



# THE SPIRE

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**611 WOODVILLE ROAD**

**TOLEDO, OHIO 43605**

**PASTOR: BETH GILLER**

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP - 8:30 a.m.**

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP - 10:30 a.m.**

**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE**

**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. TUES. - THURS.**

**1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. MON. & FRI.**

**PHONE: (419) 691-3597**

**FAX: (419) 691-8952**

**WEBSITE: [www.StMarkToledo.com](http://www.StMarkToledo.com)**



President: Tom Ritter

Vice President: Andrew English

Secretary: Heidi Lind

Finance: Gwyn Hager

Inreach: Elizabeth Holzhauser

Outreach: Karen Johansen

Personnel: Paul Edler

Property: Beth Rokicki

Youth at Large: Ella Johnson

Adult at Large: Brad Isbell



**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
611 Woodville Rd.  
Toledo, OH 43605

Office: (419) 691-3597  
Fax: (419) 691-8952

Thank you so much for your continued prayer, service, and financial support of St. Mark. During the month of November, the church received several generous gifts to help offset the large deficit we were experiencing at the end of October. Even so, we are still running significantly behind our giving target. Finance Board and Church Council have initiated additional cost-cutting measures and are examining ways in which expenses can be reduced. However, we run on a streamlined budget already, so that is a challenge. A major portion of our expense is staff salaries. If this trend does not reverse, we may need to cut personnel and/or salaries.

If you have not done so already, would you please consider making additional contributions to the St. Mark General Operating fund, so that the church can continue to function in a way that allows all to enjoy ministry programs and grow in faith? Perhaps it is time to prayerfully consider your regular offering, and whether you are being led to direct more toward the ministry at St. Mark. Times are difficult for all of us financially, but we trust in God's provision and ultimate direction.

Your contributions can come in the regular Sunday morning offering, or you can make an online contribution (one-time or ongoing) by following the link on the St. Mark website, [www.stmarktoledo.com](http://www.stmarktoledo.com) It is also a good idea to consider enrolling in *Simply Giving*, the program which directly debits a checking or savings account, and which allows you to contribute even when you are not able to attend. If you are making an ongoing contribution, *Simply Giving* is a better electronic option because there is a service charge to the church when you donate through the website using a debit or credit card. Office Manager Ryan Erard can help you enroll in *Simply Giving* if you call the church office.

Again, thanks for your faithfulness to the ministry and work of St. Mark. As we continue to *KNOW, LIVE, and SHARE* the gospel, all of us are important and needed.

In Christ,

The Church Council



### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**On Christmas Eve**, St. Mark will have two services, one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 11:00 p.m. (with music beginning at 10:30 p.m.) Both services will offer Holy Communion and candlelit Silent Night.

**On Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25, there will **NOT** be an in-person service. A short online devotion will be available for home use.

**On New Year's Day**, there will be one service at 9:30 a.m.



### Sunday School- Preschool- Fifth Grade

We have 32 students registered and are averaging twelve students per week. It's not too late to register your child for Sunday School! You can still register your child on any Sunday you bring them in, or you can register on-line at [stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry](http://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.

We have been continuing with our Gospel Project lessons learning about the covenant relationship God made with Abraham and to bless all of his descendants through His plan of redemption. It was through Abraham's family, that God would bless the entire world by bringing forth the Messiah, Jesus. Even though Abraham did not completely understand the plan God had for him and his family, he trusted him. He knew that God always keeps His promises. God has a plan for each and every one of us and we need to trust and believe in Him and spread His gospel.

This month, we will concentrate on the season of Advent- preparing for the birth of Jesus and the Christmas story. The children will also have a Christmas program on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the second service. We hope to see you all there to celebrate with us.

**There will be no Sunday school on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. We wish everyone a safe and blessed Holiday season!**

Our mission project this year with the offering we collect will be for the Build-a-Bed program. We hope to collect \$200 to build a bed and will have a tracker to show the students the progress they are making towards this mission. We have collected \$69.25 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 they are coming up with to teach the lessons. 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 at 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

ST. MARK  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

ST. MARK KIDS MINISTRY PRESENTS:

the Gifts of  
Christmas



**Sunday, December 18th**

10:30am

St. Mark Lutheran Church

For more information on participating in the Christmas Program,  
visit [stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry](http://stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry).

December 2022 | Notes from the  
**Youth & Family Life Director**

---



## **EDGE 6-12 YOUTH GROUP**

### **Christmas Party!**

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Wear your craziest Christmas sweater and join us for a Christmas Party! Bring a random item for our White Elephant gifts exchange. All 6-12 graders are welcome! Please RSVP by texting Emily.

Don't forget to follow @stmark\_edge on Instagram or join our Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/edgesmlc](https://facebook.com/groups/edgesmlc) to stay up to date on all our gatherings!

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Class takes place every Sunday morning at 9:30am in the St. Mark Gym! Every student is asked to register online at [stmarktoledo.com/confirmation](https://stmarktoledo.com/confirmation).

### **December Acolyte Schedule:**

December 4                      Codey Shimman

December 11                     Eli Shimman

December 18                    Ella Johnson

**December 24                    Please Contact Emily to sign up for Christmas Eve services!**

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "The Gifts of Christmas"**

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 am

You're invited to be a part of this year's Christmas program! All toddlers-5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are welcome to help us share the Christmas Story together through simple story telling, cute costumes, and singing with motions. Special parts like speaking roles & solo singing are available for those who are interested.

### ***Rehearsals***

There will be one rehearsal for all participants on **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** from 10 - 11:30 am at St. Mark. For those who signed up for special speaking or singing parts, there will be additional rehearsals on **Saturday, 12/3 and Saturday, 12/10** from 3 - 4 pm. Group music for all children will be rehearsed during Sunday School and at home!

**Sign up for the program by visiting [stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry](https://stmarktoledo.com/kids-ministry)!**

*"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - PHILIPPIANS 1:6*



As we are nearing the end of 2022, I feel very happy with what has been accomplished in this beautiful, but old church. I have learned a lot this year from how things are done, how they were done in the past, and how we can make improvements for the

future. I am proud that I finally understand the boiler system and how it works. I also understand what tuck pointing is and why it is necessary to repair our masonry. Along the way I've made a few changes, cleaned out a lot of rooms and organized things to, hopefully, make sense for everyone. I am taking a break the month of December from cleaning and organizing. But, don't you worry, I already have a list of my 2023 goals for this place!

Thank you to everyone that helped me along the way whether it was physical assistance or just educating me on items around the church. I appreciated everyone's comments, ideas and suggestions. I appreciated those who stepped up to the plate to volunteer and agreed to do those things that helped me along the way. I especially want to thank Mike Rokicki. Let's be honest, he's the one that had to live with me and situations but he also jumped in to help with something that I had no idea how to do or gave me suggestions on what should take place.

As always, I am available for any ideas/comments and suggestions you may have. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Beth Rokicki - Property Board Chair



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 [Eholzhauer616@gmail.com](mailto:Eholzhauer616@gmail.com). Please put a subject along the lines of volunteer St. Mark so I know what the email is about.



Liz Holzhauer- Inreach

### Our Larger Connections

**Deacon Sherry Krieger** serves as the Director of Leadership Development for Congregational Care for our Northwest Ohio Synod of the ELCA. In an effort to be more responsible with synod resources, the synod office in Findlay has been relocated to a local church and Deacon Sherry will be using an office at St. Mark as a base of operations.

**Tom Ritter** is serving on our Northwest Ohio Synod Council as a lay representative from the Toledo Conference. He is on the Executive Committee for the NWOS Council. He also recently began a position as a Call Facilitator for the Toledo Conference. In this role, Tom will be assisting local congregations in the process of calling pastors to ministry.

**Hans Giller** has been elected to serve on the national ELCA Church Council. He was elected to this position at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and began his service in November at the ELCA offices in Chicago. The Church Council is made up of ordained clergy and lay people from the Synods around the country. He is serving on the Christian Community and Leadership Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the ELCA's efforts in leadership like universities, camps, schools, and seminaries. This committee also works on the Church's efforts of building Christian community by supporting our congregations in having the resources to grow and thrive as our local Christian communities. He was also asked to also serve on the Board Development Committee. This

committee is responsible for the health of the Church Council by evaluating effectiveness of board meetings, giving new members the resources to quickly acclimate to the board, and other tasks around improving the overall work of the Council. He will be serving a six-year term in this position.

*Please pray for Deacon Sherry, Tom and Hans in their important work on behalf of the larger church!*



## MEMORIALS

**BONITA DEAL** by Sandra & Terry Murray, Norma Rymers, Daniel & Cherrie Businger, Carol Deal, Kurt & Deal Family, Jerry Deal, Maumee/ BG Elks Lodge Dance Committee, Steve & Jackie Mierzejewski, James Wurst Sr. & Rose Rymer, Edward Clark, Stacey & Julie Malcolm, Diane Haas, Mary Finch & James Christiansen, Joy Roecker, Phyllis Bookengerger, Carol Dehring, Bonnie Weiland Conley, Evelyn Gerwin.

**ROBERT GEISERT** by The Fairfield Barb Wire Association.

**NANCY OBERDORF** by Larry Oberdorf Jr.



## 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



## MEN'S NIGHT

Wednesday December 21st  
6 pm - 8 pm

Buffalo Wild Wings on Navarre Ave.  
Come on out for a night of Christmas Fellowship  
Call Brad for more info - (419) 467-0288

## NOVEMBER WEEKLY GIVING TOTALS

### 10/30- 11/04

Envelope Offerings: \$3,603

Simply Giving: \$4,910

Total: \$8,513

### 11/6 - 11/11

Envelope Offerings: \$10,179

Simply Giving: \$1,732

Total: \$11,911

### 11/13 - 11/18

Envelope Offerings: \$1,198

Simply Giving: \$3,397

Total: \$4,595

### 11/20 - 11/25

Envelope Offerings: \$7,817

Simply Giving: \$2,192

Total: \$10,009

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



## SUNDAY IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

11/06 Early: 38 Late: 121 Total: 159

11/13 Early: 31 Late: 78 Total: 109

11/20 Early: 36 Late: 118 Total: 154

11/27 Early: 22 Late: 52 Total: 74



### December Bible Study

*Mary, the Mother of Jesus*

Two Sessions:

Tuesday December 6th & 13th

St. Mark Chapel in person at 10am

Zoom Session at 7:11pm.



A FIELD TRIP will accompany our study of Mary.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 428 N. Erie Street for the  
"Picturing Mary Exhibit" and the Nativity Festival.

(Date & Time to be announced for a Friday evening on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> with dinner in Downtown Toledo following the exhibit)

**\*All are Welcome\***

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(Sunday School is at 9:30 am each Sunday except Christmas Day.)				1  No Refit Class	2	3 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
4 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am	5  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	6 Bible Study 10am St. Mark Chapel  A.A. at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall	7  AL ANON at 7:30pm in the Chapel	8  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the Gym	9	10 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
11 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am	12  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	13 Bible Study 10am St. Mark Chapel  A.A. at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall	14  AL ANON at 7:30pm in the Chapel	15 OWL's luncheon 11:30 am El Camino  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the Gym	16	17 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym
18 Worship Services Trad. - 8:30 am Praise - 10:30 am Kids Christmas Program 10:30 am EDGE Youth Christmas Party 5:30-7:30 pm	19  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the hall	20  A.A. at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall	21  Men's Night 6-8pm Buffalo Wild Wings  AL ANON at 7:30pm in the Chapel	22  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the Gym	23	24 No Refit Dance Class  Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 11pm
25 No worship service	26 Office Closed  No Refit Dance Class	27  A.A. at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall	28  AL ANON at 7:30pm in the Chapel	29  Refit Dance Class at 6:30pm in the Gym	30	31 Refit Dance Class at 9am in the Gym