



“I Love to Tell the Story”

In Lent 2021, we will explore the great story of the Bible and how it weaves into our own personal stories. On Ash Wednesday, we will have both in-person and livestreamed worship at noon and 7 p.m. On other Wednesdays, we will have in-person and livestreamed worship at 7 p.m.

Feb. 17th ASH WEDNESDAY noon and 7 p.m. *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

We will observe self-imposition of ashes at the end of each service. For those worshipping at home, you can pick up a packet of “Ashes to Go” anytime after Feb. 7th at church. We will also have drive-up/walk-up Holy Communion at the end of both services on Feb. 17th.

Feb. 24th 7 p.m. *“Jesus the Storyteller”*

The parables of Jesus, the master storyteller.

March 3rd 7 p.m. *“Listening to the Story”*

Reading and hearing the Bible with new insights.

March 10th 7 p.m. *“The Big Story”*

How the Bible came to be.

March 17th 7 p.m. *“The Rest of the Story”*

Don’t you wonder what happens after a Bible story ends?

March 24th 7 p.m. *“Your Story”*

Where is God in your story??



Tune in weekdays at 5:00 PM on the St. Mark Facebook Page for a short meditation and prayer.



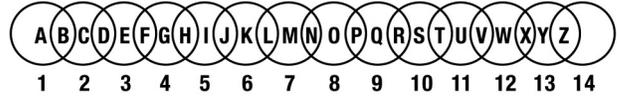
Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

- Max Lucado, *Fearless*

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”



ALMA KLATT age 98, died January 3rd

SUE FOWLER age 68, died January 14th



MEMORIALS

BETTY KUSIAN by Barry & Ann Ramlow, Larry & Doris Lafferty, Phyllis Dehring, Margie Kusian, Arnold & Barbara Brossia, Lana Mergenthaler, David & Kathy Geisert, Jerry & Bonita Deal, Chuck & Glenda Whitman, Marylou Meyer, Ronald & Margey Cox, Robert & Mildred Dierker, Jan Livingston, Charles Steensen, James Christiansen & Mary Finch, Auburn Temple, William & Rose Kusian, Patricia Hoffman.

NICHOLAS SASS by Jeffrey & Kim Kruse.



EDGE 6-12 grade youth meet Wednesday nights at 8 P.M. (virtually & in-person).
Contact Emily with questions at emilyinministry@gmail.com



A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.



If anyone is looking for insurance quotes, please keep Oregon Insurance in mind as they have greatly reduced our insurance premiums. They have been very efficient and helpful in tending to our needs here at St. Mark and may help in reducing your personal home and auto insurance cost.

ADDRESS:
3458 Navarre Ave # 2, Oregon, OH 43616

PHONE:
(419) 697-3955

HOURS:
Monday - Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

WEBSITE: www.oregoninsurance.agency



DONATE THROUGH AMAZON SMILE!

When you shop on amazon.com, amazon will donate a percent of the purchase to St. Mark Lutheran Church. It's easy and it does not cost extra or take away any value from your account. Visit smile.amazon.com, sign in with your amazon.com credentials and choose St. Mark Lutheran Church Toledo as the organization to donate to.



MAIL IN DONATIONS

If you would rather mail in a donation to the church, please send it to:

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



VANCO is a service that we use for you to easily donate from the comfort of your home. We also refer to it as "Simply Giving". You can set up a direct debit from your bank account for a one time donation, or schedule a weekly donation plan, or ever donate with your credit card. We have been safely using this service for several years and it has been an easy way for our congregation to continue to help support the St. Mark Ministries. To set up your online donation, visit www.stmarktoledo.com and in the top bar, choose "More" then choose "Donate" and set up your account.

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

To all of our Spire readers: We are dedicated to keeping everyone informed and up to date with any news or information regarding Church activities. With the technological world that we live in, we are looking at moving more towards the digital option. But we want to make sure **no one** is left out. We offer the Spire to be automatically delivered to your email monthly. Please visit: stmarknews.sytes.net and fill out the registration to have yours emailed. Otherwise, if you would like to continue receiving your Spire through the US Postal system, please call or email the church to let us know. (419) 691-3597 -or- smlc.office@yahoo.com Thank you!



We are so excited to announce our recently obtained customized YouTube link for St. Mark! Thanks to all of you for helping get the word out and subscribing to our channel, we were able to reach our goal of over 100 subscribers! YouTube policy states that in order to obtain a customized YouTube link, you must have 100 or more subscriptions from YouTube users. Thank you! Our new YouTube link is:
www.youtube.com/stmarktoledo



Thank you for your generous donations to our neighborhood ministry! Reminder: we are not accepting any clothing, books or magazines at this time. We welcome clean, gently used kitchen and household items, and we're currently in need of toothpaste. Your donations can be placed on the pew in the elevator lobby or on the pews downstairs in the Sunday School area. Please text Cathy at 419-260-3169 if you leave several items, or tell Ryan in the office. We welcome volunteers from 3:30-6:00 on the last Wednesday of the month.



JANUARY WEEKLY GIVING TOTALS

1-03-21 - 1/08/21

Envelope Offerings: \$805

Simply Giving: \$6,852

Total: \$7,657

1/10/21 - 1/15/21

Envelope Offerings: \$3,604

Simply Giving: \$3,342

Total: \$6,860

1/17/21 - 1/22/21

Envelope Offerings: \$4,582

Simply Giving: \$1,893

Total: \$6,475

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

