	Laura Heitz
Singer	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius
Musician	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden
Altar Guild for the Month of September: Trish Miller, Karen Numbers, Carol Rogers				