

Wandering Heart

"Jesus sought me"



2nd Wednesday in Lent

March 12th, 2025

St. Mark Lutheran Church
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611 Woodville Road
Toledo, Ohio 43605
StMarkToledo.com

Traditional Worship: 8:30 am
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 am
Pastor: Beth Giller

Youth & Family Life Director: Emily Hemminger
Choir Director: Cheryl Dunlap
President: Diane Lorenzen

Pastoral Care: Cindy Ritter
Organist: Kim Fletcher
Vice President: Andrew English

WELCOME TO ST. MARK! If you are a visitor, please worship with us again. Please send us an email if you are a guest or need to update your information or you need assistance to smlc.office@yahoo.com. We also want to know if there have been any changes to your address or phone number, you can call the office or email with the new information.

We've seen the people of St. Mark band together to help each other and to reach out intentionally to our East Toledo community. If you feel led to support the mission of St. Mark, we encourage you to use our secure eGiving tools to make your offering. To learn more, visit www.stmarktoledo.com and look for the "Give" option in the menu at the top of the page. Thank you for supporting our ministry!

The "***Still Ringing the Bell***" Capital Campaign has received commitments of \$762,300 with \$493,243 cash received as of Friday, March 7th. This is an extraordinary response to God's grace and a powerful statement of the congregation's commitment. If you would like to give, you can visit our website at StMarkToledo.com and click give at the top of the page or call the office at (419) 691-3597. You can visit our website at StMarkToledo.com and click give at the top of the page or call the office at (419) 691-3597.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #807 – “COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence for Reflection

Loving God, you call us by name.

You join us in the deep waters of life.

You invite us to drop our nets and follow you.

Yet, more often than we like to admit, we are like Peter.

We are surprised to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning our your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you are always extending a hand of grace.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you,

For you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name we pray.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Peter did not make a good impression when Jesus climbed into his boat. He questioned Jesus and was oblivious to who Christ was. When he realized the divinity in his boat, he declared himself unworthy.

Hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions.

You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, assume you know better.

Even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart.

This is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate and trust in that. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God, you hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. We do not need to hear everything, but we do need to hear your Word, O God. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts. May the truth revealed in Scripture change us. In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

LUKE 15:1-10

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

LUKE 5:1-11

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MESSAGE – “JESUS SOUGHT ME”

PASTOR BETH GILLER

OFFERING

RECKLESS LOVE

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Verse 1

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

Chorus

*(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah*

Verse 2

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

Bridge

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

HYMN #798 – “WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME”

POSTLUDE

LADIES NIGHT – Join us for a women’s game night on Sunday, March 16th from 6-8 pm in the Ladies Lounge at St. Mark. Please bring a board or card game that you enjoy playing to share! Light snacks and water will be provided. We will also discuss ideas for future events. Hope to see you there!

OWL’S LUNCHEON – (Older Wiser Lutherans) This month’s meeting will be on Thursday, March 20th at 11:30 a.m. at The Old Bag of Nails Pub at 615 Riverside Drive in Toledo. Please contact Kathy Agoston to reserve your spot. Phone: (419) 508-5453 or Email: kagoston@sbcglobal.net.

EASTER TULIPS – are \$11 per pot, order forms are located at the welcome desk in the church lobby. Please include payment with your order, if paying by check, make payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church. You will receive acknowledgement in the Easter Bulletin with your order. **ORDERING DEADLINE IS MONDAY, APRIL 7th at 1: 00 PM.**

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES – Our next Neighborhood Dinner event will be on Wednesday, March 26th at 5 pm. Our next Kid’s Night event will be on Wednesday, April 9th from 3:30-6 pm. We welcome those interested in volunteering to attend as well, a volunteer sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIVEAWAY – is looking for donations of toilet paper for our Community Personal Needs Pantry that takes place along with the Neighborhood Dinner each month. If you can help, please leave them by the welcome desk in the church lobby. Thank you!

EASTER FAMILY CELEBRATION – Join us Saturday, April 12th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. for our Easter Celebration event where we will have fun activities for you and your family including crafts, egg hunt, Easter Bunny meet-n-greet, Easter story adventure and more! Please RSVP by calling the church office by Sunday, April 6th so that we know how many to expect. If you are available to volunteer, please let us know! We will need help with food prep, serving, craft and activity set up, clean up and supervision.

**At St. Mark, we glorify Jesus Christ when we
KNOW, LIVE, and SHARE the Word.**

**We KNOW the Word through study of the Bible, worship,
and developing and nurturing relationships with Jesus and others.**

**We LIVE the Word through prayer, perseverance,
and the power of the Spirit.**

We SHARE the Word by boldly crossing boundaries, welcoming all.

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