St. Mark's Messenger

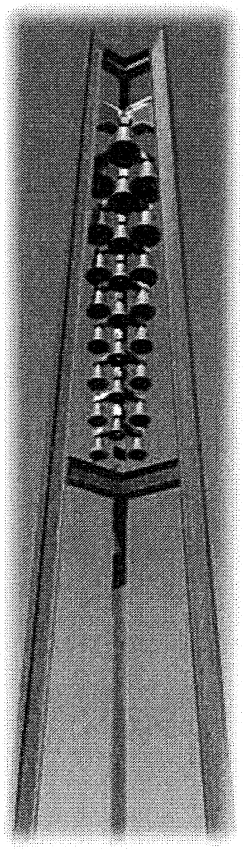
December 2021 / January 2022

2021 is the Year of Generosity

The 2021 Theme Bible Verse:

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21



Motto:

Be God's Grace in Action

Mission Statement:

St. Mark's Mission is to fulfill the Great Commission by extending God's Grace to all people.

Vision Statement:

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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

302 East Pearl Street

Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Phone: 419-738-3122 Email: stmarks@bright.net Website: stmarkswapak.org

Pastor's Page

Good People,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and from the Holy Spirit our Advocate and Guide.

My mother frequently told the following story. It was Advent. My mother was driving with several of us young children in the car. My brother Brian, who would have been about kindergarten age, pointed out a particularly realistic looking outdoor Santa Claus display. He said, "Look Mommy! There's Santa. I LIKE Santa." Mom replied, "I don't like Santa because I want people to know that Christmas is about Jesus giving us life and not about Santa giving gifts." To which Brian responded, "I don't like anything that has to do with giving either!"

Whenever she told the story my mother would then chuckle and say, "It was then I learned about the power of symbols to convey meaning."

In contrast to our family which never had Santa gifts or never even heard of Elf-on-the-shelf, there was a young family in my previous congregation who went all out on Christmas Eve to keep the story of Santa alive. They had two daughters, about two years apart, and the family did all the Santa preparations. The empty stockings were hung. The tree was decorated but there were no presents under it. Milk and cookies were set out for Santa, and there was hay in the yard for Rudolph and the rest of the reindeer. Just as the girls would be falling asleep there would be the sound of clopping over the girl's bedroom ceiling and the ringing of sleighbells outside in the yard. Sure enough on Christmas morning the milk and cookies were just a ring in the glass and crumbs on the plate. The hay was trampled and mostly all gone. Best of all the stockings were full and underneath the tree was a plethora of presents.

This went on for years.

However, when the older daughter was a freshman and the younger daughter was in seventh grade, the older daughter said to her mother, "Mom, you have to tell my sister that there is no Santa Claus, that it is just you and Dad. She still believes in Santa Claus and it's getting embarrassing!"

So one day when the two of them were driving the mother said to her youngest daughter, "Honey, there is something I need to tell you. There is no Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve when you hear the tapping, that's your dad in the attic with a broom handle. I'm out in the yard with the bells. We set out all the presents. Even the ones from Santa are ones that he and I have bought for you."

The daughter said after a long silence, "But the Easter Bunny. He's real, right?"

"No, honey, that's your mom and dad too."

"But the tooth fairy. She's real. She leaves me money under my pillow."

"I'm sorry, honey, we do that too."

To this day the two of them can remember that place on the road.

This morning my devotional from Richard Rohr read, "With no storyline, no integrating images that define who we are or direct our lives, we just won't be happy. Carl Jung developed this idea for our generation of Western rationalists, who had thought that myth meant "not true"—when in fact the older meaning of myth is precisely "always and deeply true"!

"Jung goes so far as to say that transformation only happens in the presence of story, myth, and image. A great story pulls us inside of a universal story; it lodges in the unconscious where it is inaccessible to the brutalities of our own mind or will, as Thomas Merton observed. From that hidden place we are healed."

May the Christmas story bring you the transformation for which you long. Peace, Pastor Doug

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 5 immediately following Sunday worship at 11:15. **All church members are expected to attend.**

On Saturday evening, December 4, immediately following the worship service there will be an informational meeting about all the agenda items so that the attendees will have the opportunity to hear what the plans are and to raise any questions that they believe need to be addressed in the congregational meeting. This meeting is informational only.

The Agenda:

1. Election of Council Members
2. Approval of 2020 meeting minutes
3. Approval of a 2022 Budget
4. Renovation committee update
5. Vote on Architectural Contract: The church council recommends that the congregation enter into a contract with Freytag & Associates to present a modified architectural renovation proposal at a cost of $6,900 with the money coming from the Capital Improvement Fund.
6. Mission Focus and Strategic Planning committee update
7. Capital Fund Appeal Committee Update
8. Receive Committee Reports

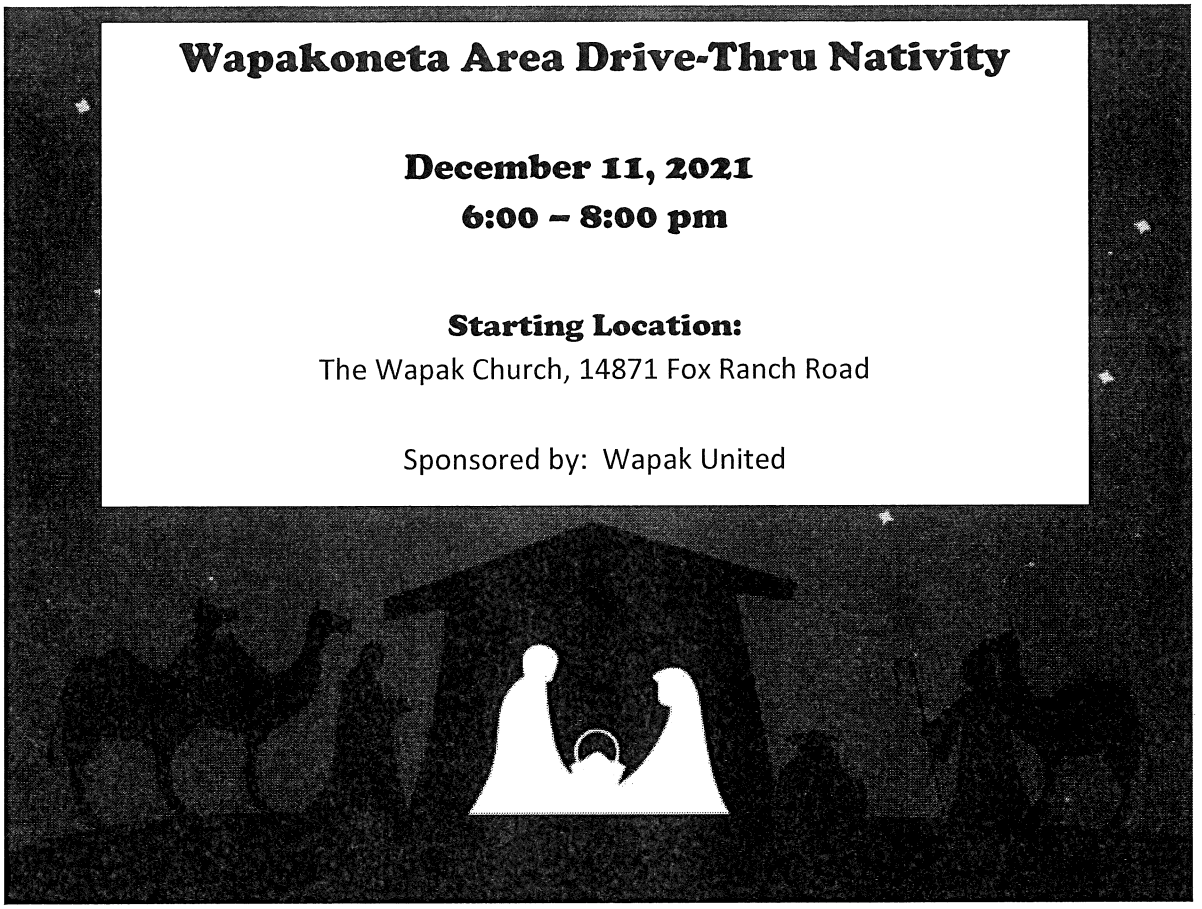
Advent Worship Services

On the first three Wednesdays in Advent (December 1,8, & 15) from 7:00 PM until 7:25 PM there will be a Midweek Advent Worship Service. The theme for the worship services is ***Breathe.*** Each week we will experience a moment of being calm and centered in the midst of a month which can be so filled with activity that we can lose track of ourselves and of what is most important.

Simple Supper Precedes the Advent Wednesday Worship

Come enjoy the fellowship of being with other church members and enjoy a meal prepared for you. A simple supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 PM until just before 7:00.

The servers are:	December 1	Worship & Music Committee
	December 8	Kitchen Committee
	December 15	Finance Committee & Christian Education Committee



Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us in celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord!

5:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Designed especially for families with children.

7:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service – Bell Choir Performance

Closures

The church office will be closed during Christmas week.

New Beginning's will be closed December 20 – December 31. Classes resume Monday, January 3.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12th at 5:30 PM will be The Annual Youth Christmas Party. It will be held at the home of Kristi and Dan Fisher, 16644 Conant Road. We will have a gift exchange and a white elephant exchange. Please keep to the **$15 maximum for the gift exchange.** The white elephant exchange item should be an item from home that is no longer needed by you or your family but is still in good working condition and something your parent says you can give it away. If you drew a name at Thanksgiving Feast, it is important that you come. No one wants to be left out, so if you cannot come make sure your gift gets there. We would like **everyone to bring a dessert to share**. St. Mark's will provide pizza and pop.

Advent Gift Envelopes

Advent is a time of preparation to receive Christ. When Jesus came to us, he was not recognized as the Christ for he was born in obscurity and poverty. One of the biblical themes is that if you want to know what God is doing, look among the poor and the marginalized; and if you want to serve Christ, care for the poor.

Here at St. Mark's we take up a special Advent Collection for the purpose of aiding the poor. We challenge one another to have each family donate $20.

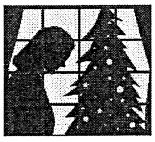
The money collected will help support our mission partner **Salem Lutheran Church** in Toledo (where our past seminarian Michael Hanck now serves as the pastor there), **God's Storehouse, Mercy Unlimited**, and **St. Vincent de Paul**. Offering envelopes will be distributed the weekends of November 27 / 28 and December 4 / 5.

Formerly this special offering was done by means of a quarter a day and called Quarter Folders.

What to Give Someone Who Has Everything?

You can share **ELCA Good Gifts** as a perfect Christmas gift for someone who already has more than an abundance of what they need. With **ELCA Good Gifts**, you and your friends can choose from more than 50 life-changing charitable gifts – such as a pair of goats, school fees or a water well – and give a gift the world needs. Each gift can be given in honor of a friend or loved one and goes on to create transformative change in the lives of people in need. Go online to: https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts. (The ELCA has a fabulous website with many resources available with a mouse click. Start at ELCA.org.)

Member Christmas Help Fund



Each year, we assist families in need in the congregation so that their Christmas might be brighter. Thanks to your donations, $2,500 is shared each year. You can help this year by donating and marking it *Member Christmas Help Fund.*

Reminder

Outstanding bills for the current year must be turned into the church office by December 19 to be included in the current budget.

Discovering the Richness of the Holy Spirit

Winter Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Experience

Pastor Doug will be leading an 8-week immersion experience in discovering the richness of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians have a deep knowledge of Jesus and an awareness of God the Father but frequently the Holy Spirit is mysterious and unknown to many. Through Bible Study, prayer, and experiential encounters Pastor Doug will be introducing the participants to the person and processes of the Holy Spirit.

This immersion experience will happen on Tuesday mornings starting January 4th and ending February 22nd from 10:30 AM to noon and then will be repeated in the evenings from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

January 4	Manifestation of the Holy Spirit
January 11	Characteristics of the Holy Spirit
January 18	Gifts of the Spirit
January 25	Sanctified Imagination
February 1	Centering Prayer
February 8	Discerning the Spirits, 1
February 15	Discerning the Spirits, 2
February 22	The Body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit

Catechism Classes Time Change

The catechism classes on December 1, 8, and 15 will be from 7:30 to 8:30, immediately the following the Advent worship services which begin at 7:00 pm. There is no class on December 22 and 29. January 5, 12, and 19 will be held at the normal time of 7:00 pm. A confirmation movie will be shown on January 26 at 5:00 pm.

December & January Choir Schedule

Dec 1	Choir rehearsal @ 7:30 pm; Bells @ 8:15 pm
Dec. 5	Choir Performance
Dec. 8	Choir rehearsal @ 7:30 pm ; Bells @ 8:15 pm
Dec. 24	Bell Performance @ 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service
Jan 5	Choir rehearsal @ 7:00 pm
Jan. 9	Choir Performance
Jan 12	Choir rehearsal @ 7:00 pm
Jan. 16	Choir Performance
Jan. 23	Youth Sunday
Jan. 30	Choir Performance

Christmas Decorations

Christmas decorations will be removed after the Sunday, January 2 service. Volunteers are needed!!

New Baby

Chase Robert Alexander was born on September 3, 2021 to Zeek and Morgan (Miller) Alexander. Congratulations!

Baptism

Chase Robert Alexander was baptized on November 21, 2021 during the 10:15 am Service. His parents are Zeek and Morgan (Miller) Alexander. He was born September 3, 2021. His baptismal sponsors are Hayley Miller (Aunt) and Mason Francis (Family Friend).

Zeek, Hayley holding Chase, Pastor Doug, Morgan, Mason

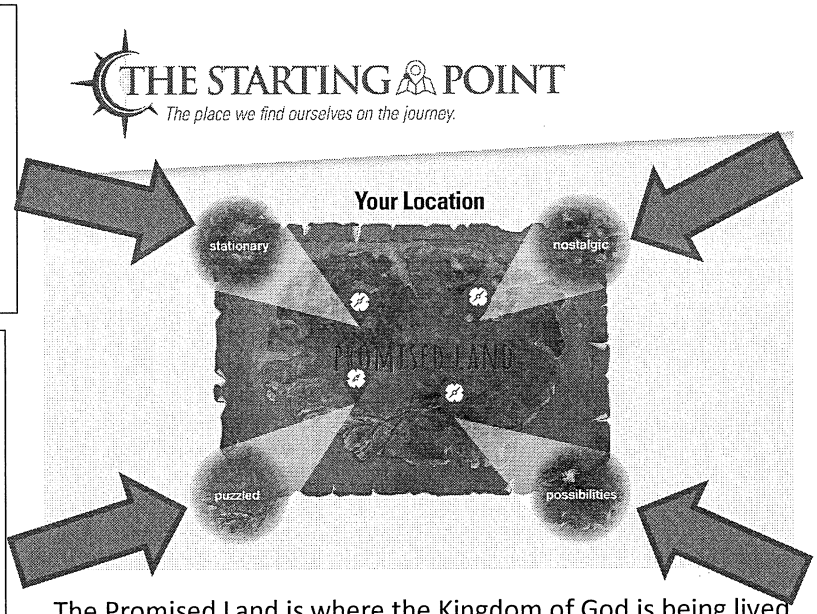
New Administrative Assistant

We are pleased to announce that Kaley Schnarre has been hired as our new administrative assistant. She begins working on November 29 and will be keeping the same office hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to noon.

Findings from the MAP Report

Stationary. This landscape is a place where ministry is happening but it doesn't feel like much movement or growth is being experienced. This location says, "We feel stuck."

Puzzled. This landscape has an identity issue, not clearly knowing who or what they are, while at the same time having a lot of desire to start making something happen. This location says, "Which way should we go?"



The Promised Land is where the Kingdom of God is being lived out in all its fullness.

In what quadrant is St. Mark's living most of the time?

See next page.

Nostalgic. This landscape is a place where the church is enjoying a time of comfort in what they have done but doesn't show much enthusiasm for taking those next steps into the future, This location tends to say, "The view is just fine from here."

Possibilities. This landscape is well positioned, allowing for a ministry to make bold decisions and advance their mission in new and renewed ways. This location says, "Let's get going!"

Thank You Notes Received

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you for the candy, popcorn, first aid kit, and other goodies! We really appreciate your generosity and support! Sending God's peace.

Thanks,

John Doll & Lauren Doll

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of $300.00. Mercy Unlimited uses these monies to support the many outreaches to the hungry, homeless, ill-dressed, sick, and the imprisoned.

Bernadine L. Rohdes

Executive Director

Dear St. Mark's Members,

Thank you so much for the prayers and cards during my knee replacement surgery!

JP Metz

Did You Know?

Findings from the MAP Report

A congregation's location in one of the four quadrants of the Promised Land—Stationary, Puzzled, Nostalgic, or Possibilities—is largely determined by the level of belong and excitement experienced by the members.

- **Did you know** that 80% of the Good People of St. Mark's indicated that they have a greater sense of belonging the more that they participate in St. Mark's ministries? *Belonging*
- **Did you know** 78% feel that they are part of something bigger than themselves? *Belonging*
- **Did you know** 86% said that St. Mark's is making a difference in people's lives? *Excitement*
- **Did you know** 64% reported that participating in this congregation energizes me? *Excitement*

Synopsis of the Community Leaders Meeting

At the Community leader's Meeting on November 16, we were pleased to hear from the following community leaders on where they see good things happening in our midst and where there are unmet needs:

Robert Warren, Executive Director, Auglaize Council on Aging
Troy Anderson, Director Auglaize County Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Doug Spenser, Auglaize Board of County Commissioners
Aaron Rex, Superintendent Wapakoneta Local Schools
Rob Wiesenmayer, attorney & juvenile defender
Mark Freeman, Domestic Relations Court
Police Lieutenant Shannon Place, The Wapakoneta Police Department

Each of these leaders spoke about how they were working to make Wapakoneta and Auglaize County the best possible place to live. The Covid Pandemic has created problems and opportunities for all of them. Each expressed the challenges of working under the restrictions of the pandemic but also noted that there is a great deal of money available to help meet the needs caused by the pandemic. The challenge for each is that the money is there only for three years, and so each of them is wrestling with how to use what they have to begin programs and hire people and still be able to continue those programs and jobs when the money runs out.

The consensus of the speakers is that there are two groups of people who have unmet needs. the elderly poor and a portion of the juvenile population, particularly those who come from unstructured, fractured families. For the elderly it is primarily a matter of isolation and loneliness which has led to increased mental illness for some of them.

For the juveniles the lack of mentors and strong parental figures has meant that they often experience trouble with the law, and they often have mental and emotional issues. All the speakers agreed that the lack of trained people to work in these social service agencies is significant since there simply are not people available.

In addition, we do have a portion of the population which is homeless, living outside, and struggling with alcohol and/or drug addiction.

Worship Service for December

December 4/5 **Second Sunday of Advent** *Sunday Communion*
Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 1:68-79 Luke 3:1-6
Sermon Title: **Knowledge of Salvation**
There are all kinds of knowledge, but the knowledge matters the most is that which enables us to determine what is best for us, for others and for the world.

December 11/12 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7 Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18
Sermon Title: ***Be the Change***
Repentance literally means "to turn around, to change your behavior." When the crowds heard John the Baptist's call to be faithful followers of God and when they asked him what they should do, John was quite specific in naming the actions they were to take.

December 18/19 **Fourth Sunday of Advent** *Sunday Communion*
Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45 Luke 1:46b-55 *(Psalm)*
Sermon Title: ***My Soul Magnifies the Lord***
The Magnificat is Mary's Song of Praise when she realizes in the inner most part of her being that the words spoken to her by the Angel Gabriel were true. Her exuberant praise is a model for us whenever God's mighty work is revealed in us.

December 24 **Christmas Eve** **Family Service 5:00 pm** *Communion*
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Psalm 96:1-6 Luke 2:1-20
Children's Sermon Title: **Were You Born in a Barn?**
This worship service is especially designed for young families. It is a simpler, shorter worship service but includes the Christmas carols, the candle lighting, and communion.

December 24 **Christmas Eve** **Candlelight 7:00 pm** *Communion*
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20
Sermon Title: **Christ is Born in Us**
This traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services reminds us of the wonder and joy of the birth of Christ.

December 25 **No Saturday Worship Service**
December 26 **First Sunday of Christmas**
Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 148 Luke 2:41-52
Sermon Title: ***Christmas Clothes***
Beautiful clothes can be the best Christmas gift ever.

Worship Services for January

January 1/2 **Second Sunday of Christmas** *Sunday Communion*
Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14 Psalm 147:12-20 John 1:1-18
Sermon Title: ***Who Is Jesus to You Now?***
As we mature in Christ, our relationship with Jesus changes. Who is Jesus to you now?

January 8/9 **Baptism of Our Lord** *Sunday Communion*
Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sermon Title: ***Who Is God the Father to You Now?***
As we grow in faith our understanding of God the Father—so shaped by our experience of our earthly fathers—changes as our relationship with God changes.

January 15/16 **Second Sunday after Epiphany** *Sunday Communion*
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11
Sermon Title: ***Who Is the Holy Spirit to You Now?***
The Holy Spirit is perhaps the least known of the three persons of the Trinity, yet it is the Spirit who is with us, and in us, and for us. The Spirit guides, directs, admonishes, challenges, enlightens, and blesses us. Who is the Holy Spirit to you now?

January 22/23 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 Luke 4:14-21
Sermon Title: **Correct Interpretation**
The Scriptures are God speaking to us. Even so, God calls us to know and understand the process by which we interpret Scripture. It is possible to interpret Scripture correctly…or, incorrectly.

January 29/30 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Psalm 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30
Sermon Title: **All That Remains**
Today we hear one of the greatest passages in Scripture, 1 Corinthians 13, Paul's poetry on the meaning and the gift of love. When all else fails or comes to an end, love is never ending.

Who Does What In December 2021

Sunday @ 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
South Door Opener	Lowell / Gloria Headapohl	Stephanie / Harrison Sorensen	Ryan Price Zach Rogers	Paul / Cortney Rogers
West Door Opener	Rod / Sheila Metz	Rod / Beth Miller	Jillian Price Katie Lisi	Carol Rogers Tina Waltz
Communion Assistant	Delani / Kim Harter	No Communion	Lauren Doll Cami Lenhart	No Communion
Bulletin Distributor	Braden Fisher Heidi Lisi	Braden Fisher	Erika / Trent Lisi	Amanda / Corrin Wilder
Reader	Delani Harter	Cami Lenhart	Nate Garber Blake Rogers	Nelson Golden
Song Leader	JP Metz	Kristin Doll	Gabby Raney Addi Fisher	JP Metz
Sound Tech	Chad Doll	Chris Sorensen	Rod Metz	John Doll
Fellowship	Kent/Karen Welch	Kristi Fisher	Rich/Jen Garber	Karen Lenhart

Saturday @ 5:00 PM

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Door Opener	Laura Heitz	Kate Ferguson	Wanda Hornung	No Service
Bulletin Distributor	Dianne Knipp	Barb Srisongkham	Danny Shoemaker	
Communion Server	Sue/Carol Jeanneret	Betty Elsass Carol Pretorius	Laura Heitz Sandy Swaney	
Reader	Sue Jeanneret	Carol Pretorius	Laura Heitz	
Altar Flowers	Open	Open	Open	
Altar Guild	Anne Grove/Jeanne Clark			

Christmas Eve @ 5:00 PM

Door Opener	Dickey Family
Bulletin Distributor	Dianne Knipp
Communion Server	Mark/Sandy Swaney
Reader	Anne Grove
Song Leader	Melissa Grunden
Sound Tech	John Doll

Christmas Eve @ 7:00 PM

South Door Opener	Collin/Ron Lenhart
West Door Opener	Joe/Jean Landry
Communion Assistant	Michael/Claire Burton
Bulletin Distributor	Karen/Kerrigan Lenhart
Reader	Julie Miars Golden
Song Leader	Nelson Golden
Sound Tech	JP Metz

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Calendar

302 E. Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 | 419-738-3122 | stmarks@bright.net

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30a Holy Communion / The Gardens 6:00p Advent Meal 7:00p Advent Service 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Confirmation Class 8:15p Bell Choir Practice	**2** 8:00a Deadline for All December & Jan. 4 / 5 Bulletins	**3**	**4** 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00p Worship Service 6:00p Informational Meeting
5 9:00a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Communion Service / Videotaping for TSC / Choir Performance 11:15a Congregational Meeting	**6**	**7** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 12:15p Preschool Chapel	**8** 6:00p Advent Meal 7:00p Advent Service 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Confirmation Class 8:15p Bell Choir Practice	**9** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 7:00p Council Meeting	**10**	**11** 5:00p Worship Service 6:00p Nativity Tour
12 9:00a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship Service 5:30p Youth Christmas Party / Fisher Home	**13** 7:15p Property & Maintenance Meeting	**14** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 12:15p Preschool Chapel	**15** 10:30a Holy Communion / The Gardens 6:00p Advent Meal 7:00p Advent Service 7:30p Confirmation Class	**16** 9:00a Preschool Chapel	**17** 6:00p New Beginning Open House	**18** 8:00a Men's Bible Study 12:00p Private Party - Fellowship Hall 5:00p Worship Service
19 9:00a Youth Conversation & Learning 10:15a Communion Service / Choir Performance / YOUTH SUNDAY 11:15a Return Advent Envelopes / Outstanding Bills Submitted	**20** 8:30a New Beginning's Closed	**21** 8:30a New Beginning's Closed	**22** 8:30a New Beginning's Closed	**23** 8:30a New Beginning's Closed	**24** Christmas Eve 8:30a New Beginning's Closed 5:00p CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE 7:00p CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE / Bell Choir Performance	**25** Christmas Day
26 10:15a Worship Service / Noisy Offering	**27** 8:30a Church Office / New Beginning's Closed	**28** 8:30a Church Office / New Beginning's Closed	**29** 8:30a Church Office / New Beginning's Closed	**30** 8:30a Church Office / New Beginning's Closed	**31** 8:30a Church Office / New Beginning's Closed	

Who Does What In January 2022

Sunday @ 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
South Door Opener	Cami Lenhart	Bob/Doreen Kinninger	Kurt Doll John W Doll	Grace LaMarr Erika Lisi	Joe/Jean Landry
West Door Opener	Karen Numbers Cindy Klosterman	Heidi Lisi Chris Sorensen	Jeanne Clark Ethel Shawver	Zach Rogers Collin Lenhart	Taryn / Avery Newman
Communion Assistant	Lowell/Gloria Headapohl	No Communion	Lauren Doll Courtney Burton	No Communion	No Communion
Bulletin Distributor	Barb Srisongkham Chris Sorensen	Rod / Beth Miller	Stephanie / Harrison Sorensen	Susanna LaMarr Ethan Dickey	Kristi / Branden Fisher
Reader	Joe Landry	Shelley Koch	Courtney Burton	Nate Garber Katie Lisi	Heidi LaMarr
Song Leader	Julie Miars Golden	Kristin Doll	Jen Garber	Raney/Dickey/Fisher	Nelson Golden
Sound Tech	Nelson Golden	Chad Doll	Chris Sorensen	Nathan Doll	JP Metz
Fellowship	Trish Miller	Karen Numbers	Carol Rogers	Amanda Schmerge	Tina Waltz

Saturday @ 5:00 PM

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Door Opener	Carol Jeanneret	Sandy Swaney	Dianne Knipp	Joe Hornung	Betty Elsass
Bulletin Distributor	Sue Jeanneret	Laura Heitz	Kate Ferguson	Danny Shoemaker	Mark Swaney
Communion Server	Dianne Knipp Barb Srisongkham	Mark Swaney Betty Elsass	Sue Jeanneret Carol Jeanneret	Carol Pretorius Barb Srisongkham	Betty Elsass Laura Heitz
Reader	Anne Grove	Mark Swaney	Sue Jeanneret	Carol Pretorius	Laura Heitz

Altar Flowers	Open	Open	Open	Open
Altar Guild	Ruth Doll Carol Rogers Trish Miller			

11/23/2021
10:19 am

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Calendar

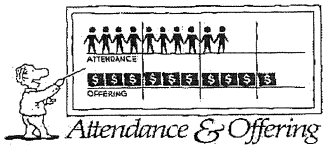
302 E. Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 | 419-738-3122 | stmarks@bright.net

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00p Worship Service
2 10:15a Communion Service / Remove Christmas Decorations	**3**	**4** 10:30a Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	**5** 10:30a Holy Communion / The Gardens 7:00p Choir Practice 7:00p Confirmation Class	**6** Epiphany	**7**	**8** 5:00p Worship Service
9 9:00a Adult Sunday School 10:15a COMMUNION Service (Baptism of Jesus) / Chancel Choir Perform	**10** 7:15p Property & Maintenance Meeting 8:00p Finance Meeting	**11** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 10:30a Bible Study 12:15p Preschool Chapel 7:00p Bible Study	**12** 5:30p Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00p Choir Practice 7:00p Confirmation Class	**13** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 7:00p Council Meeting	**14** 8:00a February Newsletter Deadline	**15** 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00p Worship Service
16 9:00a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Communion Service / Choir Performance	**17** MLK Jr. B-day	**18** 10:30a Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	**19** 10:30a Holy Communion / The Gardens 7:00p Confirmation Class	**20**	**21**	**22** 5:00p Worship Service / Noisy Offering
23 9:00a Adult Sunday School / Youth Conversation & Learning 10:15a Worship Service / Noisy Offering / YOUTH SUNDAY	**24**	**25** 9:00a Preschool Chapel 10:30a Bible Study 12:15p Preschool Chapel 7:00p Bible Study	**26** 5:00p Confirmation Movie	**27** 9:00a Preschool Chapel	**28**	**29** 5:00p Worship Service
30 9:00a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship Service / Choir Performance	**31**					

Worship Attendance

In-person & Streaming



Date	Saturday	Sunday	Streaming Views
November 6 -7	29	57	50
November 13 – 14	14	52	41
November 20 – 21	24	85	56

Financial Report

October 31, 2021

	YTD	Budget %
Received with Synod	$175,752	80.16%
Received without Synod	$ 16,685	55.62%
	$192,437	
Expenses	$195.000	75.00%

Loose Offering

December 1	Advent Wed.	Seminary Fund
December 5		Mercy Unlimited/ God's Storehouse/ St. Vincent de Paul
December 8	Advent Wed.	Seminary Fund
December 12		Friends In Need
December 15	Advent Wed.	Seminary Fund
December 19		Tanzanian Missionaries: Pastors Cynthia Holder Rich & Mark Rich
December 26		ELCA Youth Gathering, 2022
December 24		5PM Christmas Eve - Member Help Fund
		7PM Christmas Eve - Member Help Fund
January 2		Mercy Unlimited/ God's Storehouse/ St. Vincent de Paul
January 9		Friends In Need
January 16		Current or Special Designation
January 23		ELCA Youth Gathering, 2022
January 30		ELCA Youth Gathering, 2022

St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2021

Council member's present: Tina Waltz, Chris Sorensen, Jen Garber, Kristin Doll, Pastor Doug Pretorius, and Laura Heitz. Mike Burton and JP Metz were both excused.

Opening Prayer and Devotions: Pastor Doug shared a reading from The Beatitudes and led us in prayer.

St. Mark's Motto, Mission, and Vision Statements were read aloud by all in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Jen presented the minutes from the September meeting. Kristin made amotion to approve the minutes as presented. Laura seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Kristin presented the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expense from September. Chris made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Pastor Doug seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Drive-thru Nativity will be December 11, 2021. We still need to get a team together yet.
- Save-the-date reminder: November 15 - Tim Johnson from Kairos will be reviewing the results of the MAP survey at 6:30 p.m. and November 16 is the County-wide Leadership Summit at St. Marks at 6:30.

New Business:

- **Retirement of Nancy Borgert**: Pastor Doug and Mike will be meeting to discuss filling this position. They will discuss salary, vacation days, etc. Nancy will be writing out a detailed list of her job duties. She plans to be done at the end of November or beginning of December.
- **Ricoh Copier Proposal**: The finance team recommends the black and white copier to replace our current copier. Approved.
- **2022 Budget Review**: The proposed budget came to council from the Finance Team which met on October 11. The team made extensive cuts to the budget:
    - Giving to the Synod has been reduced from 4% to 3%. All designated missional giving has been reduced to $250 per institution.
    - Anything not of immediate priority has been eliminated or drastically cut.
    - The only salary increases are to the staff other than the Pastor are at 1.5%.
    - Pastor's salary remains steady. He goes on Medicare in December, and that will reduce his health care costs by one third.
    - Even with the changes, it does not necessarily reduce much. The income will still be below expenses unless income rises in the new year.
    - Council discussed either:
        - Recommend an unbalanced budget or Accept budget as proposed.
    - The Finance Team was asked to provide more analysis of giving and expenses.

New Business *(continued)*

- Pastor Doug made a motion to schedule the annual congregational meeting on December 5, 2021, immediately after service (approximately 11:15 a.m.) with an informational meeting on December 4, 2021, immediately following the Saturday evening service (approximately 6 p.m.) Kristin seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Doug's report was read and discussed. He will be having knee replacement surgery on October 20, 2021. He will be out October 20-31. He will be available a little November 1-7 and returning to work part-time November 8-14.

Mission Focus and Strategic Planning: Kristin and her committee has decided on a final draft. She will edit and will have a presentation towards the end of the month. Council will approve the strategic plan maybe as soon as January 2022.

Renovation Steering Committee: This committee has a meeting scheduled on October19 with the architect, John Freytag.

Missions: Our missionaries will retire sometime in October.

Calendar Review: Church Locking - November will be Chris Sorensen

Next Council Meeting - Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded. Motion carried, and we ended with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by

Jen Garber

December Birthdays

Birthday	Name
Dec 1	Miki Hunlock
Dec 2	Betty Winemiller
Dec 3	Jacob Hicks
Dec 4	Kaylee Dickey
Dec 4	Kristin Fisher
Dec 6	Natalie King
Dec 6	Rodney Metz
Dec 6	Thomas Werling
Dec 9	Ben Boehme
Dec 9	Malia Jordan
Dec 10	Joe Hornung
Dec 11	Carol Hume
Dec 11	Marcia Quellhorst
Dec 11	Lucy Zink
Dec 12	Jenna Presar
Dec 12	Debra Regula
Dec 13	John Doll
Dec 16	Kelli Price
Dec 17	Jill Hegemier
Dec 17	Doug Pretorius
Dec 18	Howard Garber
Dec 19	Erryn Clark
Dec 20	Jill Havens
Dec 20	Jennifer Mullenhour
Dec 21	Phillip Jeanneret
Dec 21	Ashley Short
Dec 24	Terri Zofkie
Dec 25	Douglas Sorensen
Dec 25	Kent Welch
Dec 27	Gloria Headapohl
Dec 29	Dave Jeanneret
Dec 30	Elisha Converse
Dec 30	Nichole Koeper
Dec 31	Terry Shoup
Dec 31	Jason Walker

If your name was omitted or a correction needs to be made in this list of birthdays, please contact the office.

January Birthdays

Birthday	Name
Jan 1	Rick Regula
Jan 1	John Richardson
Jan 2	Isabella Jeanneret
Jan 3	John Doll
Jan 3	Ardyth Rockhill
Jan 3	Larry Thuman
Jan 4	Nathan Garber
Jan 4	Rachel Roberts
Jan 5	Katie Hunlock Beatty
Jan 7	Dustin Dobie
Jan 7	Jodie Hegemier Mallett
Jan 8	Steven Hegemier
Jan 9	Jon Carpenter
Jan 9	Christopher Sorensen
Jan 12	Marilyn Wills
Jan 14	Amanda Redder
Jan 14	Shirley Wiesenmayer
Jan 15	Heather Ruck
Jan 16	Jill Mullenhour
Jan 19	Hannah Elling
Jan 19	Joni Jeanneret
Jan 19	Joshua Welch
Jan 22	Randy LaMarr
Jan 22	Kyle Metzger
Jan 22	Asia Place
Jan 24	Tom Clark
Jan 24	Lyla Wilder
Jan 26	Addi Fisher
Jan 26	Cathy Klima
Jan 26	Trish Miller
Jan 27	Carol Garber
Jan 28	Bev Cummins
Jan 30	Marian Schlegel Kreger

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST/ORGANIST	Melissa Grunden
SEXTON	Amanda Wilder
VIDEO AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR	Dustin Jeanneret
MINISTERS	Members of the Body of Christ at St. Mark's