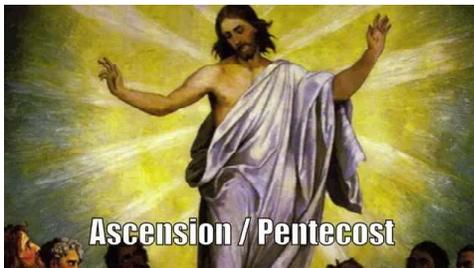


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

messenger

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

May 2020



Celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and the Day of Pentecost

On Thursday, May 21, the Church will celebrate the Festival of the Ascension of our Lord. On this day, forty days after rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Because of this ascension, we can be sure that Jesus, our brother according to the flesh, is now reigning over all things in heaven and on earth for our sake. Furthermore, we can be sure that we too will likewise ascend when He returns again in glory to bring us home. It is a day of true Christian joy that ought to bring us comfort in the midst of every trouble!

(See *Ascension* Page 8)

When will in-person services resume?



As you know, there is a lot of uncertainty right now about how things will develop over the next few months as it relates to the coronavirus pandemic. However, given the apparent slowing of the spread of the virus in Michigan, Pastor Vergin and the elders have begun discussions on how and when we might resume some sort of in-person services at St. Mark's, including the celebration of Holy Communion.

As of the publication of this newsletter, we haven't made any final decisions on what that might look like. However, we recognize the pivotal importance of Christ's Sacrament and of Christian fellowship and we want to get back to that as soon as possible, while also ensuring, as best we can, the safety of our community.

In all likelihood, we will probably "ease into" in-person worship services, moving forward in steps until we can fully gather together again as before. We will keep you updated as we make decisions.

Thank you for your flexibility, your patience, and your grace as we've done our best to continue the ministry of the Gospel in the midst of challenging circumstances. Our Lord Jesus is in control. "All authority in heaven and on earth" has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18). He will restore us in His time. So let's remain steadfast in His Word and prayer, let's do the good works that God has laid before us, and let's wait confidently for His salvation.

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The *Messenger* is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

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NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19, OUR REGULAR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDIES LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW OUR ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES.

Sunday

Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday - The Gate worship service 7 p.m. (from the Wednesday after Easter until mid-November)

One Saturday/month - Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9 a.m.

Handicap accessible.



A "hello" from some church members

Well, it's been 30 days or so since St. Mark's has held an in person church service and not only does your church staff miss seeing all of you, but we're hearing that you guys are also missing each other--A LOT! Therefore, we thought it would be fun to let you know what some of your church family has been up to during our governor's "stay home, stay safe order" (printed with permission, of course). Check out what these St. Mark's members had to say...

John & Joan Freeman

John and I are feeling better each day. The Dr. was certain I had the coronavirus, but I would have had to go to E.R. for the test and they couldn't do anything for me anyway. I was down for three weeks feeling very bad. Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. We are praying for everyone to stay safe and healthy!

Pastor Vergin & Family

We've been doing well! Staying healthy and keeping things moving! Mandy has continued to work at her job as a Professional Counselor and Pastor's been working at church. Evy and Naomi have been doing their schoolwork at home. We've been enjoying our time together, though the house is starting to feel a little bit small! Pastor spent some free time building a new kitchen table for the family--almost done! You are all in our prayers and we appreciate all the Christian support you've offered to us! Be strong in the Lord!

Lori (& Larry) Whitehead

Larry & I have been cleaning!!! We've been working on our basement to clean things out & get other stuff ready for a garage sale (hopefully sometime this year!).

Larry is self-quarantined so I do the grocery shopping. Once in a while I'll send him to the post office to mail stuff so he gets some fresh air. Eventually, Larry will work on his model train set downstairs after we clean the basement. He hasn't touched them for over 10 years!

I've been doing puzzles, reading, cross stitching & playing games on my phone to keep busy.

We hope everything is going well for St Mark's members. God's blessings to everyone!

Walt & Sharon Miller

We are both working from home so don't have a whole lot of extra time on our hands, but we have kept busy remodeling one of our bathrooms. Next up is to clean the basement!

We did home haircuts last night. That was an adventure! And...we play a lot of Cribbage and Phase 10. He always wins?

(See *What's Up?*, Page 4)

A brief note from Pastor



With everything that's been going on, I'm reminded of the words of David that he wrote in Psalm 30: "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5b). I think this is an important truth for us to remember right now, and I'd like to share a few thoughts on it.

With these words, David acknowledges the reality of weeping in this world, and affirms that this weeping often drags on longer than we would like. Anyone who's ever struggled to fall asleep knows how long the night can feel. It can drag on and on and on. After a while, it might seem to us like the sun's never going to rise again. And so it often is with our weeping. We want things to get better quickly. We want the light to shine in our lives once again. We want all our tears to dry—and we want it to happen now. But so often, the weeping tarries. It drags on and on. The light at the end of the tunnel seems to hang like a mirage just out of reach.

But here David proclaims God's promise to His people in Christ: Though the weeping may indeed tarry for the night, "joy comes with the morning." Yeah, even though the night might seem long, eventually the dawn will come. Eventually, the sun will rise, the darkness will be scattered, and joy will return. And so it will be, God says, for His people. Though weeping may tarry for the night, our joy will come with the morning. The dawn will break in our lives, the darkness will be scattered, and our tears will dry. Just as Jesus our Lord rose from the dead, our resurrection and our restoration will come as well. It may take time, but God will certainly bring it about.

And this truth ought to be a great comfort to us today. Right now, there's a lot of strange, uncomfortable, and sad things going on. There's a lot of stress and there's a lot of uncertainty. But for us who trust in Christ, we can be sure: our joy will certainly come with the morning. The Almighty God has spoken. These days of weeping will not last forever. The time will come when all will once again be right. We only need to wait for the Lord.

So in all that's going on, be patient. The Lord, who has redeemed us from sin, is in control, and He has promised to us a restoration of joy. Indeed, we will see it fully when Jesus returns in glory. But even in this life, God often gives us a taste of it. So wait for Him. Trust in Him. Let Him be your refuge and your strength, and let Him work everything out according to His will. Remain constant in prayer and do good to others. But as you do, remain confident that, though weeping may tarry for the night, joy—your joy—will indeed come with the morning.



Join us for some upcoming Stay-in-Your-Car Senior Residence Parades!

As we look for ways we can serve our neighbors during these challenging times, a suggestion was made that we visit some area nursing homes in our vehicles, honking, waving and holding signs out the windows. This idea came about from a recent conversation with our church member, Marcy McConnell. Marcy and her husband Mac live in an Assisted Living Community in Waterford. As with most senior living centers these days, theirs is pretty much on lock-down--no visitors are allowed and residents can only walk in nearby hallways while wearing masks. According to Marcy, a few weeks ago, a parade of cars drove by their windows waving, honking and holding up signs of friendship and hope, and it brought loads of joy and smiles to the residents there! And so, we at St. Mark's would like to bring joy to area seniors doing the same thing.

This event is currently being planned and the exact parade places, dates and times will be publicized via Pastor Vergin's weekly email updates (we are looking at some dates in the first two weeks of May). We also plan to invite people from some of our sister congregations to participate.

Of course, we will want to follow Governor Whitmer's social distancing guidelines, and so we ask that our parade drivers adhere to the following:

1. If you choose to participate in a vehicle parade, try to attend those parades where the senior centers are closest to your home so you hopefully won't have to stop for gas (thereby not exposing yourself to possible coronavirus on gas pump handles, pin pads, etc.)
2. Please use the restroom before you leave your house as bathrooms will not be available at any of the senior living centers
3. Stay in your vehicle at all times before, during and after the parade
4. If you choose to decorate your vehicle, use materials you already have on hand. We don't want people visiting stores just to buy posterboard, paper flowers, etc.
5. Feel free to invite your friends to participate in the parade. However, social distancing means that only those in your immediate household should be riding in your vehicle. Your friends should drive their own vehicle to, in and from the parade.

Stay tuned for more details about these upcoming parades!

What's Up?

(Continued from Page 2)

My oldest daughter and one of Walt's nieces both got engaged on March 21!

Looking forward to sunshine and seeing folks again.

Kim Olsen

I have been staying at Lynn Thomas' place while she is back in Texas for a while. Lynn was extremely kind, thoughtful and generous by offering me her place in her absence. It saves me hundreds of miles each month in my commute to and from work.

Rob [Wheeler] and I are both essential workers and continue to work our normal schedules. Rob's dad and brother are well also. His brother was off work for a while, but has recently returned to prepare for reopening. Rob comes over a couple times a week. We do exercises together and have cooked a couple of meals. We are doing what we can to stay positive and keep our sanity. We hope this note finds all of you well.

Tom & Debbie LoCascio

Tom has been on furlough from his job since March 24. He has been staying busy with jobs around the house including yard clean-up, garage organizing, and indoor cleaning and repairs. Debbie has continued to do church work at home, stopping into the church office briefly a few times a week to pick up mail, code bills for payment and deposit church offerings into the bank weekly. She has also been working hard with Tom to clean up their back yard.

When the weather is nice, we try to walk, either in our neighborhood, or at a nearby park. We also play games on our laptops to help pass the time, as well as watch movies on Netflix or Amazon Prime.

As Pastor stated in his little blurb above, our house seems to be getting smaller, especially with 6 people living in it! Our grandsons do homework at least once a day (sometimes in a Zoom session with their teachers), and we're thankful they have a trampoline in our back yard to jump on most days so they can get rid of all of their extra energy and not destroy our house!

We haven't been able to stay in our camper in E. Tawas since early March, and we miss the trailer and being up north a lot. Both of our group camping trips for May (at State Parks) have already been cancelled. We're looking forward to hopefully being able to camp again later this summer.

We hope you are all doing well, and miss seeing your smiling faces! God bless you all!



The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was written to clearly state on the basis of Scripture that Jesus Christ is true God equal with the Father and that the Holy Spirit is also true God, equal with the Father and the Son. It was composed by assembled church leaders at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. and the Council of Constantinople.

Here at St. Mark's, we speak the Nicene Creed together during the Divine Service on those Sundays when the Lord's Supper is offered except during Lent (when the Apostles' Creed is spoken) and on Holy Trinity Sunday (when the Athanasian Creed is spoken). We've included the Nicene Creed below for your reading and study.

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers



MORE-URGENT PRAYERS:

Clarence Arnold—is having health and memory issues.
Butch Fitzgerald—is hospitalized with health issues.
Joan Freeman—needs prayers for health and family issues.
John Freeman—needs prayers for health issues.
Barbara Jewell—is having severe back pain again.
Mac McConnell—needs extra prayers.
Rod Oehring—needs prayers for health issues.
Kay Reynolds—needs prayers for health issues.
Frank Salo—needs extra prayers.
Marilyn Turner—needs extra prayers.
Lynne Welty—is having health issues.
Sharon Williams—is battling cancer again.
Joan Freeman's brother, **Ernie Sampson**—is having multiple health problems.
Barbara Jewell's niece's friend, **John**—his health is poor.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Patricia**—hit by a car; needs prayers.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **David Fogle**—has cancer; Hospice has been called in.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Kevin Zimmer**—has COVID-19 and is on a ventilator; recovering from leg amputation also.
Brian Krus' father, **Richard Krus**—in nursing home and health is failing.
Debbie LoCascio's father, **Bob Tippett**—is having memory issues.
Mary Ann Lockwood's friend, **Sharon Richards**—is battling cancer.
The Lockwood children's (Anna, Christian, Michael) grandfather, **Milton Javery**—is battling cancer.
Members of Christ Lutheran, Milford, **Carol & Bill Brower**—recovering from COVID-19.
Angela Peters' father-in-law, **Karl Peters**—has many health issues.
Cindy Park's mom, **Rose Mielke**—needs prayers for health issues.
Cindy Parks' cousin, **Fred Lauinger**—hospitalized with COVID-19.
Jason Peters' sister, **Joslyn Peters**—needs prayers for difficulties in her life; praying she will come to know Jesus.
Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.
Pastor Tkac's brother, **Tom Tkac**—recovering at home from COVID-19.
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandpa, **Dave Scroggie**—Alzheimer's is worsening; has Stage 3 kidney disease.
Mandy Vergin's father, **Bruce Ketcher**—health issues have gotten worse.
Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a brain bleed.
Lori Whitehead's friend, **Vickie Tucker**—is undergoing cancer treatment.
Lori Whitehead's great niece, **Morgan Duggin**—needs extra

prayers.

Sharon Williams' friend, **Carol York**—is very ill; praying that she'll come to faith in Christ.
Sharon Williams' granddaughter, **Erika Williams**—needs extra prayers for guidance.
Sharon Williams' great-grandson, **Emmitt Reynolds**—diagnosed with Autism.
Joanne Wisti's friend, **Paul Kascha**—is battling cancer.

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Cathy Fitzgerald's niece, Kim Trombley—recovering from a very serious car accident
Cathy Fitzgerald's sister, Charlotte—recovering from a stroke
Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—is having medical problems
Barbara Jewell's friend's daughter, Rebecca Chipps—is finished with radiation and is improving.
Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home
Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having knee problems
Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—is having medical issues
Barbara Jewell's neighborhood friend, Joanne English—has throat cancer; might need neck surgery
Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's mother, Lillian—health is not good; needs prayers.
Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission
Debbie LoCascio's friend's neighbor, Marilyn—health is failing; praying that she'll come to faith before it's too late.
Tom LoCascio's cousin, Angelo Barduca—is receiving therapy
Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—are ill
Cindy Parks' friends, Sheila, Mary, and Linda—all are battling breast cancer
Cindy Parks' sister, Jeane Schaefer—is recovering from back surgery
Cindy Park's brother, Jerry Mielke—is having medical problems
The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—is recovering from a stroke; receiving therapy
Marlene Steck—needs extra prayers
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandma, Margaret Scroggie—needs extra prayers
Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has several medical issues
Larry Whitehead's daughter, Tracy Whitehead—prayers for wisdom and guidance
Lori Whitehead's sister, Linda Head—has medical issues
Sharon Williams' friend, Tina Fonville—is on oxygen
Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law's nephew's fiancé, Rachel—cancer is in remission
Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law, Pam Williams—has health issues
Matt Zavada (whose father, Ray, works at the LCMS Michigan District)—praying for healing for a wound on his foot.

(continued next column)



May Birthdays

- 3 Brynlee Lockwood,Carolynn Taylor
- 6 Kevin Hurley, Mike Lockwood
- 7 Kim Olsen
- 9 Annetta Lekas, John Sidelinker
- 10 Dante Hilton
- 12 Gail Arnold
- 15 Maia Zienert
- 16 Nancy Salo
- 17 Rick Schmaltz
- 21 Lauren Maier
- 22 Taylor Lockwood
- 26 Freddie Arnold
- 28 Aaron O'Brien, Art Vermeersch



May's special decade birthday wishes

We wish the Lord's richest blessings upon Annetta Lekas and Art Vermeersch as they'll both celebrate special "decade" birthday's this month! Annetta's birthday is May 9, and Art's is May 28.

As always, we can't say which special decade birthdays they'll be celebrating, but we pray that our Lord will bless them with continued faith, peace and happiness throughout this upcoming year.



May Anniversaries

- 2 Dave & Cindy Turner 47th
- 21 Tom & Helga Gonzalez 60th
- 28 Mel & Karen Maier 32nd
- 29 Art & Dorothy Vermeersch 52nd

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations in March:

- Directed Thrivent Care Dollars to St. Mark's:** John & Debbie Sidelinker, Thisvi Steiger
- Fallen Tree Removal Fund:** Jennie Kaufman
- New Coffee Machine Fund:** Gail Hardy, Jennie Kaufman
- Lenten Banks for Bethesda:** Rod & Leslie Oehring.



Happy anniversary Tom & Helga Gonzalez!

We are happy to announce that on Thursday, May 21, 2020, Tom & Helga Gonzalez will be celebrating 60 years of marriage. What a special milestone to have achieved!

The members of St. Mark's congratulate you both on 60 wonderful years together as man and wife, and pray that the Lord would continue to bless and keep you on this special day and always.



Transferred in:

Scott Schwiesow
9104 Huron Hills
Walled Lake, MI 48390
(573)986-8817

David & Cindy Turner
325 Muskoka
Commerce, MI 48382
(248)363-5427

Requested Membership to be Reinstated:

Derald Katterman
41150 Fox Run Road, #515
Novi, MI 48377
(248)960-0951



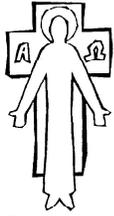
Please remember these folks in your prayers

Those shown below have lost loved ones this past month. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

- ✠ The Katterman family as Derald Katterman's wife, Barbara Katterman, fell asleep in the Lord on 3/25.
- ✠ The Schulman family as Debbie LoCascio's aunt, Betty Schulman, passed away on 4/5.
- ✠ The Zimmer family as Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam West-Zimmer, passed away on 4/12.

**This page is reserved for the monthly church calendar
(scroll down to the last page of this PDF file).**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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Address Service Requested

For the latest church news, visit our website



What types of information can you find
on St. Mark's website (www.stmarwb.org)?

- Monthly church calendars
- Sunday bulletins
- Weekly announcements
- Monthly newsletters
- About St. Mark's
- Event Registration Forms
- Those on Duty (scheduled to help out at church)

...and more! Check it out for all of your worship/
church needs!

Ascension

(Continued from Page 1)

Then, on Sunday, May 31, the Church will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost. On this day, ten days after ascending to the Father, Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit upon His Church, so that we might know His salvation and proclaim it throughout the world. Still today, Jesus sends this same Spirit upon His people, enlivening us and empowering us through the message of the Gospel. As Peter said in his Pentecost sermon, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). On the day of Pentecost, the Church as we know it was born.

At this point, given everything that's going on, we are unsure how we will be celebrating these Festivals at St. Mark's, whether through an in-person service or online. We will keep you posted with details as we know more!

May 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**** DUE TO COVID-19, ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES & BIBLE STUDIES HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. YOU CAN VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.STMARKWB.ORG**

For live, up-to-date versions of ANY St. Mark's calendar, visit our website at: www.stmarkwb.org.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																								
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> ALTAR GUILD: Temporarily on Hold COUNTERS: Temporarily on Hold </div>					1 <i>St. Philip & St. James, Apostles</i>	2																								
					3 Fourth Sunday of Easter	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Pastor out of office in p.m.	6	7	8	9																			
10 Fifth Sunday of Easter MOTHER'S DAY	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 Pastor out of office in p.m.	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day																								
17 Sixth Sunday of Easter	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 Pastor out of office in p.m. 7:30pm - Council Mtg.	20	21 Ascension of our Lord	22 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	23																								
24 Seventh Sunday of Easter	25 Memorial Day Church Office closed	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28	29 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	30																								
31 The Day of Pentecost			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">ACOLYTES:</th> <th style="width: 25%;">GREETERS:</th> <th style="width: 25%;">USHERS:</th> <th style="width: 25%;">VIDEO TECHS:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 TBD</td> <td>3 TBD</td> <td>3 TBD</td> <td>3 TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 TBD</td> <td>10 TBD</td> <td>10 TBD</td> <td>10 TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 TBD</td> <td>17 TBD</td> <td>17 TBD</td> <td>17 TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 TBD</td> <td>24 TBD</td> <td>24 TBD</td> <td>24 TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 TBD</td> <td>31 TBD</td> <td>31 TBD</td> <td>31 TBD</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				ACOLYTES:	GREETERS:	USHERS:	VIDEO TECHS:	3 TBD	3 TBD	3 TBD	3 TBD	10 TBD	10 TBD	10 TBD	10 TBD	17 TBD	17 TBD	17 TBD	17 TBD	24 TBD	24 TBD	24 TBD	24 TBD	31 TBD	31 TBD	31 TBD	31 TBD
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