

### ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# messenger

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

May 2021



## Volunteers needed for church Spring Clean-Up

Many hands will be needed to help with St. Mark's annual Spring Clean-Up event on Sunday, May 2, directly following the Divine Service. Feel free to bring yard tools, e.g. rakes, shovels, etc., some work gloves and anything else you think might be needed.

A list of chores is now sitting on the table in the church entryway. It includes items such as: pew washing, taking down the sanctuary storm windows and inserting screens, outdoor yard work, etc.

We hope you'll consider volunteering as we prepare our church for spring/summer!



# Please join us for these Festival Services in May

In the month of May, the Church will observe several different Festival Days. We hope you will join us to receive God's Word and Sacraments on these special occasions!

First of all, on Thursday, May 13, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. On this day, forty days after Easter Sunday, we remember how our Lord ascended bodily into heaven before the eyes of His disciples to sit down at the right hand of God. In this, we rejoice first to see that Jesus, our Savior and brother, now reigns over all

(See Festival Services, Page 4)

#### **CONTENTS**

- 2. Enrich Your Life with the Power of God's Word
- **3.** Pastor's Page
- **4.** Bring Mom to Church, St. Paul Lutheran Flint Offers Summit on Mission, Church Office will be Closed on Memorial Day, Festival Services (cont'd.)
- **5.** In our Thoughts and Prayers
- **6.** Birthdays, Anniversaries, Pastor's Page (cont'd.), Special Fund Donations, Please Remember These Folks in Your Prayers, Confirmed in the Faith
- **7.** May's Church Calendar
- **8.** For the Latest Church News Visit our Website, Upcoming Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting Will Take Place on June 13

#### The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of:

#### St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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#### <u>Saturday</u>

"Socially-distanced" Divine Service at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday**

Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m.

#### One Saturday/month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Handicap accessible



# Enrich your life with the power of God's Word

In the book of John, Chapter 8, verses 31-32, Jesus said: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." And so, as Christians, we know the importance of regular Bible study.

Toward that end, St. Mark's offers two opportunities to delve deeper into God's Word (see below). We hope that you will attend one, or both, of these studies as you are able.

#### Adult Bible Class: The Book of Genesis

In the month of May, we will be continuing our study of the book of Genesis in our Adult Bible Class!

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin.

We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m., after our Divine Service.

#### Men's Bible Study Will Meet on May 1

Attention Men of St. Mark's!

Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, May 1. We will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will be continuing our study of the book of Acts.

We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

# Pastor's Page

### Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms: A Lesson in Faith and Courage

I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love (Psalm 119:46-47).

My friends, although the day passed somewhat quietly, April 18 of this year actually marked a very significant anniversary for us Lutherans: It was the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's great "Here I Stand" moment at the Diet of Worms.

To many of us, the story is a familiar one. In the spring of 1521, about three and a half years after he first posted the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther was summoned to appear before an Imperial meeting (called a "Diet") in the German city of Worms. By this time, Luther had already been excommunicated as a heretic by the Roman Catholic Church. However, the new emperor, Charles V, wanted the chance to bring some kind of resolution to the matter which was proving so divisive within his lands. Therefore, he issued a summons to Martin Luther to appear before him during the Diet in Worms.

For his part, Luther came willingly, hoping that this would give him the opportunity to publicly defend himself and his doctrine. However, the Emperor had other plans. When Luther first stepped into the chamber on April 17, he found that all of his writings had been stacked on a nearby table. Then, in the presence of the great political powers of Europe, including the Emperor himself, Luther was simply asked two questions: "Are these your writings?" and "Will you recant?" Clearly, the Emperor wasn't looking to hear Luther honestly. Instead, he wanted Luther to fall in line.

You might be surprised to hear that at this point, Luther asked for some time to consider the matter, and was given twenty-four hours. However, by the time he appeared before the Diet the next day, in the late afternoon of April 18, Luther was resolved. When asked again if he would recant, he looked at the emperor and all the others with him and boldly declared, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Now, as we reflect on this pivotal moment, we rightly marvel at Luther's courage and faith. Luther knew well that just one hundred years previously, the Church reformer John Huss had been burned at the sake for challenging the Roman Catholic Church. And Luther figured there was a very good chance he would suffer the same fate there at Worms. After all,

burning at the stake was the standard punishment for heretics.

And yet what did Luther do? Even before the Emperor himself, he remained steadfast in the Word of Christ and refused to recant. He chose to deny himself rather than deny his Lord. And in that he risked everything. Indeed, shortly after this defiant stand, the Emperor would declare Luther an outlaw, a judgment that would compel Luther's friends to secretly kidnap him on the way home and hide him away for several months at Wartburg Castle for his protection.

But as we consider Luther's courage, displayed so powerfully in this moment, we must ask, "How?" How was it that Luther was able to stand steadfast in this way? Where did his courage come from? Was his courage perhaps founded on himself, on his own powers and abilities? Was Luther being foolishly self-confident? Or was Luther simply being reckless and naïve? No, Luther was able to stand courageously in this moment for one reason, and one reason alone: He knew Jesus and the Truth of His salvation.

For years Luther had labored under the false belief that his standing before God depended upon his works. That's what the Roman Catholic Church had begun to teach in his day. If you wanted to be right with God, you had to merit it. You had to earn it. Faith alone wasn't enough. In his early years, especially during his time at the monastery, this false teaching had tormented Luther, and filled him with a deep fear of death.

However, as many of us know, through his study of the Scriptures, God eventually revealed to Martin Luther the Truth. Righteousness is not something we need to merit in ourselves. Our standing before God doesn't depend upon our works. Rather, on account of Christ's sacrifice, righteousness is a free gift through faith. God graciously bestows it upon all who believe in Jesus—and with that righteousness, everlasting life. As Paul says in the book of Romans, "The righteous shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).

It is this Truth, then, that allowed Martin Luther to stand steadfast at the Diet of Worms. Luther knew that through faith he was right with God. Indeed, he was at peace with God through Christ (Romans 5:1). God had accepted him for Jesus' sake. He had the promise of eternal life and the Kingdom. In Christ this was all assured. Therefore, he didn't need to be afraid to die. He didn't need to be afraid of any loss. Instead, with the Psalmist, Luther could say, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 118:6). It is this conviction that led Luther to stand courageously at

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(See Pastor's Page Page 6)

# Bring Church

#### Bring mom to church!

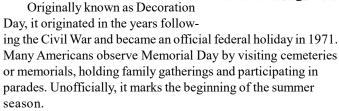
Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 9 this year, and on that day we will be honoring all moms who attend our worship service by giving them a carnation (or similar) in recognition of their role as a mother. So bring your mom to church with you that day!

You may also choose to help support St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund for 2021 by making a donation in honor, or in memory, of your mom. Either complete a pink flower slip (found in the Sunday bulletins) and place it, and your donation, into the offering plate, or mail a check to the church office with the name(s) of those you wish to honor or remember. All donations/pink slips must be received at church no later than Wednesday, May 5. The names of all moms listed on the pink slips will then be included in our Mother's Day worship bulletin.

Thanks for your support of St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund!

# Church Office will be closed on Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.



Memorial

☆ Day ☆

In respect for this federal holiday, St. Mark's will be closed on Monday, May 31 and will re-open on Tuesday, June 1.



## St. Paul Lutheran, Flint offers Summit on Mission

All are invited to attend a *Summit on Mission* seminar hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and School at 402 Ballenger Highway in Flint, MI on Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Guest speakers will include the Rev. Dr. David Petersen, Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Ft. Wayne, IN who will present on how the Divine Service empowers the church for mission, and also the Rev. Dan Dahling, Pastor at Zion Lutheran in Decatur, IN, who will present on the ministry and mission of Rev. Friedrich Wyneken.

The seminar is free and lunch will be provided. To register, call (810) 239-6200 no later than May 1.

#### **Festival Services**

(Continued from Page 1)

things for our good. And, second, we also rejoice to see in Jesus' ascension a preview of our own, for if Christ has ascended, so also will His people. On this day, we will hold a special Divine Service at 7 p.m. in the evening.

Then, on Sunday, May 23, we will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost. On this day, we remember how Jesus, having ascended into heaven, sent the Holy Spirit down upon His Church, that the we might know the Truth of Christ and proclaim Him to all nations. Apart from the Spirit, we cannot know Christ. However, today we rejoice to know Jesus rightly and believe in Him through the Spirit's power. Therefore, we celebrate Pentecost with joy.

Finally, on Sunday, May 30, we will celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Trinity. On this day, we consider the triune nature of God, namely, that there is only one God, and yet God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This day is an opportunity for us to stand in awe of God's majesty, while we also rejoice in His love, which He showed to us perfectly when He took on our flesh in the person of Christ and suffered for our salvation.

Please join us for these special festival days! We look forward to seeing you there!



#### MORE URGENT PRAYER'S:

Clarence Arnold—needs prayers for health/memory issues. Joan Freeman—needs prayers for health issues.

Barbara Jewell—is recovering at home from back surgery.

Mac McConnell—needs extra prayers for memory issues.

Rod Oehring—dealing with surgery-related issues.

Kim Olsen—needs extra prayers.

Marlene Steck—needs extra prayers for memory issues.

Marilyn Turner—needs extra prayers.

Art Vermeersch—has several medical issues.

Dorothy Vermeersch—has head some health issues.

Lynne Welty—is having health issues.

Larry Whitehead—needs extra prayers for medical issues.

Lori Whitehead—recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Sharon Williams—continues to battle cancer.

Carolyn Achimov's cousin's great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Shallal**—diagnosed with Leukemia at age 4; is undergoing treatments.

Barb Allen's friend, **Teri Aldini**—is having financial problems. Barbara Jewell's friend's husband, **Dave**—is recovering from surgery.

Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's sister, **Carol**—is undergoing chemotherapy/radiation.

Debbie LoCascio's friend's friend, **Kayleigh**—she gave birth to a healthy baby girl a few weeks ago while having COVID-19. She is now on a ventilator at U of M Hospital with clots in her lungs.

Debbie LoCascio's nephew & niece-in-law, **Jeremy & Megan**—are having COVID-19 symptoms.

Debbie LoCascio's sister, **Sandy Esse**—is having COVID-19 symptoms.

The LoCascio's neighbor, Laura Jones—is undergoing cancer treatments.

Mary Ann Lockwood's friend, **Sharon Richards**—is battling cancer.

Mary Ann Lockwood's sister, Sandra Kempisty—is having health issues.

The Lockwood children's (Anna, Christian, Michael) grandfather, **Milton Javery**—is battling cancer.

Cindy Parks' friend, Linda—is battling breast cancer

Cindy Park's mom, Rose Mielke—is having health issues.

Angela Peter's friend's daughter, **Ellie Clothier**—hascerebral palsy and is now experiencing almost constant seizures. She's hospitalized and undergoing tests.

Jean Swainson's friend's son, **Connor Donahue**—was hit by a car, had several successful surgeries, has been transferred to an intensive inpatient rehab center.

Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.

Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandpa, **Dave Scroggie**—Alzheimer's is worsening; has Stage 3 kidney disease.

Mike Tolman's fiancée's uncle, David-suffered a stroke.

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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 prayers.

Lori Whitehead's sister, Linda Head—has health 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, **Emmett Reynolds**—has Autism.

#### **ONGOING PRAYERS:**

Joan Freeman's brother, Ernie Sampson—is having multiple health problems

John Freeman—needs prayers for health issues

Cathy Fitzgerald's niece, Kim Trombley—recovering from a car accident

Cathy Fitzgerald's sister, Charlotte—recovering from a stroke Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—has medical problems Barbara Jewell's niece-in-law, Peg Fieler—has eye problems Barbara Jewell's nephew-in-law, Carl Fieler—is having heart problems

Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law, Phyllis Tharp—diagnosed with lung cancer

Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having health issues Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—is having medical issues Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission

Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Cheryl Tippett—is battling cancer Tom LoCascio's cousin, Angelo Barduca—has medical issues Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—are ill

Cindy Parks' sister, Jeane Schaefer—is having back p roblems Cindy Park's brother, Jerry Mielke—is having medical problems The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—is recovering from a stroke; receiving therapy

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

Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law's nephew's fiancé, Rachel—cancer is in remission

Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law, Pam Williams—has health issues



## May Birthdays

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



#### May Anniversaries

Dave & Cindy Turner	48th
Tom & Helga Gonzalez	61st
Charles & Lexi Powell	2nd
Melvin & Karen Maier	33rd
Art & Dorothy Vermeersch	53rd
	Charles & Lexi Powell Melvin & Karen Maier

## Pastor's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

Worms. As he himself said, his conscience was captive to the Word of

Now, my friends, as we stand here today, a full five-hundred years later, we still live in the same world. The doctrine of Christ still suffers the same opposition. We Christians, each one of us, are still pressured daily to recant. May God grant us all to follow in the footsteps of Luther, who himself followed Christ. May we remain ever confident in God's glorious promise of righteousness through faith. And if the enemy should ever try to move us away from our Lord, may we dare to say, "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son and bring to naught all He has done. (LSB 655, Stanza 1)

## **Special Fund Donations**

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

Lenten Banks (Bethesda Lutheran Homes): Rod & Leslie Oehring, Nancy

Salo Memorials: Barbara Jewell (in memory of Frank Salo)

Open Door Outreach Center: Art &

Dorothy Vermeersch

Property Updates ("New Beginnings" program): Tom & Debbie LoCascio, John & Juanita Reardon, Pastor & Mandy Vergin

Remodeling - Sanctuary: Nancy McInnis Thrivent Choice Dollars: Richard & Patricia Grunewald, Thisvi Steiger Vacation Bible School: Lynn Thomas



## 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 Merrell family as Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Bill Merrell, went to be with Jesus on 4/6.



## Confirmed in the Faith

After completing careful study of Holy Scripture and the Small Catechism, Jay Anderson will be confirmed into the faith during the Divine Service on May 23. We celebrate with joy his public confession of our Christian faith and welcome him as a member of St. Mark's family of faith!

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## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



7979 Commerce Road West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Phone: (248) 363-0741 Fax: (866) 649-6870 Email: info@stmarkwb.org Website: www.stmarkwb.org

# 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!





# Upcoming Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting will take place on June 13

Please be advised that the meeting date for St. Mark's Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting has been changed from Sunday, June 6 to Sunday, June 13, due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting will take place directly following the Divine Service in the Fellowship Hall.

The Agenda will include reports on St. Mark's finances, board reports, etc. All church members ages 18+ are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

# **May 2021**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m. Saturday "Socially-Distanced" Divine Service 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study/Breakfast - One Saturday per mo. 9 a.m.

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
ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Sid	lelinker	1				1 9am Men's Bible Study
COUNTERS: Nancy Salo & Sharon Williams		l				,
						6:30pm Divine Service
2 5th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson	Pastor's Day Off	4	5	6 Nat'l. Day of Prayer	7	8
9:30am Divine Service	Sec'y. Debbie out of town					
10:45am Spring Clean-Up		Pastor out of office in p.m.				
		7pm - Bd. Of Elders Mtg.				6:30pm Divine Service
9 6th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	10 Pastor's Day Off	11	12	13 Ascension Day	14	15 Armed Forces Day
MOTHER'S DAY		Pastor out of office in p.m.		7pm Ascension Day Svc. Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio		6:30pm Divine Service
16 7th Sunday of Easter Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	17 Pastor's Day Off	Pastor out of office in p.m.	19	20	21 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	22
Armed Forces Sunday		7pm - Council Mtg.				6:30pm Divine Service
23 Day of Pentecost Elder on Duty: John Sidelinker	24 Pastor's Day Off	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Divine Service 10:45am Adult Bible Class	. 4000. 0 24, 0	Pastor out of office in p.m.			DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	
						6:30pm Divine Service
30 Holy Trinity	31 Memorial Day		ACOLYTES (either svc)	: GREETERS (either svc):	<b>USHERS</b> (both svcs):	VIDEO TECH (either):
Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio			2 Jay Anderson	2 Tom/Debbie L.	2 John Reardon	2 Charlie Powell
9:30am Divine Service	Church Office closed		9 TBD	9 Julie/Kari K.	9 Matt Maier	9 Jim O'Brien
10:45am Adult Bible Class			16 TBD	16 Gail Fitzgerald	16 Tom Kaufman	16 Karen Kaufman
			23 TBD	23 Sharon Williams	23 Trent Johnson	23 Debbie Sidelinker
			30 TBD	30 Rudy/Ellen Rentola	30 John Reardon	30 Charlie Powell