

St. Mark's Messenger, April 2024



Lenten To Do Cross

After 40 days of St. Mark's members doing what Jesus commanded, this cross represents all that was done. Everyone was asked to tie a ribbon on the cross once they completed that week's action.



The Pastor's Letter

Friends,

Yesterday, I was asked how I did on my Lenten disciplines. Well, the first was to follow the NOOM eating guide. That was a fail. The second was to read daily from a devotional called *The Little Book*. Yes, I did, but there were a few times I had to "catch up." The third and main discipline was to engage in practicing the weekly "to do" challenges. That proved interesting and transformative.

Each week in Lent, I took one of the commands of Jesus and invited us all to do that command. There were a variety of suggestions as idea starters. For instance, the first week was the story when Jesus commanded an inquiring man, "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Although I invited folks to consider selling something and giving the money to the poor, to my knowledge no one sold any thing. People gave. Generously. But didn't sell. What does that say about our culture's obsessive and locked-tight attachment to stuff?

I was most challenged by Jesus' command, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." As I wrestled with what is owed the government and what is owed God, I decided to obey all traffic laws—such as doing no more than 25 in a 25-mph speed zone and letting the truck rock back to a full stop at a stop sign. My immense difficulty in doing this made me realize my arrogance. I believed that I drove better than others. I believed that such laws were suggestions, not rules. I also began to notice that I had such arrogance around Jesus' "spiritual commandments"—such as, "give to everyone who begs from you" and "do not judge" and "Beware of the scribes (*that is, pastors*), who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues (*churches*) and places of honor at banquets!" Ouch!

What was your Lenten discipline? How did it change you? What did it teach you about God?

I found it interesting that not one person challenged me, "Why are you asking us to **do** all these things? I thought Lutherans emphasized that the doing of good works leads to self-righteousness and leads away from trust in God. I thought we emphasized it all comes by grace, as a gift, and not by works?"

I once had a therapist tell me, "Don't feel your way into acting better, act your way into feeling better. If you change your behavior, you change your mind, and thus change your feelings." I had always thought the opposite, good feelings led to good behavior.

Not only does changing our behavior change us, it also changes our relationships, even our relationship with God. For example, when I started slowing down to 25, I began asking, "What is the rush? What compels me to do more in a day? Is God demanding more of me than I have time to do? Does not God have all the time there is?" The **behavior** of slowing down my speed caused me to **change my mind** about God's expectations of me which caused me to **feel** peaceful, less rushed, more connected.

Peace be with you all,



Who Is St. Mark's? How Do I Connect?

The word church comes from the Greek word ***Ecclesia***, which simply means ***Gathering***. Not a building. Not an organization. A gathering of people around Jesus Christ. Each Gathering (Church) is distinctive with its peculiar, unique way of following Jesus. Sometimes it takes a newcomer a while to figure out the clues that point to that uniqueness. Sometimes the church tells its own story.

On Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm St. Mark's will conduct an orientation to who we are. This is for folks who have recently joined or transferred or who would like to see if this Church/Gathering is for them. You will meet the people who gather around Jesus in this place. Contact the church office or Pastor Doug to sign up.



New Administrative Assistant

Elaine Hawkins started serving as St. Mark's Administrative Assistant on April 1. No fooling! Previously, she had worked full-time as a cabinet maker for Airstream and she was looking for part-time work. When the position opened—our previous Administrative Assistant Lisa Barfield returned to South Carolina to live, Elaine felt called by God to apply. We are glad she did and are pleased to welcome her.

Elaine will be responsible for all the office work and will also serve as our bookkeeper. Her hours are 8 am to noon, Monday through Friday.

New Outdoor Sign

Tom & Carol Baumel have gifted St. Mark's with an electronic sign that was installed in time for Easter. It is programable with a variety of messages. Thanks Tom & Carol!



Insurance Carrier Changes, New Policy to Prevent Child Abuse

St. Mark's current insurance carrier is opting out of insuring churches starting May 1. So, St. Mark's is in the process of obtaining a new insurance carrier. However, to have a sexual misconduct rider the new carrier requires St. Mark's to have a *Policy to Prevent Abuse Against Children and Youth*. Therefore, the church council assigned a task force to develop the policy. Using the model recommended by the ELCA, the task force has a preliminary policy that puts into words the practices that we already follow. More information will be forthcoming after the church council adopts it on April 18. Our insurance will continue uninterrupted.



Klaus Larsen Schlegel, son of Hans & Laura Schlegel, was baptized March 10. His baptismal sponsors are Heidi Hahn and Kelsey Swan.

Klaus was born on March 6, 2023, at home in Nashville, Tennessee.



Evelyn "Evie" Eileen Oen, daughter of Eric & Brooke Oen, was baptized on Easter morning. She had been attending St. Mark's Sunday School and worship services for a little while.

She asked the pastor if she could be baptized. She also received her First Communion on Easter.

Her grandparents and sponsors are Tim & Kathy Schneider and Eric & Kim Oen.



Erika Lisi is the dancer (in black) who expressed the Passion of Jesus in the Palm Sunday Drama, *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*.

Ella Price symbolized the children dancing with joy in response to seeing Jesus.

Tornado Clean Up on Farms Across from Glacier Hills

Right: Steve & Laura Heitz on
his tractor.

Below: Laura Schwartz & Laura
Heitz.

Around ten people from St.
Mark's assisted in the cleanup
organized by Brittani Regula
McEvoy & friends.



Mercy Unlimited Takes the Lead in Assisting Tornado Victims

Currently, Mercy Unlimited is housing 21
people in local hotels (except for Eclipse
Weekend for which they have found
temporary arrangements). Each day they
have provided between 30 to 75 meals.

Operation Blessing provided \$40,00
for the meals up until this time. Currently,
Generations of Love has taken over the
daily meal preparation and delivery.

Chrism Mass

Every Tuesday in Holy Week, Bishop
Daniel Beaudoin (*sitting*) invites the
pastors for a worship service of the
renewal of ordination vows and of
blessing the oil used in anointing at
baptism, confirmation and healing.

The service began with prayers for
healing. Conference Co-Dean Pastor
Carol Pretorius (*by candles*) is blessing
a father & child.



Worship Services for April

April 6 & 7

Easter 2 You Shall Be My Witnesses Sunday Communion

Luke 24:36-49 Psalm 11 Acts 1:1-14

Only You



God raised Jesus from the dead and then for forty days he appeared to his disciples in bodily form. Just before he ascended into heaven—crossing the boundary between the visible and the invisible—he left his disciples with a command and a promise: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” *Acts 1:8.*

April 13 & 14

Easter 3 Peter Heals in Jerusalem Prayers for Healing

Psalm 25:1-6, 16-18 Acts 3:1-10

In His Name



In his time on earth, Jesus went around doing good and healing the sick. Jesus taught the twelve disciples how to do this and they did so on mission trips while he was alive. Then they continued to do so after his resurrection and ascension. So too, can we.

April 20 & 21

Easter 4 Church at Thessalonica Sunday Communion

Pastors Carol & Doug Pretorius Switch Pulpits

Acts 17:1-9 Psalm 37:1-7 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10



Pastors Doug & Carol switch pulpits this weekend so that they can get to know better the gathering of those who follow Jesus in their spouses' respective places of service. Also, so that God's people can hear the Good News with a different voice. The message, however, is the same: Imitate Jesus who imitates God.

April 27 & 28

Easter 5 Church at Corinth Youth Sunday

Acts 18:1-4 Psalm 133 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Only One Thing Matters



The city of Corinth was a major seaport and trade city. The new congregation of believers were attracted by Paul's emphasis upon Jesus being the Christ, the universal Savior of all people. Over time, however, they had a number of other teachers who had slightly different emphases which led to divisions in the congregation. Paul wrote his letters to the Corinthians to answer questions and to bring unity to the Christians.

Easter Flowers

Denny, Robbin, & Mariah Hoge – In Honor of Our Family and Friends

Marguerite Wallen – In Remembrance of Rev. Dr. Edward Wallen

Rod & Shelia Metz – In Celebration of Family

Linda Sue Link – In Honor of her Grandmother Knauss

Reuben & Beth Maki - In Remembrance of Dan Maki

Barb Srisongkham – To the Glory of God

Carol Jeanneret

- In Remembrance of my soul mate, Dennis Jeanneret
- In Remembrance of my father and mother-in-law, Louis & Velma Jeanneret
- In Remembrance of my father and mother, Lawrence & Helen Zuerchere



Alex & Connie Rompilla

- In Remembrance of William Muth
- In Remembrance of Alex & Billie Rompilla

Karen Numbers

- In Remembrance of Don Numbers
- In Remembrance of Ruth Walther
- In Remembrance of Dean Walther



Richard & Kay Ault

- In Remembrance of Leota & Jerry Frits
- In Remembrance of Katherine & Justin Ault



Pastors Doug & Carol Pretorius

- In Celebration of the Risen Christ Arising Among Us
- In Thanksgiving for the service of Lisa Barfield & in welcome of Elaine Hawkins
- In Honor of Clyde & Peggy McGee

Laura Heitz

- In Remembrance of my parents, Talbert & Theresa Ruckman
- In Remembrance of my sister, Lynne Loebach



April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00 am– Preschool Chapel 12:15 pm– Preschool Chapel	3 10:30 am– Gardens Worship 7:00 pm- Choir	4 9:00 am- Preschool Chapel 5:00 pm- Loaves & Fishes	5	6 8:00 am– Men’s Bible Study 5:00 pm- Communion Worship
7 9:00 am– SS 10:15 am– Communion Worship Service	8 Solar Eclipse 	9 8:00 pm– Finance Meeting	10 5:30 pm- Worship & Music 7:00 pm- Choir	11	12	13 5:00 pm- Communion Worship
14 9:00 am– SS 10:15 am– Worship Service 6:00 pm- Jr. Climbers	15	16 9:00 am– Preschool Chapel 12:15 pm– Preschool Chapel	17 10:30 am– Gardens Worship	18 9:00 am- Preschool Chapel 7:00 pm- Council	19	20 8:00 am– Men’s Bible Study 5:00 pm- Communion Worship
21 9:00 am– SS 10:15 am– Communion Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27 9:00 am– New Member Orientation 5:00 pm- Communion Worship
28 9:00 am– SS 10:15 am– Worship Service 6:00 pm- Jr. Climbers	29	30				

Worship Attendance for March 2024

	Sat.	Sunday	Streaming	Adult SS	Children SS
March 2 & 3	25	66	45	26	8
March 9 & 10	30	83	80	20	6
March 16 & 17	31	67	51	23	5
March 23 & 24	44	81	105	24	4
March 30 & 31	34	132	81	0	0

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Laura Heitz called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Members Present: Laura Heitz, Mark Swaney, Pastor Doug, Mike Burton, JP Metz, Shelley Koch, and Dustin Jeanneret. Pastor Doug opened the meeting with a prayer.

Council Meeting Minutes: The minutes were emailed to all the members. JP Metz made a motion to approve the minutes, Mike Burton seconded; motion carried.

Financial Report:

- Mike Burton presented the finance committee report. There is approximately 100K in our checking that is not reserved for a dedicated account.
- YTD total income is 2.62% below budget. We will be opening a savings account with Minster bank to allow for PayPal and Venmo online donations.
- The Finance committee made a recommendation to pay back 50K on principal and interest against the renovation loans. As of April 1, we would owe a little over 80K in principle and we still have 68K in pledges. JP Metz made the motion to approve, Shelley Knoch seconded, motion carried.
- Paul Rogers has been cleaning up accounts payable as we are behind in liabilities. He discovered that we have money sitting as designated but really is not and has been sitting as such for a number of years, \$9,268.24 total which was labeled as liability. After much discussion, Finance Committee recommends: Moving \$584.58 from Account 017-61-10-53 into Account 017-61-10-17 Wernle Childrens Home, and the remaining balance to Account 017-61-10-05 Capital Improvement. Mark Swaney made a motion to accept the finance committee's transfer recommendations, Mike Burton seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Doug made a motion that Linda Link be approved to join St. Mark's by Affirmation of Faith, that Sandy Davis be transferred to St. Mark's from St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney, and that Greg & Maria Koerner, their daughter Carissa (Mines) Koerner, and Nancy Ainsworth be transferred to St. Mark's from First English Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta. JP Metz seconded; motion carried.
- Pastor Doug made a motion that Evelyn "Evie" Eileen Oen be baptized and receive her First Communion. Dustin Jeanneret seconded; motion carried.
- The following church members have died this year: David Micheal Helmlinger on January 28, 2024. Georgia Anna Fox on February 12, 2024, and Judith "Judy," Ann Winter on February 23, 2024.
- Lisa Barfield resigned; her final day was March 14.
- St. Marks hired Elaine Hawkins as our Administrative Assistant, starting April 1, 2024.

- The eclipse glasses that were purchased are defective and the company is replacing them.
- Pastor Doug held Homebound Communion training on March 13, and a rotation has been set up.
- Pastor Doug ordered a second safe so that we can store blank checks.

Property & Maintenance Committee:

- JP Metz reminded us that Dotson Plumbing has agreed to replace the galvanized pipe in the furnace room on Maundy Thursday, March 28th.
- Snow removal contract adjustments were discussed regarding the surface area to be plowed and the frequency.

Old Business:

- Parking signs on the eclipse were discussed.
- Additional discussion ensued regarding the implementation of Worship Family (from the work of the Strategic Planning Committee.)

New Business:

- Our insurance provider is no longer serving churches so Chris Sorensen has found a new provider and will be presenting the policy to the church council on April 18. The new insurance company requires the church to have a sexual misconduct policy in order to have coverage for sexual misconduct liabilities. The church council appointed Laura Heitz, Shelley Koch, Chris Sorensen and Pastor Doug to an action committee to create St. Mark's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures.

The next meeting will be on April 18, 2024 @ 7PM.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Cordially submitted,

Dustin Jeanneret

Financial Information Year-to-Date as of March 31, 2024:

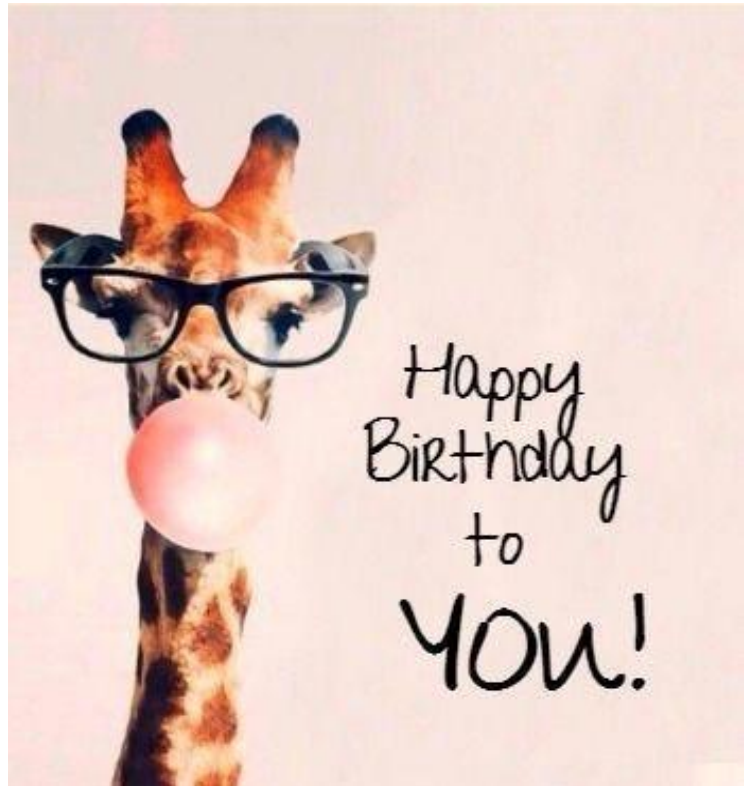
General Fund: Income = \$30,110 Expenses = \$23,654

Thank You Notes

St. Mark's recently received thank you notes from Lutheran Social Services, Oesterlen Services for Youth, Genacross Lutheran Home, Mercy Unlimited, and Luther Home of Mercy. St. Mark's donated \$250 to each of them as part of support of organizations that do the work of Jesus in the wider community.

Happy Birthday

Jean Thompson	April	1
Brandon Wilson	April	4
Mark Swaney	April	7
Stephanie Kiefer	April	8
Rylie Jeanneret	April	12
Avery Kiefer	April	12
Caleb Kiefer	April	12
Carol Jeanneret	April	13
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.

Pastor	Doug Pretorius	PastorDougP@gmail.com	419-512-4491
Administrative Assistant	Elaine Hawkins	StMarksWapak302@gmail.com	
Church Musician	Melissa Grunden		
Custodian	Amanda Wilder		
Technology Coordinator	Dustin Jeanneret		

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 East Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office Phone: 419-738-3122

Website: www.StMarksWapak.Org

WHO DOES WHAT?

10:15 am Sunday	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr
Greeters, Pearl St	Willie Winter	Corrin Wilder & Devin McBride	Robert & Shirley Wiesenmayer	Ella Price Blake Rogers
Greeters, Seltzer St	Brandon & Courtney Wilson	Rod & Sheila Metz	Kent Welch Kim Waltz	Ryan Price (Offering) X
Bulletins, Offering	Carol Rogers Ashley Schmerge	Jeff & Thelma Hunlock	Shelley Koch Ethel Shawver	Sarah Garber Nate Garber (Offering)
Reader	Kristin Doll	Paul Rogers	Tina Waltz	Nate Garber, Jake Hicks (Psalm)
Communion	Chad Doll	X	Chris Sorensen	X
Servers	Collin Lenhart	X	Jen Garber	X
Song Leader(s)	Jen Garber	JP Metz	Kristin Doll	Lyla Wilder, Gabby Raney, Addi Fisher Kerrigan Lenhart
Fellowship	Kristi Fisher	Jen Garber	Carol Rogers	Karen Lenhart
Sound Tech	Rod Metz	Chris Sorensen	Chad Doll	Rod Metz
Video Tech	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00 PM Saturday				
Greeter	Barb Srisongkham	Alex Rompilla	Anne Grove	Rueben Maki
Bulletins	Linda Link	Connie Rompilla	Marguerite Wallen	Carol Pretorius
Reader		Melissa Grunden	Laura Heitz	Sue Jeanneret
Communion	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney	Laura Heitz	Sue Jeanneret
Servers	Carol Pretorius	Sandy Swaney	Barb Srisongkham	Carol 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 April: Hannah Dickey, Delani Harter, Kim Harter				