

THE SPIRE

JULY 2020

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Dear friends in Christ –

Thank you so much for supporting the first in-person worship service on Sunday, June 21, and for continuing to be present to the streaming services on Sunday morning. This season of adapting worship so that best safety practices are in place has been a challenging one. We changed the structure for these first in-person worship services in an attempt to make the service worshipful for those in attendance, while also adhering to our safety guidelines. We know that many of you, especially those who are attending virtual worship, missed the music and singing you've gotten accustomed to in the last few months. While we welcome your feedback, please give us grace as we explore the best ways to serve the congregation and continue our ministry.

On Sunday, June 28, we will have only our virtual service at 9 a.m. In the month of July, we will resume in-person worship for those who wish to gather, using our live-streaming style at 9 a.m. We hope this will offer the best of both worlds, meeting the spiritual needs of our church family and extended congregation. On July 12, we will have Holy Communion, both in the sanctuary and at home.

If you choose to physically attend worship, you won't be able to sing along with the musical offerings just yet, but you will be able to be present in the sanctuary and reflect and enjoy the music. As you enter the church, we will take "attendance" so that we can notify you if someone in the congregation tests positive for COVID-19. Please be considerate of others by wearing your mask at all times, and practice social distancing.

Toward the end of July, we will evaluate and make some decisions about how to proceed for the month of August. Please, please continue to keep St. Mark and all churches in your prayer as we move ahead in uncharted territory. Thanks so much for remaining faithful in your financial support of the mission and ministry, for continuing to reach out to one another, especially to those who may not have internet access.

Peace to you!

Pastor Beth Giller and the Responsible Reopening Team (Barb Brossia, Kim Fletcher, Mark Padley, Brad Isbell, Carol Kinsel, Beth Rokicki, Tom Ritter)

St. Mark's Virtual Community:

Together as a church while physically apart

Our new, socially-distanced season of life amidst the COVID-19 outbreak is proving that the Church is not a building – it is a body of believers trusting fully in God and supporting one another. We have created new ways to virtually keep our community connected and invite you to join us online!

Our St. Mark Website – stmarktoledo.com

This is your one-stop shop for all things happening in our church community. On the website, you will see the video of our latest Sunday worship service, as well as links to all of our current digital platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Podcasts, etc.) at the bottom right of the home page. Under the “News & Events” tab, you can find all of our church news & announcements, as well as pertinent updates on our council’s decisions regarding the coronavirus. You can also digitally send in your offering using the “Donate” button in the top menu, and you can find resources for at-home spiritual growth under the “Resources” tab or on the homepage.

Facebook – “St. Mark Lutheran Church – ELCA” | www.facebook.com/stmarktoledo/

Join us on our public Facebook page to receive news updates, encouraging posts, and daily guided prayer from Pastor Beth at 5:00pm. ***This is also where our Sunday worship services are livestreamed at 10:00am on Sunday mornings.*** If you have a Facebook account, you can log in and “Like” our St. Mark page to have our content on your News Feed. But, you do not have to have a Facebook account to enjoy our livestream videos or see our content! Simply click on the “St. Mark’s Facebook Page” link on our website to view our page.

YouTube – “St. Mark Lutheran Church - Toledo, OH”

Our St. Mark YouTube channel features videos of our worship services and other uplifting content being uploaded weekly. Just go to www.youtube.com and search “St. Mark Lutheran Church Toledo.”

EDGE Youth Community – Instagram & Facebook

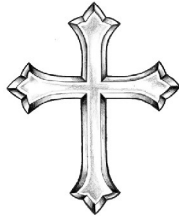
Invite the youth in your life to follow our St. Mark EDGE pages for information on daily video check-ins, Zoom youth group meetings, encouraging posts, and more. Search [@stmark_edge](https://www.instagram.com/stmark_edge) on Instagram, follow “St. Mark Youth” on Facebook, or join the group “EDGE – St. Mark Youth” on Facebook.

Give Online

As our church community continues amid social distancing, so the work of the church continues. Your financial support is still needed to keep our church going during this time! You can give online through the “Donate” button on our website, or by downloading the “Give Plus” app on your smartphone and following the prompts. For more information, go to www.stmarktoledo.com/news/ways-to-give-online.

We hope to connect with you digitally as we seek God together in this time of social distancing.

Peace be with you!



RICHARD MANTEUFFEL, age 100, died May 16th. Interment Toledo Memorial Park.

VIRGINIA SCHROEDER, age 91, died May 16th. Private burial with interment not listed.

FRANCIS (FRANK) SZOLLOSI, age 75, died June 15th. Interment not listed.

DEAN DORR, age 78, died April 19th. Interment at Greenlawn Memorial Garden.



MEMORIALS

RICHARD MANTEUFFEL by Jerry & Pam Bilyeu, Jennifer White, Ronald & Charlotte Roush, Irene Meech, Jean Oberkiser, Joyce Starr, Lillian Lager and Nancy Oberdorf.

DEAN DORR by Peggy Dorr.

VIRGINIA SCHROEDER by Women of the Church, Jean Oberkiser and Lillian Lager.

BETTY KADLICK by Jean Oberkiser.

FRANK SZOLLOSI by Marlene Brinkman.



Dear St. Mark Friends,

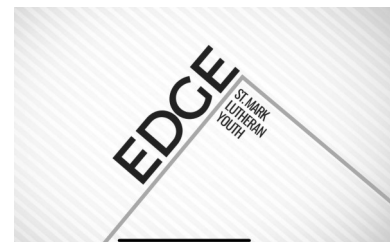
Thank you so much for your kind expressions of sympathy after the death of my husband, Dean. St. Mark will always have a special place in my heart!

-Peggy Dorr



PAUSE FOR PRAYER

Join Pastor Beth weekdays at 5:00 PM on the St. Mark Facebook Page for a short meditation and prayer. All Pause for Prayers can be found on the St. Mark YouTube page. Just go to Youtube.com and search “St. Mark Lutheran Church Toledo.”



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