

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

messenger

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

June 2019



Join us for a fun, family-friendly outdoor movie on June 21

We'd love to have you join us on Friday, June 21, as we celebrate the beginning of summer with an outdoor movie night!

Here, we will be watching a popular family-friendly movie on our large outdoor screen. (Due to licensing limitations, you must call the church office to hear what movie it will be.) We can tell you that the movie is animated, has received excellent ratings from previous viewers, and it's sure to make you laugh! The movie will start at 8:30 p.m. and snacks will be provided.

Please join us! And invite your neighbors, friends, and family! This is a community event and we'd love to have lots of people there! In case of rain, the movie will be held indoors.

Don't forget to bring camp chairs or a blanket and some bug spray!



Every One His Witness Workshop is being offered on June 8

Would you like to learn better how to witness to Christ in a loving, respectful, and Biblically faithful way?

On Saturday, June 8, we will be holding a workshop at St. Mark's that will teach you exactly that! We will be going through a new program developed by our Synod called "Every One His Witness." Here, we will learn how to reach out to our family, friends, and neighbors with the good news of Christ!

It is certainly the duty and the privilege of every Christian to witness to Christ in their daily lives. In fact, this is why God has placed us here. He has entrusted us with the saving message of the Gospel, that we might share it with others. In this way, God works through us to bring more and more people into His glorious kingdom through baptism and faith.

We hope you will consider attending this workshop. It will be an all-day event, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending around 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited to 12 participants, so claim your spot quickly! A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

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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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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.



St. Mark's Gospel Outreach Board encourages Bible study

The Forward Page of the Lutheran Study Bible talks about the Reformation and what binds the Lutheran Church to the careful study of the Bible. Luther came to believe that, through His Word, God works to bless and guide His church. He viewed the Gospel of God's word as a means of grace, as he described it in the Large Catechism:

You must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle and the Word does not sound, the devil breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware (Matthew 13:24-30). On the other hand, the Word is so effective that whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, it is bound never to be without fruit (Isaiah 55:11; Mark 4:20). It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts (Philippians 4:8). For these words are not lazy or dead, but are creative, living words (Hebrews 4:12).

The Forward Page also goes on to say: "By opening the Bible and turning its pages, we petition heaven for mercy, wisdom and strength."

St. Mark's Gospel Outreach Board encourages you to be in the Word as often as possible, in Church, Bible Study and in your homes. To help, our congregation offers the following Bible study opportunities for you:

Sunday Adult Bible Class – The Book of Joshua

In the month of June, we will continue studying the book of Joshua.

The book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament and picks up after the death of Moses, when the people of Israel have at last come to the border of the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The book recounts the various battles of the people of God, beginning with the fall of Jericho, as they conquer the land of Canaan, in fulfillment of God's gracious promise to Abraham that His offspring would inherit the land.

So please come! This book has much to teach us about the ways of God in Christ and how He now works through His Church to overthrow the kingdom of Satan by the preaching of the Gospel, so that His people might at last inherit the true

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Pastor's Page

Preparing for the Storm: How to Ready Ourselves for the Coming Persecution

My friends, rarely does a storm take us by surprise. Even apart from today's advanced technology, when a storm is coming, you almost always know. The feel of the air changes. The temperature drops. The winds begin to rise. Thunder rumbles in the distance. All of these different phenomena serve us as signs, telling us—if we are willing to see them—that a storm is on its way.

And, what's more, you can often tell by these signs whether or not the storm's going to be severe. Who among us hasn't found ourselves at one time or another standing outside, gazing worriedly up at the sky and thinking to ourselves, "Here comes a big one"? You feel the temperatures plummet, you watch the winds whip ferociously through the trees, you hear the great peals of thunder growing louder and louder, and you know: This storm is going to be bad.

Well I contend that today the Church in America finds herself in just such a place. It appears that a storm is coming upon us. More and more, we can sense a change in the air. We can feel the temperatures dropping. We can see the winds beginning to rise and we can hear the thunder rumbling off in the distance. Indeed, all around us the hostility against faithful Christians is growing. We are now regularly being characterized as bigoted, hateful, and intolerant. In various places, legislation is currently being proposed that would make it illegal for us to live out our faith. Already, some of us are losing our jobs and our reputations. Yeah, it seems that a storm is indeed coming upon the Church here in America, a storm of persecution—and by all accounts it's looking like a big one.

So what should we do? Well, we should do what we always do when we see a storm approaching: We should get ready. Think about it. When a big storm is coming upon your house, what do you do? Do you just sit there and watch it roll in? Not if you're smart. If you're smart, you prepare. Maybe you hurriedly shut your windows, get your car in the garage, cover your furniture, and secure your garbage cans. You wisely do these things because you know the damage a storm can do and you want to weather this one safely.

And I believe the same is true for us Christians in America today. Yeah, if God wills it, this storm may certainly pass us by. It might fizzle out before it gets to us. It might shift to the north or to the south so that we ourselves are spared. But we shouldn't count on that. In fact, Jesus promises us persecution: "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). Therefore, no matter what tomorrow might bring, it would be wise for us Christians to prepare so that, by the grace of God, we might weather the storm safely.

(continued next column)

But how can we prepare? Although there is much I could say, I'd like to start by laying out for you a few thoughts.

First, *we should be disciplined about going to church every week*. It is at church that God gives us the strength we need to face every trial. On our own, we cannot hope to stand. We simply aren't strong enough. Just ask Peter. He thought that he could stand strong by his own power (Luke 22:23). But what happened? When the hour of testing came, he ended up denying Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-62). And if we presume to stand by our own power, we will be right there with him. Like the plant that grew up on the rocks and withered, on our own we will "in time of testing fall away" (Luke 8:13). But that's why God calls us to church. There, He strengthens us through His Holy Word and Sacraments, so that we might remain faithful in every trial. In short, we go to church to build ourselves up in the strength of God.

Therefore, if we value our salvation, it's important that we attend church weekly. Certainly, our health may at times prohibit us from coming. And in that case, if we can't attend for a while we should ask the pastor to visit us at home. But otherwise, we should be disciplined about going to church. We should be making it our foremost priority and coming every week. We should be making sure that our children are coming. We should be attending Bible Study and learning God's Word better. When we're on vacation, we should be finding a faithful congregation to visit. For this is where God strengthens us, and if we hope to endure the coming persecution we will need His strength.

Second, *we should take this opportunity to remind ourselves regularly what the Church truly is*. When the coming persecution finally arrives, we might find that the Church is forced take on a radically different face. For instance, our congregations might lose their tax-exempt status. We may no longer be able to afford a full-time pastor. We might have to sell our property. We might not be equipped to do some of the things that we can currently do. We might even have to go underground, worshiping secretly in our homes or in back rooms.

Therefore, as we see persecution approaching, we ought to remind ourselves regularly that those earthly things—while good—do not in the end make us the Church. Our building, for as much as we love it, does not make us the Church. We don't need property to be the Church. We don't need flashy programs to be the Church. We don't need to have a full-time pastor to be the Church. The Church is nothing more than a brotherhood of believers under the headship of Christ. In light of that, we should be willing to suffer the loss of all those

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Semi-annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for June 2

All of St. Mark's church members age 18 years or older are encouraged to attend our Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting that will take place right after church next Sunday, June 2. Our boards will report on their progress for the first half of this year, financial summaries will be presented, etc. Your attendance is essential, so please come!



Do you want to learn how to quilt?

St. Mark's will be hosting a Quilting Bee on Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m. in the Library. If you'd like to learn how to quilt, this is your chance! Participants will be making small, simple quilts that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. These are simple enough for beginners to make! If you have any material you'd like to bring to the first class, you're welcome to do so.

See Gail Hardy with any questions you might have.

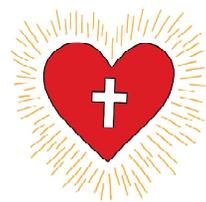


Remember your dad on Fathers' Day

On Sunday, June 16, St. Mark's will remember dads in a special way. Each dad who attends church here on that day will receive a special treat in celebration of his role as a father.

You may also make a donation to St. Mark's Flower Fund in honor, or in memory, of your father using the pink flower slip insert located in any of our Sunday bulletins. All pink slips must be placed in our church offering plates **no later than June 9**. The names of these dads will then be listed in the Father's Day bulletin on June 16.

Let's celebrate at these upcoming Festival Days



In the month of June, the Church will be celebrating two important festivals.

First, on Sunday, June 9, we will be celebrating the festival of Pentecost. On this day, we will rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus, after His ascension, sent the Holy Spirit down upon the Church so that we might know Him and proclaim Him in truth.

Second, on Sunday, June 16, we will be celebrating the Sunday of the Holy Trinity. On this day, we will consider with reverent joy and holy awe who God has revealed Himself to be, namely, three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and yet one God.

Please join us for these festival Sundays! On each day we will be holding our regular Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there!



2019 Vacation Bible School news

This summer, St. Mark's space-themed Vacation Bible School program--*Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World*--will take place Monday through Friday, July 8-12, during the hours of 9 a.m. until noon. Kids will lift off for an intergalactic adventure as they learn about God's plan of salvation from creation to the cross. All children ages 3 (potty-trained) through those going into 5th grade in the fall are invited to attend.

Registration is now open on St. Mark's website: www.stmarkwb.org. In order to make this year's VBS a success, lots of help will be needed! Can we count on you? To start, we'll need 3 classroom teachers, and 1 teacher to oversee the Bible Challenge class. Helpers will also be needed in the kitchen and crafts area, as well as teacher assistants. We'll also be needing food donations for snack time. Sign-up sheets will be posted soon, so please watch for them, and volunteer to help, if you can.

Also, starting Sunday, June 9, we will be receiving 4 Sundays of free-will door offerings in order to help offset the costs of the program materials and other expenses. We thank you in advance for supporting St. Mark's 2019 VBS program!



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER'S:

Clarence Arnold—is having health issues.
Lois Bidinger—is suffering from Dementia.
Butch Fitzgerald—needs prayers for health issues.
Joan Freeman—needs extra prayers for health and family issues.
John Freeman—is having health issues.
Barbara Jewell—needs prayers for her back.
Barbara Katterman—needs prayers for health to improve.
Mac McConnell—needs extra prayers.
Rod Oehring—needs extra prayers.
Kay Reynolds—is having health issues.
Art Vermeersch—is having health issues.
Sharon Williams—is still having back pain.
Joan Freeman's brother, **Ernie Sampson**—is having multiple health problems.
Joan Freeman's mom, **Betty Sampson**—is battling Stage 4 cancer.
Barbara Jewell's cousin's daughter, **Shylo Stelman**—is having health issues.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Pam Perez**—is having medical issues.
Barbara Jewell's great grandson, **Timmy**—recovering from arm surgery.
Barbara Jewell's sister, **Marilyn**—has a severe case of shingles.
Barbara Jewell's step-granddaughter, **Alecia**—her health is bad.
The LoCascio's acquaintances, **Sandy Baird & Karl Peters**—need prayers for difficulties in their lives right now.
Tom LoCascio's cousin, **Tearl Powell, Jr.**—is undergoing chemotherapy.
Mary Ann Lockwood's friend, **Sharon Richards**—is battling cancer.
The Lockwood children's (Anna, Christian, Michael) grandfather, **Milton Javery**—is battling cancer.
Cindy Parks' sister, **Jeane' Schaefer**—recovering from back surgery.
Judy Schassberger's niece's husband, **Eric Rzeppa**—has a tumor behind his ear.
Lori Steward's mother, **Lynne Welty**—is having health issues.
Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.
Pastor & Jen Thoma's son, **Harrison Thoma**—hospitalized; undergone surgeries for bad infection in hip and pelvis.
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandpa, **Dave Scroggie**—is in rehab for medical issues.
The Salo's daughter-in-law, **Joni**—is recovering from a stroke.
Mandy Vergin's father, **Bruce Ketcher**—is having health issues.
Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a stroke.
Larry Whitehead's daughter, **Tracy Whitehead**—prayers for wisdom and guidance.
Lori Whitehead's acquaintance, **Evan Grathwohl**—is undergoing more tests.

Lori Whitehead's sister, **Linda Head**—is recovering from medical issues.
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.

ON-GOING PRAYERS:

Cathy Fitzgerald's niece, Kim Trombley—recovering from a very serious car accident
Cathy Fitzgerald's sister, Charlotte—recovering from a stroke
Sue Franklin—has several medical problems
Sue Franklin's son, Jared Franklin—recovering from medical issues
Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—has medical problems
Barbara Jewell's brother, Al Schwartz—receiving therapy for a broken arm.
Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home
Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having knee problems
Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission
Debbie LoCascio's friend's granddaughter, Britt Able—is very slowly recovering from ankle surgery.
Tom LoCascio's cousin, Angelo Barduca—battling lung cancer
The LoCascio's friend's friend, Jayden—was in a bad auto accident; will need months of rehabilitation.
The LoCascio's friend's son, Justin Kiroff—is receiving rehab following a car accident
The LoCascio's sister-in-law, Leslie Tippett—is recovering from a major surgery and full healing will take months.
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
Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has several medical issues
Cindy Park's brother, Jerry Mielke—is having medical problems
Marlene Steck—needs extra prayers
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandma, Margaret Scroggie—needs extra prayers
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

(continued next column)



June Birthdays

- 2 Blake Ingram
- 7 Claire Swainson
- 14 Cassidy Benson
- 19 Bradyn Veliu
- 25 Amanda Follis, Kyle Tolman
- 26 Jennie Kaufman
- 27 Sheryl Brown, Pastor Vergin
- 29 Sophia Benson



Sophie Hurley receives her First Communion

On Sunday, May 26, 2019, Sophie Hurley received her First Communion. Sophie just finished her second year of Confirmation Class, and has done a wonderful job of learning what our Lord's Supper is all about.

We rejoice with Sophie and pray the Lord's richest blessings upon her as the newest communicant member of St. Mark's!



June Anniversaries

- 10 Richard & Sandra Schmaltz 35th
- 18 Pastor Aaron & Mandy Vergin 8th
- 20 Tom & Debbie LoCascio 38th



Don't forget to check us out on Facebook!

If you have access to the Internet, don't forget to check out St. Mark's on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/stmarkwb/. There you'll find photos from past events, videos of pastor's sermons, and so much more!

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations during the month of April.

Coin Holders (Bethesda): Butch & Cathy Fitzgerald, Gail Fitzgerald, Dean & Sherry Hyrkas, Jennie Kaufman, the Lockwood family, Frank & Nancy Salo, Judy Schassberger, John & Debbie Sidelinker, Lynn Thomas, Art & Dorothy Vermeersch, Larry & Lori Whitehead.

Pastor's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

extraneous things and be content simply to exist, if need be, as a few believing souls receiving God's gifts and living out our faith under the care of a faithful pastor. Loss is always hard, but in Christ we can lose all earthly things without losing anything at all. While we have the opportunity we must remind ourselves of that.

Finally, *we should learn to keep our eyes focused on Christ and the heavenly homeland we have in Him.* For us Christians, persecution will not last forever. Jesus has promised that one day He will return to conquer all His enemies and to gather His people into His heavenly kingdom. He has secured this salvation for us by His blood and, as believers, we can be sure that it is ours. Just as Jesus once calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Luke 8:22-25), He will also calm this storm by His almighty Word. In Christ, all persecution will pass away and the perfect peace of heaven will prevail. Yeah, Jesus suffered persecution for us so that we, who are persecuted with Him, might share in His resurrection and His eternal kingdom. This is the blessed promise of God to us.

And at this time, as we await our hour of testing, we should learn to keep our eyes focused there. We should take every trial as a moment to learn to suffer and to hope in Christ. We should foster in ourselves a devotedness to holding fast to Christ and the promise of His heavenly kingdom at every moment. For if we forget this promise, we lose all hope. But if we learn to cling to it, then, by God's power, we can withstand anything.

Yeah, the storm is coming. In the distance we can hear the thunder rolling. Already, the winds are beginning to pick up and the temperature is beginning to drop. It's looking like a big one. So let's prepare. Let's get ready. Let's pray. But let's also stand courageously and with the fullness of Christian joy, for with God we will make it safely through.



Church Council Meeting Minutes - Summarized May 21, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, John Reardon, Kari Kosmalski, Debbie LoCascio, Sue Ingram, Lori Steward, Scott Steward, Nancy McInnis, Sharon Williams, Mandy Vergin, Darryl Swainson, Ellen Rentola

Call to Order at 7:32 p.m. by Tom LoCascio

Opening Prayer and Devotion: 1 Peter 1:3-9 re: Christian persecution by Pastor Vergin

Pastor's Report per Pastor Vergin

- Sophie Hurley's First Communion – May 26
- Men's Bible Study – June 1
- *Every One His Witness* Training Workshop – June 8
- Festival Divine Services: May 30 – Ascension Day; June 9 – Pentecost; June 16 – Holy Trinity
- Outdoor worship service & BBQ – July 14
- Pastor & family on vacation in July. Pastor/Mandy to get Debbie dates for the church calendar. (As a postscript to this, the actual dates are July 19-23.)

BOARD REPORTS

Elders per Darryl Swainson

- Continuing to reach out to long-term inactive members
- Continuing to contact active church members throughout the year as per the elders' Action Plan
- Krasinski's moved to Chicago and have transferred to an LCMS congregation there

Family & Youth per Mandy Vergin

- VBS July 8-12 from 9 a.m. to noon – Need volunteers to help. A sign-up sheet will be posted for this soon.
- Youth Garden – added some new dirt and weed whipped the area. Peas are growing well.
- Easter Egg Hunt & Fun went well. 21 kids attended.

Gospel Outreach per Sharon Williams

- Movie Night on June 21 – Movie license for one-time showing has been secured. Movie will start at 8:30. Snacks will be served. Gospel Outreach and Parish Fellowship boards will work together on this event.
- Have 6 welcome baskets ready to deliver—3 to neighborhood behind church, and 3 to Golf Manor subdivision.
- Mailed 15 postcards to inactive members for Easter. A few of them attended the Easter service.

(Continued next column)

Parish Fellowship per Ellen Rentola

- Will work with Gospel Outreach board to help with the upcoming Movie Night event
- The Outdoor Worship Service & BBQ will take place on July 14

Properties per Scott Steward

- The church Work Day on May 5 went well and a lot was accomplished
- They're in the process of obtaining more information re: the bathroom hand dryers (wiring, amps needed, etc.) and also re: the upstairs carpeting

LWML per Pastor

- The LWML Spring Zone Rally in early May went well. A Fall Rally will follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Parsonage Committee Update per John Reardon – John Reardon & Gordon from the Township have been playing phone tag. John asks that someone replace him as chairman of this committee as his work hours have greatly increased. Tom and John to discuss this further.
- Retreat Committee Recap per Debbie LoCascio – the event went great. 14 people spent the weekend at the Lodge, an additional 13 people attended just Saturday's events. Our guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, was awesome. The committee will meet in mid-June to revisit the event, write out thank-you cards, and discuss ideas for next year's Retreat. Total expenses were just shy of \$1,700. Registrant fees + sponsor gift cards totaled \$1,270. Out-of-pocket cost to St. Mark's: \$423.70. This will be covered with funds from the Memorial Fund.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Voters' Meeting coming up on June 2 after the Divine Service
- Human Resources per Lori Steward - Lori to get with pastor to make a list of possible nominees for open board positions for 2020.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 16, 7:30 p.m. (No meeting in June due to Voters' Meeting.)

Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

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!



We hope you'll attend our Outdoor Service & BBQ!

On Sunday, July 14, we will hold our annual outdoor worship service. Please join us as we worship our God and receive His gifts in the beauty of His creation! The service will be held at the usual time--9:30 a.m.--and will include music by our VBS children.

Also, please join us afterwards for a BBQ hosted by our Board of Parish Fellowship! Additional details regarding the BBQ will be forthcoming in our Sunday bulletins.

Bible Studies

(Continued from Page 2)

Promised Land of heaven. We look forward to seeing you there!

Men's Bible Breakfast Will Meet on June 1

Attention Men of St. Mark's!

We will be holding our monthly Men's Bible Study on Saturday, June 1. We will meet at Greek Jalapeno for breakfast from 9 - 10:30 a.m. (6636 Cooley Lake Rd.) and will continue our study of the book of Acts!

We'd love to have you there! This is a great opportunity to gather as men of God around His holy Word and to be formed together in the image of Christ! Please remember your Bible!

The Gate: Revelation

In June we will be continuing our midweek Bible Study called "The Gate." Here, we will meet together to study the Scriptures, pray, and praise our God.

Throughout the summer, we will be going through the book of Revelation. Although we have looked at certain portions of this book at other times, we will be taking this opportunity to go through those sections that we have yet to study.

Please join us! The book of Revelation is one of the most encouraging and interesting books of the Bible, in which God reveals to His Church the final victory of Christ, so that we might face the devil and the Day of Judgment with confidence.

The Gate meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. There will be snacks afterwards. If weather permits, we will meet outside. We look forward to seeing you there!

Who exactly is the Third Person of the Trinity?

The May issue of *The Lutheran Witness* magazine offers readers an in-depth look at what Scripture and Lutheran theology says about the works of the Holy Spirit.

Among other articles, Rev. Dr. Curtis P. Griese explains what is distinctive about our Lutheran theology of the Holy Spirit and Rev. Tom Eggebrecht explores how the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church today.

For more information, visit witness.lcms.org and subscribe at cph.org/witness.



May's events included a retreat and time spent serving others

May was a busy month here at St. Mark's and we thank those church members and friends who helped make every church activity a huge success!

On Sunday, May 5, several people stayed after church to help with our Spring Clean-up. Flowerbeds were weeded, mulch was laid, a great many sticks and branches were picked up from around the property, and the church pews were washed. We especially thank Scott & Lori Steward for providing lunch to all helpers that afternoon.

During May 10-12, St. Mark's hosted its first church retreat at Proud Lake Recreation Area in Commerce. Fourteen church members and friends stayed at the sleeping lodge for the weekend. An additional 13 people attended Saturday's activities only, which included two sessions with our guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Pulse from the Fort Wayne, IN seminary. Several attendees also participated in our servant events: collecting hygiene items for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford, and assisting the D.N.R. with the removal of an invasive plant species at the park called Garlic Mustard. Pastor Vergin also guided attendees through evening and morning devotions throughout the weekend.

This event was made possible with the hard work and coordination of St. Mark's Retreat Committee: Sue Ingram, Debbie LoCascio, Sharon Williams and Pastor Vergin (in an advisory role). They also had assistance from Judy Schassberger, Alexa Ingram, Tom LoCascio and Cindy Parks. Thank you so much for your help!

The committee also worked diligently to obtain sponsors for the retreat in order to help offset the costs. We offer our sincere thanks to the companies/organizations below. If you are able to shop at any of these places, please do!

- Meijer Store, Commerce (\$300 gift certificate)
- Thrivent Financial (\$250 gift certificate)
- Gordon Food Service - (\$100 gift certificate)
- Costco, Commerce (\$50 gift certificate)
- Walmart, White Lake (\$10 gift certificate)
- Home Depot, White Lake (50 bottles of hand sanitizer)
- Home Depot, Commerce (2 bags of charcoal)
- Lowe's, White Lake (over 100 packets of flower seeds)
- Mich. Church Extension Fund, Ann Arbor (plastic gift bags, pads of paper, ink pens, hand sanitizer)
- Mich. District LCMS, Ann Arbor (pens & highlighters)
- Allegra Printing/Cindi Kuzera, Highland (printed the weekend's program booklet for free)

Lastly, about a dozen of our church members worked together to serve dinner to approximately 50 people at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pontiac on May 15. We offer our thanks to: Karen Kaufman, Tom LoCascio, Sue & Alexa Ingram, Jennie Kaufman, Leslie Oehring, Sharon Williams, Gail Fitzgerald, Sherry Hyrkas, Gail Hardy, Sue Franklin,Carolynn Taylor, Julie Kosmalski and Pastor Vergin.

Sunday Divine Service: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class: 10:45 a.m.

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

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast: First Saturday/month at 9 a.m.

Wednesday Worship: "The Gate" 7 p.m. (the Wed. after Easter through mid-Nov.)

June 2019

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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: Ellen Rentola COUNTERS: Debbie LoCascio & Nancy Salo </div> | | | | | | 1 9am Men's Bible Study |
| 2 7th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Semi-annual Voters' Mtg. | 3 Pastor's Day Off Sec'y. Debbie Off | 4 7pm - Bd. Of Elders' Mtg. | 5 7pm-The Gate | 6 | 7 | 8 9am Every One His Witness Workshop |
| 9 Day of Pentecost Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class | 10 Pastor's Day Off | 11 <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i> | 12 7pm-The Gate | 13 | 14 Flag Day | 15 |
| 16 The Holy Trinity FATHER'S DAY Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class | 17 Pastor's Day Off | 18 | 19 7pm-The Gate | 20 | 21 1st Day of Summer DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES Secretary Debbie Off 8:30pm Movie Night | 22 |
| 23 2nd Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: Larry Whitehead 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class Secretary Debbie Off | 24 Pastor's Day Off <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i> | 25 | 26 7pm-The Gate | 27 | 28 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR. | 29 <i>Ss. Peter/Paul, Apostles</i> |
| 30 3rd Sunday after Trinity Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class | ACOLYTES: 2 TBD 9 Grace Hurley 16 TBD 23 Sophie Hurley 30 Jay Anderson | | GREETERS: 2 Ellen Rentola 9 Julie/Kari Kosmalski 16 Gail Fitzgerald 23 Sharon Williams 30 Mary Lockwood | | VIDEO TECHS: 2 Darryl Swainson 9 Jim O'Brien 16 Tom LoCascio 23 Darryl Swainson 30 Jim O'Brien | |
| | | | | | | USHERS: 2 Rudy Rentola & Larry Whitehead 9 & 16 Jim O'Brien & John Reardon 23 & 30 Scott Steward & Tom Kaufman |