

The Light



St. Mark Lutheran Church

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... fear not,
for I am with you;
 be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
 I will strengthen you,
 I will help you,
 I will uphold you
 with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10



Since the building has been closed for the last several months, the newsletters have been going out electronically to everybody. In an effort to maintain communication in the best possible way, we are going to continue the electronic newsletters. **If you would like to receive a paper copy instead, please email the office at mail@stmarkchester.org.**

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VISION STATEMENT

St. Mark Lutheran Church glorifies God and makes disciples by making caring connections with the people of our community.

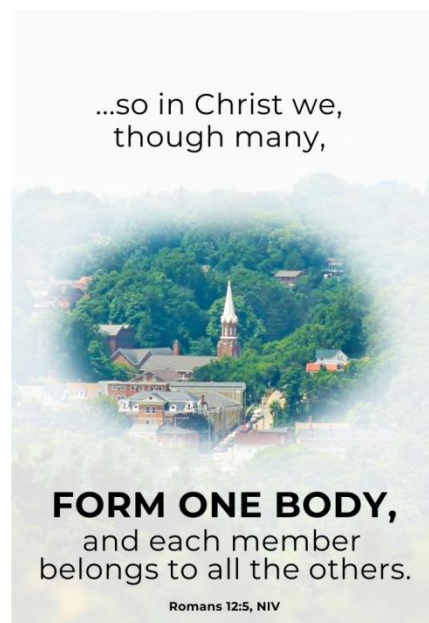
“One Body”

For an eye to be able to see, the forty basic components which make it up need to be present at the same time and work together perfectly. The lens is only one of these. If all the other components, like the cornea, iris, pupil, retina, and eye muscles are all present and functioning properly, but just the eyelid is missing, then the eye will shortly suffer serious damage and stop working. If all the subsystems exist but tear production stops, the eye will dry up and go blind within a few hours. The different parts need each other, and when everything works, a person has vision, without having to try. Take one part away, though, and there's trouble.

There are many ways that the Bible talks about the Church. One of the most profound is the one that Saint Paul uses in Romans. He writes, “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” Do you understand yourself as being part of something bigger than yourself? Since you are part of this body—or else you wouldn't be reading this right now—do you know what your function is within this body?

Thinking of ourselves as parts of a singular body is a challenge. It goes against the grain of how we normally like to operate. Our culture honors the rugged individual and cheers for the person who says, ‘right or wrong, I did it my way.’ But the culture of Christ and the Word of God take us in a much different direction. The Bible honors our individuality—we are uniquely created and adopted one by one in the waters of baptism—and yet we are never *just* an individual. Paul says, “We, though many, are one body in Christ.” Because we are baptized and believe in Christ, we are part of something beyond ourselves. Together, we play a part in presenting Jesus Christ to our world. Paul writes, “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” What do you think it means to be “members of one another”—especially during this era of social distancing? What should the one body of Christ be doing during this time?

Pastor Mark Matzke



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



The Light strives to be a faithful reporter of the ministries happening at St. Mark. Thanks to everyone who contributed information for this issue of the newsletter, and to all who are involved in any of the ministries at St. Mark. We couldn't do it without you!

Please remember that the deadline for submitting newsletter articles is the third Sunday of the month. Short, concise articles from all contributors are always greatly appreciated.

-- the church elf



- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Joshua Burke, studying at Kent State
- Donna Cartwright, mother of Diana Monaghan
- Dan Chuppa
- Dan Cicchella
- Ardis Danicic
- Carol Deau
- Ruthann Dular
- Dale and Bobi Fellingner
- Shirley Gleske
- Grace School in Haiti
- Gerry Grubec
- Howard Hanna
- Don Heuer
- Nancy Johnson
- Betty Judkins
- Gloria Leagan
- Janet Leroe, sister of Karen Rudar
- Larry Long, father of Sue Matzke
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Ron Meister
- Ministry in Mission
- Stan Moczulski
- Diana Monaghan
- Florence Nagy, mother of Debbie Turk
- Barb Nicholson
- Jen Gilbert Pike, daughter of Ray and Ellen Gilbert
- Luther Rinehart, nephew of Chris Webb
- Steppin Out Missions
- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- Capt. Matt Webb, continuing his residency in neurosurgery

- Jean Whitney
- Dorothy Wiegand
- Grace Wright, studying at Ohio State



Thanks to **Leonard Lowe, Dave Toth II**, and their entire team for the beautiful job done with the mulch and flowers.

WomenSafe has asked me to convey their appreciation for all the money and donated items they have received from St Mark through this pandemic. Just 2 weeks ago I delivered toilet paper and they were so excited because they were just going to put out an SOS for it. I am also thanking all of you as it has been a pleasure being able to deliver all the wonderful donations from St Mark. You are amazing. When I tell them I think I have delivered my last donation, Kim calls from church to say items have been dropped off or I receive a check in the mail. Thank you.

-- Lee Stone

Dear St. Mark Family, Thank you for the encouragement, prayers, cards, texts, and emails during my dad's recent health crisis. They have meant the world to Mark, Andy, Dad, Patty, and me. I am so grateful to be a part of the St. Mark family.

-- Sue Matzke



The Lord's Gift of Giving

Through His graceful touch the Lord blesses each of us to give of ourselves in various ways. This column highlights members of the congregation and the joy they have experienced in giving of themselves.

Bruce and Donna Robinson have been members of St. Mark for about eleven years. She is involved in a wide variety of activities including Women's League events and the Board of Stewardship. Bruce is an usher on Sundays. He also does repairs around the church and easily finds light bulbs to change, as well as pencils or knives to sharpen. "If you look, there is always something to be done."

Bruce and Donna are active with the monthly community lunches. Now in its tenth year, the lunch has grown from a handful of attendees to an average of 80 to 90. Donna finds that it helps us "make caring connections with the community." Bruce states that it is

an opportunity for the men to be "the men's auxiliary" to the women by setting up the chairs and tables and assisting with clean ups. Both are excited and proud to be members of a congregation that is growing it in its outreach to the community.

When asked how does the Holy Spirit move you to give back to the Lord and in giving back, what does this bring into your life, Bruce quickly responded, "It brings satisfaction. We have been blessed with opportunities to give back time, talent, and treasure." Donna commented that her activities have become "a natural extension for me to choose to be a light to the world, to choose to be a disciple." She believes "if each of us answers the Holy Spirit's call and does 'something', God can use it for His glory."

Bruce and Donna agree, "it is easy to be generous because the Lord has been so generous to us. We experience great joy in finding new and creative ways to serve."

-- interview by Debi Bucci



Facebook Live Streaming and Videos

Pastor Mark and Vicar Chris are streaming live every day (except Saturday) on Facebook at facebook.com/stmarkchester. The schedule is sent out via FYI emails. If you do not have Facebook, you can watch the videos, after they are done, at www.stmarkchester.com/videos.

Please note: now that the sanctuary is open for worship on Sunday mornings, we are recording and broadcasting out 10:00 a.m. worship service over the internet. By entering and by your presence in our sanctuary, you grant your permission for your likeness and voice to be included in our recordings and broadcasts without additional consideration. Thank you for your cooperation.



Close the Doors

All of the wooden doors that open onto the hallway are fire doors. In the event of a fire, they only do their job if they are closed. Please remember to close the door when you leave a room.

Also, if you are the last one to leave the building, please be sure that the outside doors are locked, the lights are turned off, and the automatic doors are turned off. When the outside door closes behind you, give it a tug to insure that it has latched. We appreciate you help ensuring that our building stays safe.

Ways to Support St. Mark

Please remember that just because the building is closed, ministry is still happening, and we need your support. You can donate online (acionlinegiving.com/4549), text a donation (text the amount to 440-709-8049), or mail your check to the church office (11900 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland 44026).

Do you shop at GFS (Gordon's Food Service)? If so, you can support St. Mark by doing what you are already doing! When you are checking out at GFS, please let them know that you are supporting St. Mark Lutheran in Chesterland and we will get credit for your shopping trip, which will save us money on our next trip there.

You can also support St. Mark by shopping at Amazon, Just go to smile.amazon.com and choose Saint Mark Lutheran Church (Chesterland, OH) and then shop – it's that simple!

And there are two ways you can support our preschool. The first way is just by ordering pizza from Bada Bing Pizza in Chesterland on the third Wednesday of the month and mention the preschool; a portion of your bill will be donated to the preschool. The second way is to place an Avon order with Beth Christopherson (440-729-4506 or churchelf@sbcglobal.net), who will donate 10% of the price of your order to the preschool.



Council and Board Positions Open

Do you have the gift of leadership? Do you have some great ideas that could help St. Mark further its mission of making caring connections? If so, then we would love to talk to you about fitting you into an open position on one of our boards or on the council. Please contact our Church Council Vice President, **Howard Mabel0**, if you would like to talk about where your gifts would best fit.



For I know
the plans I have
for you,
declares the LORD,
plans for welfare
and not for evil,
to give you a future
and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11



Livestreaming volunteers: We are trying to build a team of volunteers to run the livestreams. No previous streaming experience is needed, just a willingness to learn. Contact **Kim Ryan** in the office if you can help.

Ushers: Are you worshipping in person with us? We are in need of ushers for both the 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. Please contact the church office if you are willing and able to help out.

school snacks. Along with the canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly, we also collect canned soups, stews, pastas, canned tuna, canned beans and dried beans, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, and rice.

There is a food pantry box in St. Mark's mailbox room where you may place your donated non-perishable food items. God bless your generosity.

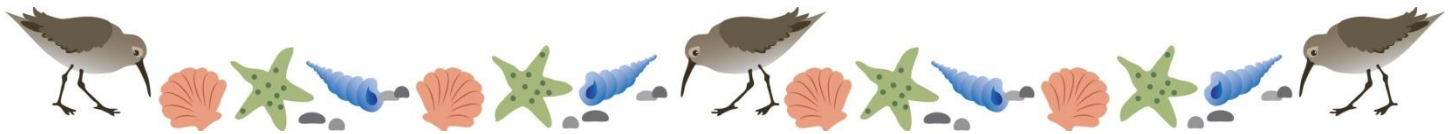


Paper Recycling

Keep the paper, magazines, cardboard (flattened, please) and telephone books coming to the Abitibi (green and yellow) recycling containers. Let's keep filling the bins! Money received for the paper recycled goes to support the St. Mark Preschool.

Hunger Center at Building Hope in the City

School will be starting this month. Children are usually hungry and looking for something to eat when they get home from school. Not every family has the luxury of extras. Donations of non-perishable food items are always needed and appreciated. Let's make an effort to collect canned fruit and peanut butter and jelly this month to help give hungry school children after



GROUP HAPPENINGS

Book Club News



All members of St. Mark are welcome and encouraged to invite guests. You can attend as many or as few meetings as you wish. Meetings will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and start with a potluck. You can join us for just the book discussion portion of the meeting that begins roughly at 7:15 p.m. We generally meet in the small dining room off the kitchen. There will be signups for the potluck portion. You are always welcome to drop in without a dish. You are also not required to read the book. You can come just for the Christian fellowship. Discussion questions will be made available prior to the meeting. They will be posted on the church website and near the potluck signup. Contact **Sue Matzke** with any questions. Feel free to call/text 440-346-5588 or email RaggedyMom@gmail.com.



Show Your Faith...Wear IT!

The 2021 LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt has the convention logo printed on the shirt and is available for purchase. The logo, "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus," incorporates the shape of a horseshoe, which is



also the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega, (Revelation 22:13). It also reminds us that horses are a large part of Kentucky's culture. A laurel wreath was given to the victors

by the ancient Greeks and appears on either side of the Cross, symbolizing our victory in Christ. The banner proclaims the convention theme, "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus," and is based on Hebrews 12:1-2. Order forms to purchase the LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt are available on the LWML Indiana District website at www.lwmlindiana.org. Wear your shirt to promote the 2021 LWML Convention and share your

faith. Then make plans to attend the LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021. Have you considered helping at the convention? A Call for Workers form is available on the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org. The form lists the many areas where your gifts and talents can be used. With your assistance in any position, you are "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."

[Editor's note: The 2021 Convention is being hosted by the Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan Districts.]



What will the next six months of 2020 have in store for us? We can only pray that things will get better. Bring your praise and thanks to the Lord our God. And be sure to tell Him all your concerns. Please remember your Secret Sister in your prayers. Be sure to send an encouraging note or card to let her know you are praying for her.

-- Chris Meister

Stephen Ministry

Stressed? Feeling Down? Need Encouragement?

Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life! Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry, or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, contact Ron Croucher, Sue Matzke or Pastor Matzke. **Please do not**

report a friend's need without first asking his or her permission to do so.



Stewardship in the Time of Pandemic

Church Financial Status: Thanks to the generosity of our members, church finances are staying stable with a positive cash flow. Your tithes and first fruit offerings supporting church ministries are always deeply appreciated and even more in this uncertain time of COVID-19.

Blood Drive: Last blood drive in June resulted in collection of 30 units (our target was 27). Thank you! The Red Cross did an excellent job taking extra precautions to protect the health of donors, workers and volunteers. Please save the dates of next drives: Wednesday, September 16, 2:00-7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Fall Stewardship Campaign: Planning is underway for our fall series on stewardship, focusing on St. Mark's anniversary theme of "60 Years on Mission". Past, present and future ministries will be highlighted showing how they support the mission and vision of glorifying God and making caring connections in the community. Members are invited to complete a commitment form targeting ministries/church activities they wish to participate in. Please begin to prayerfully consider how you might serve Christ's church next year. The pandemic has changed some traditional service activities but it has also provided exciting new ways of sharing the Gospel. Pray for God the Holy Spirit to show ways to use your God-given talents. Where can you serve? What offering can you return to the Lord? "Take what you love. Give it to God. Watch what happens." (Rev. Mark Matzke)

Those Serving Us in August

[Editor's note: Due to the on-going uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, volunteers other than ushers (listed below) will be scheduled on a week-to-week basis. The church secretary will be arranging volunteers. If you would be able to help, please contact her at the church office.]

USHERS

August 2: 8:15 a.m. – Howard Mabel and Chris Powell	10:00 a.m. – Dave Toth II and Tom Holt
August 9: 8:15 a.m. – Roy Blankschaen	10:00 a.m. – volunteers needed
August 16: 8:15 a.m. – Bruce Ranke and Tom Holt	10:00 a.m. – Dwight Miller and Chris Turk
August 23: 8:15 a.m. – Denny and Janie Palmer	10:00 a.m. – Steve and Ellie Mercksak
August 30: 8:15 a.m. – David and Robin Carney	10:00 a.m. – Tom Holt

CELEBRATIONS



- 1 Jennifer Hanson
Rose Rancke
- 2 Virginia Burke
Jil Johnson
- 4 Jennifer Rodgers
- 6 Marti Gildersleeve
- 7 Beth Reksten
- 8 Chris Meister
- 10 Ainsleigh Monaghan
Ashley Monaghan
Michael Ziccarelli
- 11 Ellie Mercsak
Mary Ann Moczulski
Alexander Palchick
- 12 Nicholas Meyer
- 13 Hannah Ryan
Dean Springer
- 14 Barbara Hosa
- 15 Stanley Moczulski
- 18 Amanda Hedrick
- 19 Scott Tomko
- 20 Myron Bliss
- 21 Nancy Barrett
Nancy Powell
- 22 Sydney Palivec
Steven Repas
- 23 Heather Hardy
Kathryn Meyer
Reba Voudrie
- 24 Donna Kuchenbecker
- 25 Lawrence Tomko
- 26 Kathy Fellingner
Kaitlyn Larrick
Eryn Peterson
Robert B. Schneider
- 27 Kyle Wrobel
- 28 Dick Christopherson
- 29 Jodi Chambers
- 30 Tim Rychel
- 31 Mary Borchelt



- 1 James Podojil
Brandon Springer
- 3 Ryan Gleske
Randy Hyde
- 4 Andreas Csepi
Andrew Schneider
- 5 Jennifer Hanson
Joyce Schneider
- 6 Marti Gildersleeve
- 7 Paula Holt
Matthew Meister
Jamie Nicoletti
Emily Vesbach
- 9 Kelvin Bauermann
- 10 Gloria Leagan
- 11 Christa Repas
- 12 Ron Downs
Matthew Webb
- 13 Gayle Fecsik
Mark Zimmerman
- 17 Timothy Bunsey
Jennifer Dunn
Allison Palivec
- 19 Ann Schmidt
- 20 Ray Gilbert
Kirk Jacobson
- 21 Brenden Kuchenbecker
Lyla Kuchenbecker
- 22 Joseph Carducci
- 23 Dennis Vig
- 24 Beth Christopherson
- 25 David Clark
Joseph Holt
- 29 Luna Stone
- 30 Elizabeth Wassel
- 31 Jenna Ebersbacher
Grace Large
Nicholas Meyer



- (years of marriage this month:
515
total year-to-date: 2547 years)*
- John and Barbara Hosa
August 1, 1987
 - Henry and Ursula Hess
August 3, 1962 (58 years)
 - Christopher and Jane Webb
August 3, 1978
 - Tim and Dona Weber
August 4, 2000
 - Ronald and Linda Downs
August 5, 1995
 - Ed and Hildred Tornberg
August 6, 1960 (60 years)
 - James and Lorraine Podojil
August 6, 1994
 - Kurt and Lisa Feigle
August 8, 1987
 - Eric and Jillian Uchbar
August 13, 2011
 - Jim and Virginia Burke
August 16, 1986
 - Dwight and Karen Miller
August 18, 1984
 - William and Linda Hickey
August 23, 1996
 - Brandon and Rachel Springer
August 23, 2019
 - Dennis and Cheryl Lee
August 24, 1963 (57 years)
 - Craig and Nancy Seabrook
August 24, 1968 (52 years)
 - Brad and Lindsey Coppock
August 29, 2015

St. Mark Church

Aug 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:15am - Traditional 10am - Contemporary 10am - Livestream Worship	27 9:30am - Devotions online 6pm - Stewardship Board 7pm - Education Board	28 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Parent Chat	29 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Feed the Flock 6pm - Youth Group online	30 9:30am - Devotions online	31 7:30pm - @ the Cross	1
2 8:15am - Traditional 10am - Blended Worship 10am - Livestream Worship	3 9:30am - Devotions online 7:30pm - Elder Meeting	4 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm - Parent Chat	5 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Youth Group online	6 9:30am - Devotions online	7 7:30pm - @ the Cross	8
9 8:15am - Traditional 10am - Contemporary 10am - Livestream Worship	10 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Council Meeting	11 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm - Parent Chat	12 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Youth Group online	13 9:30am - Devotions online	14 7:30pm - @ the Cross	15
16 8:15am - Traditional 10am - Blended Worship 10am - Livestream Worship 5pm - Newsletter Due	17 9:30am - Devotions online	18 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm - Parent Chat	19 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Bada Bing 6pm - Youth Group online	20 9:30am - Devotions online	21 7:30pm - @ the Cross	22 2pm - Trinity Lutheran
23 8:15am - Traditional 10am - Contemporary 10am - Livestream Worship	24 9:30am - Devotions online 6pm - Stewardship Board 7pm - Education Board	25 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm - Parent Chat	26 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Feed the Flock 6pm - Youth Group online	27 9:30am - Devotions online	28 7:30pm - @ the Cross	29
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