

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

St. Mark's Messenger: November 2026



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Pastor Doug's Letter

Good People,

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

Three things.

First, I invite all of you to attend worship on Sunday November 22. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will be our presider and preacher. Bishop Beaudoin is the bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA (NWOS), and he is our bishop. He likes to visit congregations and learn about the ministries that we do. He especially likes to come when there is no problem in the congregation or because the congregation is in the call process for a new pastor.

To facilitate that communication, we are going to have a Bishop's Forum in the sanctuary at 9:00 am on that morning. He will talk about the ministry of the synod and what is happening in the ELCA. There will be a time for questions, and a time for us to share what we are doing.

During worship we will be taking up a special offering for the **NWOS Synodical Annual Fund**, which helps the Northwestern Ohio Synod meet local needs as the synod lives out our God given mission: *Sent by the Crucified and Risen Jesus to Make Disciples, Equip Leaders, Strengthen Parishes, and Nurture New Communities for the Renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the World.* 100% of Annual Fund offerings remain in the Northwestern Ohio Synod.

Second, the Sunday before Bishop Beaudoin visits, on November 14 & 15, we will be having our annual Stewardship Sunday Campaign. For the past three weeks and for the next three weeks, you have seen in the bulletin the information about **The Generous Life: Six Practices that Shape Our Faith.** Developed by Tim Johnson, the coordinator from Kairos who led our Renovation Campaign, these six practices invite us to consider what it means to imitate the generous life of God. The six practices are:

1. Be Intentional.
2. Give Regularly.
3. Give Generously.
4. Give First Fruits.
5. Give Proportionally.
6. Give Cheerfully.

During worship you will be invited to fill out an estimate of giving card for 2027.

Third, I give thanks for all your words of appreciation and gratitude that you have given Carol and me this past month in recognition of Pastors' Appreciation Month. I am deeply grateful for all the kind comments, the thoughtful gifts, and the notes of encouragement. I appreciate the congregational gift of a pedicure. Jesus told us that we are to wash one another's feet, and this is one way that you are doing so!

God bless you in all that you do. May this month truly be a month of Thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings God provides each of us.

Peace,



All Saints' Day

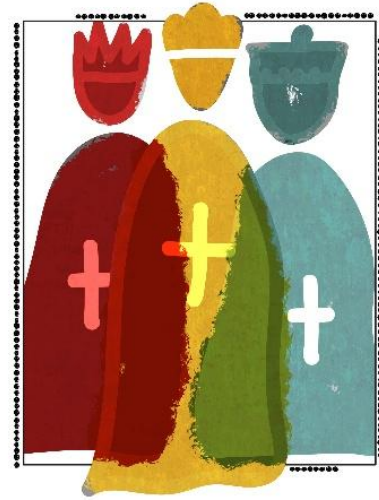
November 1 is All Saint's Day. We will be remembering all those who died in the previous year.

OUR CHURCH MEMBERS:

Beverly Cummins	January 1, 2026
Janell Lochard	February 5, 2026
Reuben Maki	March 1, 2026
Pat Kreglow	March 3, 2026
Pat Cummins	July 21, 2026
Anne Grove	July 10, 2026

OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Pat Little	Mother of Beth Miller
Anita Roberts	Former Member of St. Mark's
Judy Brading Kentner	Friend of Kay Ault
Helen Dick Kohler	Friend of Kay Ault
Evelyn Schneider	Grandmother of Ryan & Kara Schneider & Great Grandmother of Kenzie & Kelsey
Melvin Werling	Father of Lynn Werling
Pastor Clyde McGee	Mentor and friend of Pastor Doug & Pastor Carol
Emma Lou Gray	Former Member of St. Mark's
Tim Easton	Friend of Tom Baeumel
Richard Bennett	Neighbor to Pastors Doug & Carol
Roland Hegemier	Uncle to Carol Garber
David Stiles	Brother-in-law of Carol Jeanneret
Scott Stiles	Nephew of Carol Jeanneret
Diane Jeanneret	Brother of Dennis Jeanneret
Mike Sparks	Wife of Jill Sparks
Susan Valentine	Friend of Tina Waltz



Birth of Finley McBride

St. Mark's is happy to welcome **Finley Lorraine McBride**, born October 12. She is a healthy 6.8-lbs sweetheart who is 19 ¾ long. Congratulations, Corrin & Devin!

Finley came to worship for the first time on the Sunday following her birth.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at the St. Joseph Parish Life Center from 11 am to 1 pm. Boxed carry-out meals are served starting at 12:30 pm. If you are homebound and would like a meal delivered, please let DeLynn in our church office know. She will pass along your address. 419-738-3122 or text 567-356-6799.



Pies Needed



St. Mark's has been invited to provide 15 pies for the Wapakoneta Community Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, November 26. The request is for ready to serve pies that do not need refrigeration (as oven and refrigerator space are limited). Pies may be dropped off until 9 pm on Wednesday or from 6 to 9 am on Thursday at the St. Joseph Parish Life Center. Please call our church office if you can provide one or more pies, or sign-up at the entryway table. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Jubilee

St. Mark's will again be participating in the Christmas Jubilee "Angel" Tree program. We will have 80 tags to fill, so be on the lookout for the Christmas tree in the hallway outside of the sanctuary that will be up from the beginning of November through mid-December. How it works: pick a tag, buy and wrap a gift with tag attached, and place it under the tree. These gifts will be distributed to needy families this Christmas season.



Thank You Note Received

Thank you for the flowers and the gift card.* I would also like to thank everyone who donated cookies and food every time they were needed for funeral dinners. A special thanks to the kitchen helpers too because I couldn't have helped without you!

Carol Garber

**The church gave Carol a flower arrangement and gift card to Bob Evans in honor of her years of service as the head of the kitchen committee.*



Photos

Blake Rogers and Kenzie Schneider were both on the Homecoming Court this year!



Welcome to Nicole Sue Kinninger who was baptized October 18, 2026. Nicole is the daughter of Andrew & Courtney, and the sister of Sophia. May the peace of the Lord always be with you and your family.

Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase poinsettias for the sanctuary in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with payment. Orders are due by November 30. One 6 ½" pot with a cover is \$15.



Given in Memory Of: _____

Given in Memory Of: _____

Given in Honor Of: _____

Given in Honor Of: _____

Donor's Name: _____ # of Pots: _____ X \$15 = \$_____ Total Due

Worship Services for November

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 **Solomon's Wisdom** All Saints' Day Sunday Communion

1 Kings 3:4-28 Psalm 11:1-10 Matthew 6:9-10

Deepest Desires of the Heart

On this All Saints' Day we gather to remember those who have died in the past year, to give thanks for their lives, and to ask for comfort in our grief. We proclaim the mystery of our faith that we will not die at our death, but we will be transformed into the image of Jesus to be with God forever. This day also reminds us that our time alive on this earth is short, and so we are invited to pray that our lives will be fruitful and good according to God's will.

November 7 & 8 **Elisha Heals Naaman** Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Healing Service Veterans Day Blessing

2 Kings 5:1-15a Psalm 103:1-14 Matthew 8:1-17

Be Made Clean

Today's worship service will be a healing service. We will also be giving everyone an opportunity to come forward for individual prayers for healing. We believe that God heals us. Sometimes that is a cure, and we are restored to full health, but other times we are made whole in the midst of our brokenness.

November 14 & 15 **Micah** Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday Communion

Stewardship Sunday Micah 6:6-8 Psalm 37:1-9, 27-34

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24

The Lord Loves a Cheerful Giver

Today is Stewardship Sunday. A steward is a manager, someone who is responsible for the goods and property of another. We understand that God has charged us with the care and keeping of all creation. All that we have been given is a gift from God. One of the ways that we practice stewardship is by giving away a portion of the money that has been entrusted to us. Being generous is imitating the generosity of God.

November 21 & 22 **Swords into Plowshares** Christ the King Sunday Youth Sunday

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin visiting and preaching on Sunday

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 95:1-7 1 John 4:16-21 Matthew 25:31-46

Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. This week ends the church year by remembering that Jesus came to rule heaven and earth, not with a rod of iron, but with grace, love and forgiveness. Today we welcome Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, as our preacher and presider. Bishop Daniel has proclaimed the theme for 2026 to be **The Way of Love**. The theme for the year is today's Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us." *1 John 4:19*

November 28 & 29 **Faith as a Way of Life** First Sunday of Advent

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6, 17-19 Psalm 36 Matthew 3:1-12

Turn, Turn, Turn

Today Advent begins, the season of preparing for the coming of Christ. Today we hear the call to change, to turn from our former way of living and to turn to living as God would have us live. Habakkuk was one of the prophets who called the people back to God. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus with a similar message. We begin our preparations for Christmas by listening to these two prophets.

St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2026

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

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Pastor Doug shared a parable from Matthew 20: 1-16 and led an opening prayer.

The Motto/Mission/ and Vision Statement were read aloud in unison.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August 20 meeting were presented. Pastor Doug made a motion to accept the minutes as red. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor Doug presented the finance report. In August, we had an income of \$22,682.07 and \$20,548.84 in expenses, leaving us with a net income of \$2,133.23 for the month! St. Mark's has \$137,748.63 in the Minster bank accounts, and \$30,231.45 in the CD and Endowment fund totaling \$167,980.08 in total assets. Mark made a motion to accept the finance report as presented. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Worship and Music: W&M committee met on September 2, 2026. Wednesday Advent service options were discussed. The committee chose to do skits from The Skit Guys this year. Soup and Sandwich schedule for servers is as follows: December 2- Worship and Music, December 9 - Kitchen Committee and December 16 - Church Council. Ruth Doll stepped down as Altar Guild chairperson - Tina Waltz stepped into that role. Carol Garber also stepped down as Kitchen Committee chair - Shelley Schlegel and Meddy Ruck have volunteered to take over that position. The next W&M committee meeting will be January 6, 2027.

Social Ministries: There was a diaper shower for Corrin and Devin McBride in September. The committee ordered children's birthday cards for their card supply. There will be a Fall Harvest Festival at Karl and Shelley Schlegel's on Nov. 14@6:30.

Property and Maintenance: The windows were caulked. Rod is still waiting on a quote for the parking lot project.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Doug will be attending Trinity Days on October 1-2 at the Trinity Seminary. He will be on vacation October 12-15.

Old Business: The technology team needs to submit a cost recommendation to upgrade the audio and video equipment. Dustin is waiting on a quote. The Property and Maintenance committee needs to submit a cost estimate for paving the parking lots - Rod is still waiting on a quote.

New Business: Council needs to recommend to the finance team the pastor's 2027 salary. After discussion, the council is recommending to increase Pastor's salary by 3%. This will be presented to the finance committee as they prepare next year's budget proposal.

Richard made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting. Amanda seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jen Garber



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

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Braden Fisher	November 1	John Harrod	November 16
Betty Elsass	November 1	Ashley Schmerge	November 17
Laura Schlegel	November 1	Amanda Schmerge	November 17
Evelyn Oen	November 4	Corrin McBride	November 20
Brady King	November 5	Harrison Sorensen	November 22
Jeff Hunlock	November 7	Carolyn Metz	November 25
Ben Wilson	November 7	Courtney Burton	November 27
Marguerite Wallen	November 7	Jase Whetstone	November 28
Yvonne Sorensen	November 10	Kristin Doll	November 29
Meddy Ruck	November 12	Garce LaMarr	November 30
Dianne Behr	November 12		

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	PastorDoug@StMarksWapak.org	419-512-4491
Administrative Assistant	DeLynn Epperly	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

Office Cell Phone: 567-356-6799

Website: www.StMarksWapak.Org

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November 2026 – St. Mark's Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings 9:00 a: SS 10:15a: Comm. Ser.	2	3 Election Day 9a & 12:15p: Preschool Chapel 5:30 Social Ministry	4 10:30a: Gardens Worship 7p: Choir Practice	5 9a: Preschool Chapel 10:30a: Otterbein Worship	6	7 5p: Communion
8 9a: SS 10:15a: Worship Service	9 7:30p: Property Meeting	10 8p: Finance Meeting	11 7p: Choir Practice	12	13	14 5p: Communion 6:30 Chili/FB @ Karl & Shelley's 19879 Wap/Cri. Rd
15 9a: SS 10:15a: Comm. Service	16	17 9a & 12:15p: Preschool Chapel	18 10:30a: Gardens Worship	19 9a: Pre. Sch. Chap. 10:30a: Otterbein Worship 6p: Council Meeting	20	21 5p Communion
22 9a: Bishop Here 10:15a: Comm. Service	23	24 6p: Couple's Devotional @ Mason Jar	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 11-1 Community Meal	27	28 5p: Communion
Advent 29 9a: SS 10:15a: Worship Service	30	1 9a: Preschool Chapel 12:15p: Preschool Chapel	2 10:30a: Gardens Worship 7p: Choir Practice	3 9a: Preschool Chapel 10:30a: Otterbein Worship	4	5 5p: Communion

November Who Does What?

A	B	C	D	E	F
10:15am Sunday	B2 1-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov
Greeters, Pearl St	Subs	Susan John	Kevin & Meddy		Ethel Shawver
		Mandy Wilder	Ruck	Ethan Dickey	Cindy Klosterman
Greeters, Seltzer St	Shawn & Celeste	Willie Winter	Carol Rogers		Jeanne Clark
& Offering	Rose	JP Metz	Heidi Lisi	Kelsey Schneider	Kaylee Dickey
Bulletins & Offering	Beth & Rod	Kim Harter	Mike & Courtney		Jeremy & Hannah
	Miller	Elaine Hawkins	Burton	Evelyn Oen	Dickey
Reader	Ella Price	Chris Sorensen	Bob Wiesenmayer	Marlow Johnston	Kristi Fisher
Candle Lighter	Kelsey Schneider	Jacob Hicks	Marlow Johnston	Jacob Hicks	Ethan Dickey
Cross Bearer	Kenzie Schneider	Jennings McEvoy	Evelyn Oen	Ethan Jeanneret	Ella Price
PowerPoint	Tina Waltz	Mike Burton	Paul Fox	Ella Price	Nelson Golden
Communion	John Price	N/A	Julie Miars Golden	N/A	N/A
Servers	Paul Rogers		Rod Metz		
Song Leader(s)		Kristin Doll		Youth Cantors	JP Metz
	Jen Garber		Nelson Golden		
Fellowship	Tina Waltz	Elaine Hawkins	Carol Rogers	Brittani McEvoy	Kathy&Tim Schneide
Sound Tech	Dustin Jeanneret	Chad Doll	Chris Sorensen	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi	Rod Metz
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Dustin Jeanneret	Ryan Schneider	Elaine Hawkins
5:00pm Saturday	31-Oct	7-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov
Greeter	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney	Laura Heitz	Marguerite Wallen	Sandy Swaney
Bulletins	Mark Swaney	Sandy Swaney	Marguerite Wallen	Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney
Reader	Laura Heitz	Mark Swaney	Carol Pretorius	Melissa Grunden	Mark Swaney
Communion	Laura Heitz	Betty Elsass	Barb Srisongkham	Sandy & Mark	Carol Pretorius
Servers	Mark Swaney	Mark Swaney	Terry Shoup	Swaney	Sue Jeanneret
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 November: Ron & Karen Lenhart					