

The Light



St. Mark Lutheran Church

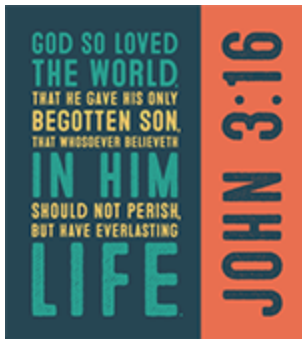
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The Best Medicine

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, “My best prescription for head and heart is that ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. “What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity,” he said of John 3:16. “It is the Bible itself!” After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, “They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!”



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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.

Operation Christmas Child Sowing Seeds of Love and Hope

I just had a remarkable conversation with Alex Nsengimana, a young man of Rwandan descent whose life was changed by an Operation Christmas Child box back in the mid-1990's. (Fortunately, it was recorded and will be made available for anyone who would like to watch and listen.) What made it 'remarkable' was the clear sense of calling with which Alex shares his story and the sheer power of the Gospel to change human hearts. I am hesitant to share too many specifics about the content of the conversation, because it would be much better if you heard it from him, so consider this an encouragement to seek it out on our Facebook page or our church website and to take the time to actively listen.

I will share this: If you are on the fence about packing a box, consider that you might be "planting seeds of love and hope" in a child's heart (to borrow Alex's memorable phrase). This is not just a feel-good giveaway of disposable items. Operation Christmas Child is intentional about leading the children who receive boxes to hear the good news of Jesus. It is an excellent example of the 'show and tell' method of outreach that makes a real difference in the world.

Talking with Alex, I was struck (yet again) by the beauty and strength of the Word of God. Ultimately, that is what entered Alex's life, helping him to address some exceptionally heavy questions and find healing in Jesus. I cannot overemphasize the importance of allowing God to regularly speak to you through His Word, whether in worship, personal devotions, Bible Study, Scripture-based music—in whatever mode suits you best. In Hebrews 1:3, we are told that Jesus is "sustaining all things by his powerful word," and the word for "powerful" in this verse is the same word from which we get the word "dynamite" or "dynamic." The Word of our Lord is explosive, and it changes things, especially the contour of human hearts. I am very grateful I had the opportunity to hear how this was true in the case of Alex Nsengimana, and I hope it will bless you, as well.

Pastor Mark Matzke



He sustains all things by his
POWERFUL WORD.

Hebrews 1:3, NRSV



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



Thanks to all of the regular contributors to *The Light* who faithfully contribute articles every month. Because of their efforts, the entire St. Mark family is kept up-to-date on what is happening here.

And while I'm thanking people, I want to take time to thank the people who have helped me, every month, without any fanfare, get *The Light* produced. In addition to the regular contributors (I'd name you all, but might forget somebody, which would be rude and/or embarrassing), I want to thank: **Kim Ryan**, for getting me birthdays, anniversaries, and the calendar, and for letting me take over the copy machine one morning a month; **Kelvin Bauermann**, who takes the newsletter, puts it into .pdf format, and sends it to those who have stated they prefer the electronic version; and to **Mark Rychel**, who takes that .pdf and puts it on the website, so that others can learn who we are and what we're up to.

If you have any news that you would like to share with your St. Mark family, be sure to drop the information into the newsletter box in the church office by the third Sunday of the month, or email me at churchelf@sbcglobal.net by the third Sunday of the month.

-- the church elf



- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Joshua Burke, studying at Bowling Green
- Donna Cartwright, mother of Diana Monaghan
- Dan Cicchella
- Ardis Danicic
- Carol Deau
- Ruthann Dular
- Dale and Bobi Fellingner
- Shirley Gleske
- Grace School in Haiti
- Gerry Grubec
- Howard Hanna
- Nancy Johnson
- Betty Judkins
- Diane Keehl
- Robert Keehl (Frank's brother)
- Gloria Leagan
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Ron Meister
- Ministry in Mission

- Stan Moczulski
- Barb Nicholson
- Steppin Out Missions
- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- Capt. Matt Webb, continuing his residency in neurosurgery
- Dorothy Wiegand
- WomenSafe
- Grace Wright, studying at Ohio State



We were saddened to learn of the death of **Esther Damko** on August 29. Esther, her husband **Richard**, and their daughter, **Linda Taylor**, are former members of the congregation. Esther was active with Youth Club, our after-school program for 1st-8th graders, and also assisted **Shirley Kotnik**, who started our preschool program. The church elf remembers Esther for her warm smile, easy laughter, and generous heart.



We send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the cards, calls, gifts, and prayers that were extended to us during the hospitalization and passing of husband and father, Don Heuer. It was such a comfort and source of support for us during this stressful time and so deeply appreciated. The St. Mark family is always there!

Thank you.

Carolyn Heuer
Clayton Heuer



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child boxes can be picked up or dropped off at St. Mark any Sunday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. If you are packing a box for a girl of any age, please pick up one of the beautiful handmade sundresses that are hanging in the church narthex. These dresses were donated by the Ohio chapter of "Dress a Girl Around the World." The size of the dress is listed on a note in the pocket with the organization's label. There is no charge to you for these dresses, or for any of the items in our give/take basket or arranged on the Operation Christmas Child table. Call **Debbie Turk** if you have any questions.

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.



Donations to WomenSafe

If you would like to make a donation to WomenSafe, it can be dropped off at St. Mark during office hours. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to *WomenSafe*. If you have any questions, contact **Lee Stone**.



Food Pantry Needs

Canned soups, stews, and pastas; canned tuna; canned or dry beans (NOT pork and beans); canned fruits and vegetables; boxed macaroni and cheese; peanut butter and jelly – these are all items that are needed every month for the Trinity Food Pantry. You can leave your donations at the drop-off point near the coat racks.



GROUP HAPPENINGS

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



Running the Race? Your plans to attend the convention and be a worker (runner) in Lexington, Kentucky, from June 24-27, 2021, will assist the 39th Biennial Convention Host

Committee in "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus," the convention theme. The gates will open soon in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center. The runners are keeping a "steady state" (pace), running with endurance toward their goal. There will be so many uplifting experiences as we hear the inspiring proclaimer, keynote speaker, mission speakers, Bible study leader, sing in the choir, worship and sing HIS praises. You will attend business meetings where delegates will select mission grants and officers for the next biennium and there will be opportunities for fellowship with many LWML women. Prayerfully consider assisting the host districts, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Help them reach the finish line! Check the LWML

Indiana District website at www.lwmlindiana.org for the Call for Workers form and choose to volunteer now. Don't let us lag behind with not enough workers. Help us step up the pace as we continue "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."

LWML Sunday will be observed here at St. Mark on October 4. Remember to bring in your Mite Boxes that Sunday. Also, perhaps the ladies could wear something purple or gold (the official colors of the LWML)



Why not send your Secret Sister a Halloween card? Brighten her day. Let her know she is in your thoughts and prayers.

-- submitted by Chris Meister

THOSE MINISTERING TO US IN OCTOBER

[Editor's note: Due to the on-going uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, volunteers 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.]

Celebrations

OCTOBER Birthdays

- 1 Taylor Atwara
Gwynne Schneider
- 2 Joseph Carducci
Paul Smith
- 3 Thomas Csepi
Cori Marsalis
Lori Marsalis
- 5 David Grieshammer
Chad Hanson
- 8 Michael Atwara
- 9 Betty Judkins
Dennis Palmer
- 12 James Meagher
- 13 Jennifer Civitarese
- 14 Gayle Tomko
- 15 Laurie Deau
- 18 Gerald Dixon
Karen Tritt
- 20 David Palivec
- 21 Michael Repas, Sr.
- 22 Dakota Deets
- 24 Nathan Fellingner
- 25 George Fretz
Sophia Schaffert
- 26 Dale Fellingner
Donna Robinson
Christopher Rybak
- 27 Peggy Kump
Lucas Zelznick
- 28 Debi Bucci
Cody Paterniti
Todd Seabrook
- 29 Madison Corradetti
Kathe Klein
- 30 Linda Bliss
Lori Cudnik

OCTOBER Baptisms

- 1 Nancy Barrett
Diana Adam
Lori Downs
Jennifer Wilson
Jennifer Rodgers
C.J. Paterniti
- 2 Stephanie Myeroff
Carter Rychel
- 4 Mary Borchelt
Rebecca Jabs
Lauren Gross
- 5 Barbara Hosa
- 6 Elaine Erne
Heather Hardy
- 7 Donna Kuchenbecker
Lois Locher
Richard Ziehm
Toni Atchley
- 8 Sydney Palivec
- 9 Ed Stone
Frances Atwara
- 10 Michael Zicarelli
Michael Stanley
- 13 Jack Shaw
Sean Larrick
- 14 Dan Cicchella
- 16 Paul Adam
Barbara Prinkey
- 17 Scott Tomko
Kyle Brown
- 20 Joseph Carducci
Cheryl Lee
Dennis Lee
Mike Lee
- 21 Quinn Weber
- 22 Paul Smith
- 23 Steven Repas
- 24 Alex Fellingner
Tim Holt
Allison Deets
Holden Hedrick
- 25 Hannah Ryan
- 27 Chad Hanson
- 28 Joshua Antonello
- 29 Dylan Reksten
- 30 Hailey Schaffert
Donald Ondrejka

OCTOBER Anniversaries

*(years of marriage this month: 372
total year-to-date: 3366 years)*

- Christopher and Christy Rybak
October 2, 1993
- Andreas and Linda Csepi
October 3, 1992
- Larry and Diane Molnar
October 8, 1988
- Erik and Jennifer Hanson
October 10, 2015
- David and Beth Brown
October 11, 1997
- Michael and Tina Repas
October 11, 1986
- Thomas and Kelley Meyer
October 16, 1993
- Tom and Barbara Zeitz
October 17, 1968 *(52 years)*
- Duane and Kelly Bidlack
October 18, 2014
- Daniel and Julie Wallenhorst
October 19, 2013
- Scott and Polly Larrick
October 22, 1988
- Edward III and Sandra Gembka
October 23, 1999
- Jerry and Marie Bartels
October 25, 1986
- Dennis and Janie Palmer
October 30, 19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:15am - Traditional 9am - Sunday School 9:30am - Longer Look at 10am - Blended Worship 11am - Women's League	28 9:30am - Operation 6pm - Stewardship Board 7pm - Education Board	29 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Marriage Matters	30 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Feed the Flock 6pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Youth Group	1 9:30am - Devotions online	2 7:30pm - @ the Cross	3
4 8:15am - Traditional 9am - Sunday School 9:30am - Longer Look at 10am - Contemporary	5 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Elder Meeting	6 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Marriage Matters	7 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Youth Group	8 9:30am - Devotions online	9 7:30pm - @ the Cross	10
11 Commitment Sunday 8:15am - Traditional 9am - Sunday School 9:30am - Longer Look at 10am - Blended Worship	12 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Council Meeting	13 9:30am - Prayer Group 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Marriage Matters	14	15 9:30am - Devotions online	16 7:30pm - @ the Cross	17
18 8:15am - Traditional 9am - Sunday School 9:30am - Longer Look at 10am - Contemporary 5pm - Newsletter Due	19 9:30am - Devotions online	20 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Marriage Matters	21 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Bada Bing 6pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Youth Group	22 9:30am - Devotions online	23 7:30pm - @ the Cross	24 2pm - Trinity Lutheran
25 Reformation Sunday 8:15am - Traditional 9am - Sunday School 9:30am - Longer Look at 10am - Blended Worship	26 9:30am - Devotions online 6pm - Stewardship Board 7pm - Education Board	27 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Quartet 7:30pm - Marriage Matters	28 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Feed the Flock 6pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Youth Group	29 9:30am - Devotions online	30 7:30pm - @ the Cross	31 5:30pm - Trunk or Treat