The Light

St. Mark Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2026

In This Issue

Congregational Meeting	2
From the church elf	2
News and Notes	3
Group Happenings Book Club	4
Church Boards Outreach Stewardship	4
Women's News Women's League LWML	5
In Our Prayers	6
Celebrations	7
Calendar of Events	8



Remember to set your clocks BACK ONE HOUR when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31.

The St. Mark Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 22 after the late service.

++

VISION STATEMENT

Empowered by God's Word and Sacraments, the St. Mark fellowship makes Christ-like, caring connections with our community and beyond.

The Light is a publication of St. Mark Lutheran Church, 11900 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland, Ohio; phone number 440-729-1668; email address mail@stmarkchester.org. Visit our website: www.stmarkchester.org.

Congregational Meeting

The fall congregation meeting will be November 22, following the 10:15 a.m. service. We will be voting for the Officers and Board members who are up for election. We will also be voting on the Budget for 2027 and as you know, costs are up for just about everything, including for St. Mark, e.g. electric, gas, maintenance, etc. We ask that you pray on all the above and pray God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, directs our paths for St. Mark, now and in the coming years.



(From the church elf – I received this from Lutheran Women in Mission as my Daily Mustard Seed devotion for October 20, and felt it was worth sharing.)

Honoring Our Shepherds

In the Word

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages" (1 Timothy 5:17–18).

Of the Word

When I was a child, I thought that my pastor had a very easy job because he only worked on Sundays. Although pastors may have a day or two a week scheduled to spend with family and may take vacation time throughout the year, their responsibility for and service to their flock and to the Good Shepherd is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 52 weeks a year commitment.

Pastors visit the sick, comfort the dying, and counsel the troubled. Many also attend numerous meetings, activities, and events within the congregation and surrounding community. Some supervise large staffs of called, lay, and volunteer workers while others are the sole pastor tasked with meeting a wide variety of needs within a congregation or congregations, including reaching out to the unchurched community members with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All pastors — regardless of the congregation's size, type, and expectations of their pastor — carry out the most important vocations of preaching, teaching, and administering the Sacraments. Christ uses pastors in His Church to *"make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19b–20a). Thanks be to God for blessing us with pastors!

Walking with my Lord

Thank You, Lord, for faithful shepherds who preach and teach Your Word and administer Your Sacraments. Forgive us for our failure to give them the honor they are due and help us to support them as they carry out Your Great Commission. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Honoring Our Shepherds by Ruth Badciong, Winona, Minnesota. Copyright © 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary League. All rights reserved. lwml.org

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible unless otherwise noted. (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



As time goes by, we realize the importance of staying connected with friends and family. Here at St. Mark, we have emails (thank you to **Kim Ryan** for getting FYIs and prayer requests out in a timely manner), live streaming of services and other gatherings (thanks to all who organize these), and postings on Facebook (thanks to **Debbie Turk** who handles our electronic messaging).

And we have this newsletter. It is "light," but I hope it continues to be valuable for gathering news into one place where all of our members can see what is happening at St. Mark. Thanks to all who submit articles; this would be nothing but blank pages without your contributions. And thanks to **Kelvin Bauermann** for taking the copy I send to him and the monthly calendar supplied by Della and turning them into one document that can be sent out electronically each month.

-- the church elf



The following missions and students continue in our prayers:

- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Grace School in Haiti
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Ministry in Mission
- New Life Bible Camp (ministry to Native American youth in Minnesota)
- Emma Repas, serving her residency in emergency medicine
- Steppin Out Missions
- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- WomenSafe

Card Donations Accepted

The library is gearing up for its busiest season of the year! We are again collecting any unused greeting cards you may have, especially Christmas cards. We also want your extra 2027 calendars along with the latest stash of paperbacks and hardback books you've already read. Bring these items in and let us sell them for the lowest prices around! Pick up your own supply while you're at it!

The Fish Is Getting Hungry

Boise Bouton School in Haiti is managing very well as they are on Ile-a-Vache, a small island off the south coast. However, the price of getting food and supplies to the island has gone up. There is a current newsletter from the school on the table near the fish. If you have any questions, contact **Lee Stone**.

Trinity Food Pantry Non-Perishable Items

The Thanksgiving holiday is at the end of month and there may be a shortage of food in some families' pantries. Let's help them out by donating canned vegetables, canned fruits, soups, stews, pastas, and mac 'n' cheese.



SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendars now for the *First Annual St. Mark All-Church Retreat.* Our pastors and their wives are planning on a special time of fellowship and learning on **April 23-24, 2027**. We will gather on Friday evening and all day on Saturday to delve deeper into how to Grow Upward, Grow Deeper, and Reach Further. Look for more details beginning in February 2027.

GROUP HAPPENINGS



For our November meeting, the Book Club will discuss books that have FOOD in their titles. Read ANY book that has food in the title. Examples include a cookbook, a cozy mystery, or nonfiction book about a common ingredient. We will be meeting at 1 p.m. on November 11 in the Gilson Room at the Geauga West Public Library.

For our December meeting, we will be discussing Amanda Peter's *The Berry Pickers*. We will be meeting at 1 p.m. on December 9 in the small dining room off of St. Mark's Fellowship Hall to discuss this show-stopping debut novel about an unsolved mystery in Maine. Feel free to pack a lunch and join us after the midday Advent service for extra fellowship and fun.

Due to changes at the Fairport Harbor Public Library, book club titles will no longer be available to borrow from Sue. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please contact Sue Matzke with any questions about either month. All are welcome. Bring a friend or two!

FROM OUR CHURCH BOARDS

Outreach MINISTRY

Get ready to Party at Christmas!
Join the St. Mark Outreach team to help celebrate Christmas with those in need at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2031 West 30th, Cleveland Ohio. We will meet at St. Mark at 10:00 a.m. on December 19 and caravan down to Trinity and serve lunch, sing carols, share the GOOD NEWS and give gifts. Text/call **Mark Rychel** (440-668-4650) to let him know you'll be there.



Stewardship Corner

Remember that our Ministry Research Guide is still available in the church office. It includes information about the many areas where you can become involved including outreach, music, events, and more. Please take a look and prayerfully consider the gifts you might share.

Coming in November
During the month of November, we will be distributing our Time, Talent, and Treasure Form. This form has two important parts:

- Time and Talent: A place to indicate the church activities and ministries where you may wish to become involved.
- Treasure: An opportunity to prayerfully contemplate your financial opportunities to serve the Lord and support the ongoing work of his church.

Completed forms may be returned at any time during November. Return boxes will be available for your convenience.

Thank you for your generous spirit and for all the ways you already share your time, talents, and treasure.



Women's News

Women's League

BE A CRAFTER, SEWER, BAKER, VOLUNTEER, ETC.

Our annual Gift of the Magi Christmas Boutique will be here before you know it. The boutique is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (preview party) and Saturday, November 14, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.. This is a major Congregation Outreach Ministry to the community and needs the support and the participation of the entire congregation, young and older, men and women. There are many ways to participate:

- ✓ If you are crafty, you can make things to sell
- ✓ If you like sew, you can make items to sell
- ✓ If you like to bake, homemade goodies always are big sellers
- ✓ If you quilt, knit, or crochet, those items are always good sellers

If none of the above is your "cup of tea", there are many organizational tasks that need to happen. Some of those are:

- ✓ Recruit volunteers for set-up and take down
- ✓ Friday Night Preview Party (food and entertainment)
- ✓ Saturday Lunch Café
- ✓ Display of St Mark craft and food items for sale
- ✓ Price and display gently used Christmas items in library

You can contact Briana McCrudden with any questions at 440-667-7633 or email bri_alicia1589@yahoo.com

LWML Lutheran Women *in Mission*

LWML Future Events

- February 27, 2027 – Northeast Zone Prayer Service at Zion Lutheran Church, Painesville
- April 17, 2027 – Northeast Zone Spring Rally at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Solon
- July 8-11, 2027 – 42nd Biennial LWML Convention, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- June 2028 – Ohio District Convention, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Milford, Ohio

There are so many opportunities to meet with our sisters in Christ for fellowship and to "serve the Lord with gladness." Prayerfully consider participating in any, or all, of these events.



In Our Prayers

(As new names are added to the top of the lists, names will fall off the bottom. If you would like them returned to the list, put a note in the newsletter box in the office.)

Our St. Mark Family

Laurie Deau
Howard Hanna
Matt Huston
Ruth Mowery
Michael Bencic
Marti Gildersleeve
Walter Kemmerle
Edie Fetheroff
Ellen Gilbert
Eloise Cavalier
Cindy Cicchella
Lee Stone
Connie Boddy
Joe Pavilonis
Patty Large
Linda Bencic
Diana Monaghan
Karen Prochazka
Pat and Ron Croucher
Janie Palmer
Lori Cudnik
Nancy Johnson
Tamela White
Bobi Fellinger
Steve Fellinger
Marilyn Smith
Diane Molnar
Kathy Hardy
Randy Hyde
Beth Reksten
Melanie Orosz

Our Extended Family

Gail Bourell (mother of Jennifer Hanson)
Landon (nephew of Tracy Deets)
Jeff Croucher (son of the Crouchers}
Michael (son of Melitta Syperko)
Jesse (grandson of the Boddys)
Mike Nagy (father of Debbie Turk)
Sally Dolch (cousin of Donna Toth)
Schoen Long (husband of Boddy's granddaughter)
Julie (daughter of Nancy Seabrook)
Susan J. Matzke (mother of Pr. Mark)
Chris (daughter of Lee Stone)
Michael (son-in-law of Holly Coleman)
Janet (daughter of Phil Dular)
Mary Coleman (sister-in-law of Holly Coleman)
Mike (brother of Donna Robinson)
Karl Karz (cousin of Melitta Syperko)
Viola Peterson (sister of Tamela White)
Mike Holt (brother of Tom Holt)
Mary (mother of Jean Clark)
Ralph (brother-in-law of Bonnie Moore)
Debbie (daughter of Byron Whitney)
Lauren (daughter of Steve Mercsak)
Larry (Jim Podojil's brother)
Annaliese (daughter of Holly Coleman)
Bill Rychel (son of Mark and Jackie)
Becky and Bill (sister and brother-in-law of Ray Haserodt)
Debbie (cousin of Jackie Rychel)
Lisa (mother of Tracy Deets)
Nelson Bauermann (grandfather of Kelvin Bauermann)
Jeff Rice (son-in-law of Margot and George Fretz)
Jackie (cousin of Marilyn Meyerholt)
Heidi (sister of Ray Haserodt)
Sandy Ignat (sister of Karen Tuttle)

Our Friends

Kay Raasch (former member)
Pat (friend of Byron Whitney)
Al Frentz (known to Ron Croucher)
Mary Jo (known to Chris Meister)
Lisa Krance (friend of the Hansons)
Emerson and Samantha (known to Jenny Klopf)
Ryan (known to Jenny Klopf)
Family of Chris (friend of Bonnie Moore)
Mason (known to Jane Webb)
Sarah Wilmot (friend of Linda Gifford)
Jenna (friend of Tina Repas)
Jannette Sommers (friend of Marti Gildersleeve)
Kim Berger (friend of Jane Webb)
Constance (friend of Marilyn Meyerholt)
Dick Robinson (friend of Bob Boddy)
Lisa Nau (known to Mark Rychel)
Tom (known to Lynn Gross)
Heather (friend of Jamie Nicoletti)
Elijah (known to Chris Meister)
Scott (known to Carolyn Heuer)
Marguerite Anthony (friend of Chris Meister
Linda (friend of Donna Robinson)
Nancy (friend of the Gilberts)
Robert Williams (friend of Tamela White)
Phyllis (friend of Jenny Klopf)
Val (friend of Jamie Nicoletti)
Meghan (friend of Tamela White)
Jill (known to Donna Blankschaen)
Peggy and Jim Stokes (friends of the Robinson)
Peggy and Lynn (known to Connie Boddy)
Cathy (friend of Kim Craig)
Connie (friend of Dianne Rudyk

CELEBRATIONS

NOVEMBER Birthdays

1 Eric Stendalen
2 Paityn Brenkus
Alvin Large
3 Ryan Dvorak
Grace Large
5 Gabriella Atwara
6 Jeff Atchley
8 Pastor Matzke
9 Bill Dvorak
11 Erma Mabel
12 Carol Kiminecz
Charlotte LePere
14 Eloise Cavalier
15 Erik Hanson
Linda Hickey
Don Lombardy
16 Beth Brown
17 Kathy Dvorak
18 Chad Murawski
Adeline Uchbar
19 Howard Hanna
Bethany Hyde
Thomas Meyer
Alec Wright
20 Janet Vesbach
23 Hildred Tornberg
24 Patti Lombardy
Leah Spisak
Jessie Wilson
25 Pete Bucci
Mark Percassi
Byron Whitney
26 David Carney
Bonnie Coleman
27 Erika Ruedin
28 Zola Douglas
Marsha Olsen
Alexandra Roth
30 Carly Gessel
Mike Lee
Jennifer Schneider

NOVEMBER Baptisms

1 Beth Reksten
4 Dick Christopherson
8 Kaitlyn Larrick
9 Julie Wallenhorst
10 Nancy Powell
Brad Coppock
Anna Zimmerman
Erika Ruedin
Kirsten Zimmerman
11 Alec Lawlor
13 Madilyn Atchley
14 Gayle Tomko
15 Griffin Reksten
20 Kimberly Palivec
21 Michael Repas
24 Kim Craig
25 Cody Paterniti
26 Pastor Matzke
27 Eric Stendalen
29 Klevi Rybak

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Mark and Shawn Ziccarelli
November 9, 1985
Daniel and Jennifer Civitarese
November 16, 2019
Michael and Julia Stanley
November 21, 2015
David and Robin Carney
November 26, 1986
Ron and Pat Croucher
November 26, 1960 *(66 years)*
Ray and Ellen Gilbert
November 26, 1966 *(60years)*
Rick and Cathy Huston
November 29, 1980
Chris and Debbie Turk
November 29, 1996

St. Mark Church

Nov 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 8am - Traditional Worship 9am - Choir - Women 9:15am - "Good News" Class 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended Worship - livestream 11:15am - Women's League Meeting 11:20am - Announcements 6pm - Confirmation Class	2 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online 6pm - Communications Team Meeting 7pm - Elders' Meeting	3 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Prayer Group 9:30am - Small Group in Matthew Room 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal	4 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Children's Chapel online	5 9am - Boutique set-up in Library 9am - Office Hours 9am - Water Shut Off 1 hour 9:30am - Devotions online	6 9am - Boutique set-up in Library 7:30pm - @the Cross	7
8 boutique set-up 8am - Traditional Service 9am - Choir-Men 9:15am - "Good News" Class 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended Worship - livestream 11:20am - Announcements 7pm - Evening Bible Study	9 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online	10 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal	11 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Children's Chapel online 1pm - St. Mark Book Club Meeting -	12 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online 6pm - Family Night	13 7pm - Boutique 7:30pm - @the Cross	14 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Boutique
15 Newsletter Article Submissions Due 8am - Traditional Worship - livestreamed 9am - Choir -all 9:15am - "Good News" Class 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary Worship-LS 11:15am - Preschool Board Meeting 11:20am - Announcements 6pm - Confirmation Class	16 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online	17 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Prayer Group 9:30am - Small Group in Matthew Room 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal	18 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Children's Chapel online 11am - Free Lunch	19 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online 11am - New Life 7pm - Thanksgiving Prayer Service	20 7:30pm - @the Cross	21 10:30am - Trinity Lutheran Outreach
22 8am - Traditional Worship - livestreamed 9:15am - "Good News" Class 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary Worship- 11:20am - Announcements 11:30am - Congregation Meeting 7pm - Evening Bible Study	23 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online 7pm - Education Board	24 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	25 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Children's Chapel online 7pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	27 7:30pm - @the Cross	28
29 8am - Traditional Worship 9:15am - "Good News" Class 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended Worship - livestream 11:20am - Announcements	30 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online	1 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Prayer Group 9:30am - Small Group in Matthew Room 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal	2 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Children's Chapel online 11:30am - Advent Traditional 7pm - Advent Contemporary	3 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions online	4 7:30pm - @the Cross	5 10am - Private Baptism