



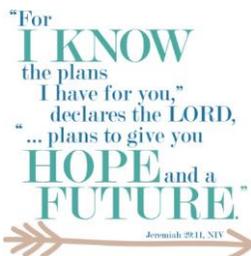
The Light

St. Mark Lutheran Church



In This Issue

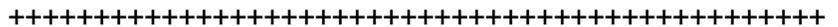
From Pastor Matzke	2
News and Notes	
In Our Prayers	3
In Sympathy	3
Baptism	3
Treasurer	3
Other News	3-5
Group Happenings	
Council Reports	5
Outreach	
Education	
Elders	
LWML	5
Secret Sisters	5
Stephen Ministers	5
Celebrations	6
Calendar of Events	7



Please join us
for a significant and joyful day
in the life of St. Mark, as
Christopher Ryan
is ordained into the pastoral ministry
of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
and installed as a pastor of this congregation
on **Sunday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m.**

This is an excellent service to attend,
as it is both a celebration of the calling that the
Lord has placed upon Chris, and a thoroughly
Scriptural review of the relationship between
pastor and people in a congregation.

Following the service, the Women’s League
will be hosting a dinner in Fellowship Hall as
a continuation of the celebration. We would
like to get a general count for the reception, so
if you know that you will be attending, please
sign up on the bulletin board or visit
bit.ly/VicarChris.



VISION STATEMENT

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



New Year, First Priorities, and Second Chances

I will never forget a statement made by Dr. James Bollhagen, a professor of mine. He said, "The church is not a place where people are granted forgiveness only if they can first prove that they don't need it." Please go back and read that again.

Yet often that is exactly how Christians can act. It creeps so easily into any relationship—the withholding of forgiveness—a running tally of offenses committed—especially when the other person just doesn't seem to care. We pass judgment on others, clinging to nuggets of conventional wisdom such as "A leopard doesn't change his spots" and "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

But as those who know Jesus, we should be overflowing with forgiveness and second chances. We should be quick to give people the benefit of the doubt and just as quick to explain things in the kindest possible way. If we're not, then maybe we still don't really get what Jesus is all about. Or maybe we just have to see how wrong we've been before we can do what's right.

If you have guilt about the way you've treated people, be honest about it with God. You are invited to admit your sin to the God of forgiveness and second chances. If you are ready to own up to your sin, Jesus is ready to forgive it. The same Jesus who paid for your sin with His suffering and death is the same living Jesus who can send you on your way with new vision and new priorities. You have been given a precious gift: you have another chance to let the grace of Jesus dominate your thinking and spur you on to action. Do not take this gift for granted.

-- *Pastor Matzke*

*freely
forgiven*

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



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.

You have the option of receiving the newsletter via email. Just send a quick note saying "Please send the email version of the newsletter to (insert your name here) at (insert your email address here)" to newsletter@stmark.org and you'll be on your way to receiving the electronic version.

-- the church elf

- Paul Smith (son of Jack and Marilyn Smith)
- Steppin Out Missions
- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- Capt. Matt Webb, continuing his residency in neurosurgery
- Grace Wright, studying at Edinboro College
- WomenSafe



We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to: **Tom and Tim Holt**, on the death of their sister, **Ruth Radloff; Jason and Tracy Deets**, and the entire Deets family, on the death of Jason's mother, **Karen**.



- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Joshua Burke, studying at Bowling Green
- Donna Cartwright, mother of Diana Monaghan
- Dan Cicchella
- Jeff Cicchella (son of Dan Cicchella)
- Jeff Croucher, son of Ron and Pat Croucher
- Ardis Danicic
- Dawn Dean
- Carol Deau
- Ruthann Dular
- Dale and Bobi Fellingner
- Gayle Gifford
- Grace School in Haiti
- Nancy Johnson
- Betty Judkins
- Lois Locher
- Larry Long (father of Sue Matzke)
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Susan Matzke (mother of Pr. Mark)
- Ministry in Mission
- Stan Moczulski
- Diane Molnar
- Jim Podojil
- Beth Reksten



Rosemary Jean Doll, daughter of **Robert and Sarah Doll**, was received into the family of God and the St. Mark family by the sacrament of baptism on November 11. We rejoice with the family, and pray God's continued blessings on them.



From the Treasurer

Beginning January 2022, ALL reimbursements will be done electronically. When submitting receipts for reimbursement, you **MUST** include your bank information or a cancelled check. This is being implemented in an effort to streamline the process. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Erna Leagan Mabel, Treasurer



2022 Flower Chart Is Here!

The flower chart for 2022 is posted outside the main sanctuary entrance. You can start picking your dates to buy flowers to beautify the chancel area. The cost of the flowers is \$25.00, and you can take your flowers home with you after the

second service. If you have any questions, you can contact **Karen Rudar**.



Have You Thought About Serving?

Most of our ministry leaders are working on volunteer schedules for this year! We have several opportunities to give back to St. Mark that don't require any additional time other than what you are already doing – during each worship service we have ushers, greeters, musicians, and worship tech. None of these require any special skills other than a heart for giving. If you would like to learn more about any of these roles, please contact the church office at mail@stmarkchester.org.



Operation Christmas Child Final Total

We are excited to announce that the final total of shoeboxes transported out from our area this year is 10,383 boxes!

This is a 625 box increase from last year. It is also the first time that our area has completely filled 2 trailers! Plus, the leaders drove 16 extra cartons to an OCC trailer departing from North Olmsted.

To those at St. Mark who prayed for OCC, packed a box or boxes, or donated items or shipping money, thank you! Historically, on average, each shoebox is reported to touch the lives of 7 people. That can include the parents, relatives, or friends of the child who receives each box. Whole villages can be impacted by this simple gift of love.

This year, since there is a trucker shortage and truck drivers are working under stressful conditions, our OCC area leadership had the idea to pack and give a shoebox packed with small gifts to each driver transporting our boxes. The boxes were filled with small items that they would appreciate and could use on the road: snacks, gift cards for fast food, work gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. Plus, each box had a letter of encouragement for the driver. The idea was for them to experience our love and God's love for them and to help them get a sense of the precious cargo that they will be transporting.

The drivers are now in route to delivering our shoeboxes to one of the OCC regional processing

centers - we do not know which one. The processing centers are already open!

Last year most of our boxes were ultimately delivered to children in South Africa. This year - only God knows! If anyone has tracked their box online or gets a response from their shoebox recipient, please let one of us know.

Thank you again for your interest in and support of this ministry. To God be the glory!

Debbie, Marilyn, and Patrice



Feed the Hungry

A New Year has begun. We have new opportunities to serve our Lord by serving others. Please help hungry families by donating to the food pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church. We collect canned soups, stews, pastas, canned tuna, canned and/or dried beans, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, and rice. Thank you for your generosity.

-- Chris Meister



Ways to Support St. Mark

Please remember ministry happens every day at St. Mark, 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).

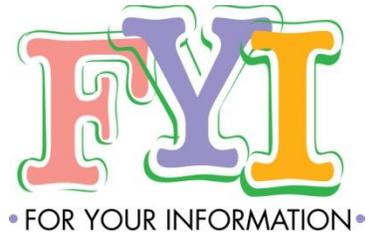
If you shop at GFS (Gordon's Food Service), you can support St. Mark by doing what you are already doing! When you are checking out at GFS, please let them know that you are supporting St. Mark Lutheran in Chesterland and we will get credit for your shopping trip, which will save us money on our next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

If you use Amazon.com to buy anything, you could be supporting St. Mark with your purchase. Use this link (smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1044374) and a portion of your purchase will be donated back to our church to help with ministry

And you can support our preschool by placing an Avon order with Beth Christopherson, who will donate 10% of the price of your order to the preschool.

FYI – For Your Information

One of the ways St. Mark disseminates information is through FYI emails. If you are not receiving these informational emails, send a message to for_your_info@stmarkchester.org asking to be placed on the FYI email list.



GROUP HAPPENINGS



Extra help is going to be needed for the next few months with the meals for Trinity, Ohio City, especially with cooking and serving. If you can help, contact **Mark Rychel**.



The 11:00 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study on the Book of Romans continues in Fellowship Hall. The Pastor's pre-recorded version, posted on St. Mark's YouTube and Facebook page, is extending the reach of this excellent study to a larger audience. The Sunday morning Bible Study topic is a "longer look" at each week's Gospel, Epistle, and Old Testament reading with Pastor Mark. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Plans to provide extra fellowship and coffee space are developing. Until then, the small dining room is available.



The Board of Elders has recommended that **Abby and Ethan Tanney**, and **Eric Leslie** be received into membership. Council voted unanimously to accept them.

Zone Spring Rally: Zion, Painesville (508 Mentor Avenue), date TBD

2022 LWML Ohio District Convention: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Avenue, Napoleon, Ohio, Friday evening, June 17 and Saturday, June 18.



"Christ Caring for People through People"
Are You Experiencing a "Winter" In Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce or relocation may leave one feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis or ongoing medical problems may have a person feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave a person with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers may bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you. Your Stephen Minister will pray with and for you while walking with you for the duration of your crisis!

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. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Northeast Zone
Ohio District

LWML Future Events

Zone Prayer Service: Grace, Thompson (8091 Plank Road), Saturday, February 26, 2022 (Snow date, March 5)

Celebrations

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Andrew Csepi
David Toth II
- 3 Kimberly Clough
Nancy Johnson
Jessa Wilson
- 5 David Toth
- 8 Rebecca Wright
- 9 Charlette Douglas
- 10 Christopher Webb
- 11 Margot Fretz
- 14 Holly Myers
Jim Burke
- 16 Bryan DesGravise
Kimberly Palivec
Ruth Ziehm
- 19 Jack Dvorak
Lauren Dvorak
Keenan Morgan
Mort Myers
Joseph Pavilonis
Michael Woodard
- 22 Donna Toth
Tim Burke
- 23 Shari Large
Shawn Zicarelli
- 24 Lisa Feigle
Laurence Keil
Chris Powell
- 26 Lorraine Podojil
Brett Zeitz
- 27 Stephanie Hyde
Dennis Lee
Deborah Turk
- 28 Thomas Zeitz
- 31 Melitta Syperko

JANUARY Baptisms

- 2 Nicole Pavilonis
- 4 Jane Haller
- 5 Kane Stendalen
- 7 Bob Boddy
Robyn Paterniti
- 8 Taylor Atwara
- 9 Jay Haller
Elfrieda Krause
- 10 Sawyer Paterniti
Hildred Tornberg
- 11 Dwight Miller
- 14 Camden Hedrick
- 15 Leah Spisak
- 17 George Fretz
- 18 Ainsleigh Monaghan
Ashley Monaghan
- 20 Polly Larrick
Alec Wright
- 22 Paityn Brenkus
- 27 David Toth
- 28 Patrice Lohraff
- 29 Christina Repas
- 30 Caitlin Shulman
- 31 Melitta Syperko

JANUARY Anniversaries

- Mark and Wendy Zimmerman
January 5, 1985
- Michael and Frances Atwara
January 8, 2000
- Mark and Amanda Hedrick
January 13, 2001
- Tom and Alisha Allen
January 14, 1987
- John and Diana Monaghan
January 15, 1988
- Nick and Elizabeth Wassel
January 17, 2016
- Steve and Ellie Mercsak
January 18, 1992

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Traditional Worship 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary	27 9:30am - Devotions online	28 9:30am - Prayer Group	29 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Free Lunch	30 9:30am - Devotions online	31 New Year's Day	1 New Year's Day
2 8am - Traditional Worship 9am - Choir Practice - 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 7pm - Youth Group	3 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Elders' Meeting	4 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	5 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Confirmation Class	6 9:30am - Devotions online	7 7:30pm - @ the Cross	8 10:30am - Yoga
9 8am - Traditional Worship 9am - Choir Practice - Men 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:30am - Council Meeting 7pm - Youth Group	10 9:30am - Devotions online	11 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	12 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Confirmation Class	13 9:30am - Devotions online	14 7:30pm - @ the Cross	15 10:30am - Yoga
16 8am - Traditional Worship 9am - Choir Practice - All 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 2pm - Ordination Service & 5pm - Newsletter Due 7pm - Youth Group	17 9:30am - Devotions online	18 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	19 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Confirmation Class	20 9:30am - Devotions online	21 7:30pm - @ the Cross	22 10:30am - Yoga
23 8am - Traditional Worship 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 4pm - Musical Series 7pm - Youth Group	24 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Education Board	25 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	26 9:30am - Children's Chapel 11am - Free Lunch 6pm - Confirmation Class	27 9:30am - Devotions online	28 7:30pm - @ the Cross	29 10:30am - Yoga
30 8am - Traditional Worship 9:20am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 7pm - Youth Group	31 9:30am - Devotions online	1 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	2 9:30am - Children's Chapel 6pm - Confirmation Class	3 9:30am - Devotions online	4 7:30pm - @ the Cross	5 10:30am - Yoga