



Winterfest!

Saturday, January 29th
at Prentice Park

Enjoy fun for the whole family!

- Street hockey
- Games
- Crafts
- Cookie Decorating
- Hot Chocolate
- Bonfires

...and so much more!

Keep up-to-date on all things Winterfest by following St. Mark's Facebook page at [facebook.com/stmarktoledo](https://www.facebook.com/stmarktoledo)!

We welcome our new Church Council Members who will be installed at both services on January 9th:

Beth Rokicki — Property Board

Heidi Lind — Secretary

Ella Johnson — Youth Member At Large

A special thanks to Clara Steele, Bob Oberdorf, and Carol Kinsel for their service on Church Council. Their work is much appreciated.



Will be held after the second service on Sunday, January 23rd.



OWLS LUNCHEON
(Older Wiser Lutherans)

Mark your calendars! The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 20th at 11:30am at Applebees. Please contact Kathy Agoston to reserve your spot!

Phone: (419) 508-5453

Email: kagoston@sbcglobal.net

Hope to see you there!

2022
The Year of Vision
*“And the One who was seated on the throne said,
“See, I AM making all things new.”*
(Revelation 21:5a)

Greetings Everyone! Happy New Year!

It is the time of year when we often make resolutions, or intentions, or promises to ourselves. Most often people desire to live a healthier lifestyle, focus on more self-care, make new friends, give more compliments, read more, and help people more. As for us church folks we often add: Pray more, go to church more, *read the Bible more*, have more grace and gratitude, share the Lord more and get involved with serving the Lord and the Lord's people more. No matter what our goals become for the year 2022 may we always remember that LOVE came down on Christmas Day and that LOVE...Jesus Christ, is with us always.

This year in the Northwestern Ohio Synod we are focusing on “The Year of Vision.” May we all be looking forward to learning more about this & embracing it with great intention. One definition is: *The act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be.*

When we read the words from scripture “*See, I am making all things new,*” we are filled with hope and expectation that one day we will live with our Lord in heaven and there will be no more tears, death, crying or pain. In Revelation 21 we hear that the new Jerusalem is a vision of community-God's people will live together in peace and wholeness. “*The home of God is among mortals*” confirms God's ultimate desire to live among God's people.” (The Lutheran Study Bible pg. 2051)

This year we will have the opportunity to learn more about these teachings in the Bible study created by Bishop Daniel Beaudoin “Book of Revelation: All Things New.” My hope is to lead this study during the season of Lent in person and on Zoom. All are welcome to participate.

Stay Tuned! Coming soon from our Synod will be a Bible reading plan for each of us to follow that will focus on the Psalms and Prophets. I fondly remember attending a S.A.M. retreat years ago where Pr. James Dumke led our Bible study. He said these important words, “*Read the Bible, God will talk to you.*” Another memorable quote from Pr. Walt Wangerin was, “*The Bible which speaks to the world at large can also whisper personal words in your own ear.*” Praise God for these words shared by these pastors are so very true...for me and for YOU!

Blessings to each of you! God Loves you!

*The LORD God said,
“You are precious in my eyes and honored and I Love YOU.”*
(Isaiah 43:4)

Hope, Peace, Joy & Love,
Pr. Cindy Ritter

P.S. Anyone interested in attending a 4 week Bible Study Focusing on “Angels” beginning January 18th please contact me: Pastorcindyrittertoledo@gmail.com

Sunday School- Preschool- Fifth Grade

We hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season! During the month of December, we concentrated on the Advent season and the preparation for the birth of Jesus. We learned how John the Baptist helped prepare the way for the Light to enter our world. The children made an Advent wreath craft and were taught the symbolism of the candles- hope, peace, love, joy, and the Light.

In January, our lessons will return to Paul and his journeys telling others about the gospel.

Our offering mission: The Beach House- a family shelter that takes in entire families affected by homelessness. We will give a monetary donation or needed supplies.

A reminder that we will start promptly at 9:30 and end at 10:20, so families can make it to our second church service, if they choose. Please drop off and pick up your children at the doors to our opening area downstairs. **Masks are required.** Our team members are: Tess Bourgeois, Megan Buehler, Jessica Kamelesky, Kristie Rife, and Leslie Welling.

Kim Kruse, Superintendent



JO ANN ZUNK age 86, died December 23rd.



MEMORIALS

MERLIN "PETE" ZUNK by Cheryl Holmberg, Jeanette Shepard, Mac & Joyce Smay, Jim & Judy Crawford, Jackie & Dan Cichy, Jim & Gene Hawkins, Dennis & Joy Esterbrooks, Gary & Darlene Carstensen, Jo Ann Zunk & Family, Neal & Rita Carter, San Jan INC., Suzanne Green, The Shell Company, Robert & Rose Belville, Marilyn Kozma.

JO ANN ZUNK by Lillian Lager.

MARIAN DAMSCHRODER by Deanne Douglas.

ELSIE PFOUTS by Tim & Janet Keefe.

GARY CORNER by Tim & Janet Keefe.

Dear friends in Christ:

I have been so grateful over these past weeks for the support and encouragement of the people of St. Mark. Some of you may not know that I had a surgery on November 18, an anterior cervical disc fusion in two places in my neck. This was to correct excruciating pain that I had been experiencing in my arm since August. During the time since surgery (and honestly before surgery as well because my functioning was so limited!), the staff and members of the church have been so kind and grace-filled. While I am past the acute phase of my recovery, my surgeon says that I can expect to be recovering for at least six months.

Thank you to our amazing staff for stepping in and stepping up so that I did not have to be stressed about church duties. And many of you brought meals, sent cards and lifted prayers for me and my family. God's grace and healing has been showered on me through your kind actions. I am eternally grateful.

Pastor Beth



DECEMBER WEEKLY GIVING TOTALS

12/5 - 12/10

Envelope Offerings: \$2,453
Simply Giving: \$1,498
Total: 3,951

12/12 - 12/17

Envelope Offerings: \$5,720
Simply Giving: \$3,151
Total: \$8,871

12/19 - 12/24

Envelope Offerings: \$5,530
Simply Giving: \$5,131
Total: \$10,661

12/26 - 12/31

Envelope Offerings: \$13,699
Simply Giving: \$3,451
Total: \$17,150

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

Thank you



SUNDAY IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

12/05: Early- 35 Late- 62 Total: 97
12/12: Early- 32 Late- 50 Total: 82
12/19: Early- 32 Late- 57 Total: 89

CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE

12/24: 4pm - 150 11pm- 163 Total: 313