



The Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023. There will be ONE worship service that day at 9:30 am, followed by a light breakfast. The meeting will take place at approximately 10:45 am.

Preschool- Fifth Grade

We have 32 students registered and are averaging twelve students per week. You can still register your child on any Sunday you bring them in, or you can register on-line at stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry. Sunday school hours are **9:30- 10:20**. Again, we ask parents/ guardians to drop off and pick up their children at the main doors of our opening area in the basement.

During the month of December we concentrated on the season of Advent and preparing for the birth of Jesus. The students learned about and made an advent candle so they could celebrate the season at home. We also told the story of the birth of Jesus and what that meant to the world- He had come to save us from our sins. Our program on December 18th-, "The Gifts of Christmas", went really well. A special thank you to Pastor Beth for coordinating this program and to Emily and the high school students for helping out as well. We also want to say thank you to Joy Roecker for making new costumes, they looked really great! We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to seeing everyone back on **January 8th**.



In January, we will celebrate the New Year and start back into Our Gospel Project curriculum- learning that God remained faithful to the covenant that he made with Abraham, and renewed His promises to Jacob, despite his sin. God used Joseph to provide for the people of Israel and bring them into Egypt, which sets the stage for the glorious demonstration of God's power to deliver. We know that nothing can stop God's perfect plan!

Our mission project this year with the offering we collect will be for the Build-A-Bed program. We hope to collect \$200 for this fundraiser, and will have a tracker to show the students' progress towards this mission. So far, we have collected \$73.25 towards our goal.

Our team members this year are: Tess Bourgeois, Megan Buehler, Wendy Johnson, Jessica Kamelesky, and Leslie Welling. Kristie Rife has volunteered to help out, as needed. I am very impressed with our teachers and the creative ways in which they teach. They are keeping the children really engaged and enjoying the lessons. If you would like to join our teaching team, please let Kim Kruse or Emily Hemminger know. Also, if you have musical ability and would like to spend five minutes at the beginning of Sunday school teaching our students a song, we would love to hear from you. Our goal is to have them sing during more church services this year.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

-Kim Kruse, Superintendent

Are you a person interested in tech? Are you up for a challenge? If yes, then we have an opportunity for you! As you know, we live-stream our worship services which includes operating a live-streaming app on a computer, interacting with Facebook, operating a video camera, and interacting with the sound system. It might sound daunting, but it's fairly straight forward. If interested, please contact Tom Ritter at 419 304-1908.

We started our live stream during Covid so that people could participate in worship even during the lock down and post lock down for those who wanted to continue to isolate. It also serves as an outreach ministry to people who live out of town or otherwise are unable to attend in person. We see this as a valuable outreach ministry of St. Mark.



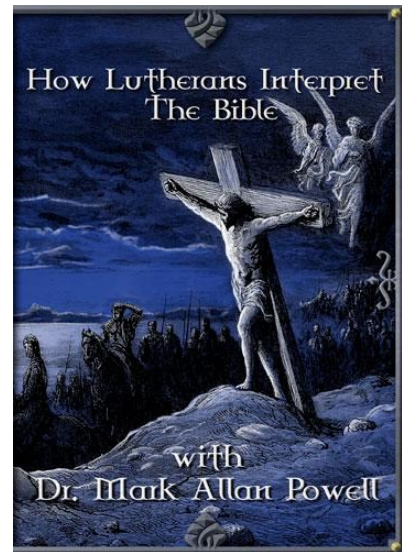
Just a reminder of our snow policy for worship services. If it's a Level 2 we consult among the leadership and staff and make a decision, and our decision will be posted on the St. Mark Facebook page and we will contact the local news stations as well. If we have a Level 3, all worship services are automatically cancelled. We have a great snow removal plan and team.



PICKLE BALL & CORNHOLE

2nd & 4th Friday of the Month
Starting in December from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Please wear appropriate gym or athletic shoes.
No experience necessary, we're all beginners.
Call Brad for more info (419) 467-0288



NEW BIBLE STUDY

“How Lutherans Interpret The Bible”
by Dr. Mark Allan Powell.

A seven-week session led by Pastor Cindy Ritter, on Tues. evenings at 7:11 p.m. on Zoom, and Weds. mornings at 10 am in the Ladies Lounge. All are welcome, classes begin January 3rd & 4th. Please sign up in the church office (419) 691-3597.



“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Greetings and Happy New Year!

It is 2023 and I am excited! A time to focus on new things. I love the Bible verse about encouraging one another...because we all need a helping hand along the way.

Often in the New Year people like to set “New Year’s Resolutions.” I will admit that many of mine have been forgotten or unattainable in the past. This year I am going to focus on setting reasonable and achievable goals in areas I would like to improve...and I encourage you to do the same as you are able.

Spiritually: I am grateful for our Lord and desire to spend more time with Him daily. Check this out: Our Bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, Daniel Beaudoin, has created a daily Bible reading guide titled “The Story of Jesus.” In a recent Christmas email these words were written:

“As we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus this Christmas season, we invite you to join us as we read through the Story of Jesus in 2023.”

Let us begin these daily readings together. St. Mark will have the reading plan available for you to obtain in person and online too. Another spiritual goal is to create and lead Bible studies or book studies to be offered in person and online through 2023. The first one begins January. Online Zoom class begins Tuesday Jan 3rd at 7:11 pm. The in-person class begins Wednesday Jan. 4th at 10am in the Ladies Lounge. This is a 7 week session created by Dr. Mark Allan Powell titled **“How Lutherans Interpret the Bible.”** All are welcome to participate. Please call the church office to sign up # 419-691-3597 or email me at Pastorcindyrittertoledo@gmail.com

Personally: It is my goal to continue healing and strengthening my 2 newly replaced knees. I will focus on exercising at home regularly and plan to join a local gym and to walk regularly at Pearson Park. And of course special time spent with family and friends brings GREAT JOY.

At St. Mark: As your pastoral care pastor it is my goal to care for the members of our congregation by focusing on the emotional and spiritual needs of the people. I am available for homebound, hospital, and retirement center visits as needed. Please contact me through the church office. I also love to worship regularly at both services, and participate in serving at events in our church to support our congregation and parish community.

Again...Happy NEW YEAR! Let us encourage each other and build each other up. Know, Live and Share the Word.

Precious encouragement from Jesus:

*“And remember, I am with you always,
To the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20)*

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Cindy Ritter

The Story of Jesus

North West Ohio Synod Daily Bible Reading Guide

(Month of January)

Prologue

Jan. 1 Matt. 1:1; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18

Preparation

Jan. 2 Birth of John the Baptist Foretold **Luke 1:5-25**

Jan. 3 The Annunciation **Luke 1:26-38**

Jan. 4 Mary Visits Elizabeth **Luke 1:39-56**

Jan. 5 The Birth of John the Baptist **Luke 1:57-80**

Jan. 6 The Genealogy of Jesus **Matt. 1:2-17; Luke 3:23-38**

Jan. 7 The Birth of Jesus **Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7**

Jan. 8 The Adoration of the Infant Jesus **Matt. 2:1-12; Luke 2:8-20**

Jan. 9 The Presentation in the Temple **Luke 2:21-38**

Jan. 10 The Escape to Egypt and the Martyr of the Innocents **Matt. 2:13-21**

Jan. 11 At Home in Nazareth **Matt. 2:22-23; Luke 2:39-40**

Jan. 12 The Boy Jesus in the Temple **Luke 2:41-52**

Jan. 13 John the Baptist **Matt. 3:1-6; Mark 1:2-6; Luke 3:1-6; John 1:19-23**

Jan. 14 John the Baptist's Preaching of Repentance **Matt. 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-9**

Jan. 15 John the Baptist Replies to Questioners **Luke 3:10-14**

Jan. 16 John's Messianic Preaching **Matt. 3:11-12; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:15-18; John 1:24-28**

Jan. 17 John the Baptist Imprisoned **Luke 3:19-20**

Jan. 18 The Baptism of Jesus **Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34**

Jan. 19 The Temptation of Jesus **Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13**

The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry (According to John) Jan. 20 The First Disciples of Jesus **John 1:35-42**

Jan. 21 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathaniel **John 1:43-51**

Jan. 22 The Wedding at Cana **John 2:1-11**

Jan. 23 The Sojourn to Capernaum **John 2:12**

Jan. 24 The First Journey to Jerusalem **John 2:13**

Jan. 25 Cleansing the Temple **John 2:14-22**

Jan. 26 Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem **John 2:23-25**

Jan. 27 Nicodemus and Jesus **John 3:1-21**

Jan. 28 John the Baptist Exalts Jesus **John 3:22-30**

Jan. 29 The One Who Comes from Heaven **John 3:31-36**

Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (According to Mark: Part One)

Jan. 30 The Journey into Galilee **Mark 1:14; Matt. 4:12; Luke 4:14; John 4:1-3**

Jan. 31 Jesus and the Woman at the Well **John 4:4-42**

Property Board

Happy New Year St. Mark friends! December was a quieter month for property board. A big thank you to Brad Isbell and his snow crew for making sure our sidewalks were safe on Christmas Eve! We only had a few times where the boiler was in "flame failure" but we are gaining on this and we're so very thankful for our friend Doug, from Campbell, who is continually working with us to resolve those issues.

This year will bring some difficult financial choices in regards to much needed repairs to our building. We have been working on getting bids for certain areas of the building that need major work & repairs in order to maintain its beauty and safety to our members and friends. I will keep everyone updated in the coming months.

Just a few things that I know we will need to address after the first of the year are some minor repairs to the Woodville Road lobby doors. There will also be some light bulb replacements in the church, which is a very time-consuming job.

I will continue moving forward with more organization and cleaning of rooms.

Anyone interested in helping out, I welcome it!

I accomplished most of my personal goals for the church and have another set of goals for 2023. The biggest one, and some of you may understand this, is figuring out the mega number of keys and key rings. I have a whole year to do this!

As always, I welcome questions/comments/suggestions at any time.

Beth Rokicki – Property Chairperson



MEMORIALS

BONITA DEAL by Beverly Hazel.

NANCY OBERDORF by Larry Oberdorf Jr., Kierstyn, and Seth.



Eggleston Meinert & Pavley have informed us that they will no longer be providing the yearly calendars. We thank them for providing them every year for many years. They have said to thank the congregation for their interest and support and wishes us all a Happy New Year.



Individuals have reached out wanting to volunteer their gifts, but unsure of where to start. I am creating a Google Form that will allow you to choose an area of ministry and see what opportunities there are to volunteer your gifts. You can use the QR code here to access the form, or be on the lookout for paper copies in the Narthex over the next few weeks. If there are areas you'd like to share your gifts with, but they aren't listed, please fill out the electronic or paper form and let me know so I can coordinate that connection. If you fill out a paper copy, please place it in the inreach box in the office and I will check on Sundays for any papers. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at Eholzauer616@gmail.com. Please put a subject along the lines of volunteer St. Mark so I know what the email is about.

Liz Holzauer- Inreach

DECEMBER WEEKLY GIVING TOTALS

12/4 - 12/9

Envelope Offerings: \$1,720

Simply Giving: \$4,469

Total: \$6,189

12/11 - 12/16

Envelope Offerings: \$7,524

Simply Giving: \$3,074

Total: \$10,598

12/18 - 12/23

Envelope Offerings: \$10,550

Simply Giving: \$3,397

Total: \$13,947

12/25 - 12/30

Envelope Offerings: \$7,853

Simply Giving: \$2,816

Total: \$10,669

Weekly amount needed to meet annual budget: \$7,383

SUNDAY IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

12/04 Early: 44 Late: 103 Total: 147

12/11 Early: 35 Late: 68 Total: 103

12/18 Early: 39 Late: 143 Total: 182

12/24 Christmas Eve:

4 pm: 117 11 pm: 142 Total: 259

Your donations to our neighborhood ministry are always welcome! Items may be left downstairs in the corner room past the Sunday school pews. We especially welcome new and gently used: bedding, pillows, towels, household miscellaneous, toiletries, (including partial bottles of perfume and lotions), cleaning products - including partial bottles, new underwear, and bras- any size.

We are currently accepting clothes – current season, clean, no holes, especially children and teens. If possible, mark bags with contents: “women’s clothes”, “queen sheets.” Please NO books, magazines, or drinking glasses.



Thank you!
-Cathy Klewer



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service ONE Service At 9:30 am	2 Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	3 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 7:11 pm on Zoom	4 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 10 am in the St. Mark Chapel	5 No Refit Class	6	7 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
8 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am	9 Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	10 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 7:11 pm on Zoom	11 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 10 am in the St. Mark Chapel	12 No Refit Class	13 Pickleball & Corn- hole 6-9 pm in the St. Mark Gym	14 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
15 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am	16 Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	17 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 7:11 pm on Zoom	18 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 10 am in the St. Mark Chapel	19 OWLS's Lunch 11:30 am at Mancino's on Woodville Rd.	20	21 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
22 Worship Services ONE service at 9:30 am Annual Meeting At 10:45 am	23 Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	24 No Bible Study today	25 No Bible Study today	26 No Refit Class	27 Pickleball & Corn- hole 6-9 pm in the St. Mark Gym	28 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
29 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am	30 Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	31 Bible Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" 7:11 pm on Zoom				