

## 2025 St. Mark's 127 Garage Sale Year!

During these cold winter days, if you are cleaning out or re-organizing your closets, storage areas or garage, remember the St. Mark's 127 Garage Sale is coming up in August. Please consider setting aside your "good" but no longer needed items (*sorry, NOT accepting clothes*) for donation to our garage sale. Future Sunday bulletins will let you know when to start bringing your items to the church. The Garage Sale proceeds support "Kids Against Hunger" rice kits. Thank you, Joan, Karan & Sue

**5 MINUTES A DAY. 5 DAYS A WEEK.** That's all it takes to go through the New Testament, Matthew to Revelation, in one year. Read it or listen to it. Free copies of the 2025 New Testament Reading Plan are available on the Gathering Place information table.

**Offering Envelopes for 2025:** The table by the Nursery has the new 2025 offering envelopes available to be picked up anytime. Additionally, giving records are done by numbers so even if you give online, please pick up your box.

**ONLINE GIVING REMINDER:** If you do online giving and you have made any changes to your pledge, you will need to update the St. Mark's online banking information to reflect your change. Elaine Rhoades

**Got the wintertime blues?** We can help with that! The high school youth will be hosting a fun afternoon of card playing and Euchre tournament on Sunday, February 16 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place. If able, please bring a snack or appetizer to share. The youth will provide coffee, cocoa, and hot tea along with a few other goodies. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. William C. Haggis, II, Pastor

Prayer Request e-mail: [stmprayer@stmarkslutheranvw.com](mailto:stmprayer@stmarkslutheranvw.com)

Church Website: [www.stmarkslutheranvw.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranvw.com)

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Prelude "Prelude on an Early American Hymn Tune"

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit (10:30 service)

Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" # 705

Kyrie and Hymn of Praise (page 98-99, 101; 10:30 service)

Prayer of the Day

Children's Blue Bag Message (8:00 service)

Noah's Ark Children's Church (10:30 service)

Malachi 3:1-4 and Psalm 84 (pg. 2 & 3 of bulletin)

Hebrews 2:14-18 and Luke 2:22-40 (pg. 3 & 4 of bulletin)

Message

Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" # 815

Apostles' Creed, Intercessory Prayers, The Peace (pages 105-106)

Musical Meditation (8:00 service) "Find Us Faithful"

Offering: offering boxes, website, text 419-273-9947

Offertory (10:30 service) Adult Choir

Holy Communion

10:30 service on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. (pages 107-109)

Lord's Prayer (page 112)

Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)

Hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" # 836

Doxology Sung by the Congregation HYMN #884

Postlude "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

## Prayer of Illumination

- R: Before reading from the Bible,  
we seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit that  
we become receptive to the life-giving Word  
which comes to us through both  
the reading and proclamation of Scripture.
- C: **Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power  
of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy  
what you say to us today. Amen.**

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## Malachi 3:1-4 A Refiner's Fire & A Launderer's Soap

<sup>1</sup> "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

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## Psalm 84 How Lovely is the Dwelling Place of the Lord

- R: How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!
- C: **My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**
- R: Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—a place near your altar,  
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
- C: **Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you.**

(Continued on page 3)

**Pastor Retiring in January of 2026.** You received this announcement in your congregation email on Wednesday morning, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, a letter from Pastor Will is included in the February newsletter. Please refer to either for more details. Church Council, Personnel Committee and Mutual Ministry Committee were informed Tuesday evening the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. Church Council is meeting with representatives from the NW Ohio Synod in early February to move forward with the next step of the Call Process. You will be kept informed when updates are available.



## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FRIED**

**PIES:** Thank you all for your support of our first Fried Pie sales event this past Sunday.

Upcoming Fried Pie Sale dates are February 16, March 16, April 13 & May 18. We greatly appreciate your support with our fundraising efforts and look forward to sharing a few other fundraising events happening in April and May, stay tuned!

## **Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.**

7:00—9:00 AM **Ashes 2 Go.** Parking lot between  
Collins' Deli and St. Mark's

Noon & 7:30 PM **Holy Communion Service**

**During the Coffee Hour of Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** the Learning Committee (Christian Education) will host the coffee hour in recognition of Monica Campbell's twenty years of service as the Children's Choir Director. All are invited.

**ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK**

Greeters (8:00).....Kathy Van Eman  
Lector (8:00).....Marlene Foss  
Greeters (10:30).....Kevin Taylor  
Lector (10:30).....Juli Hamilton  
Acolyte (10:30).....Colson Army  
Communion Servers.....Tom Rhoades, Wes Thompson &  
Cary Roehm  
Coffee Hour .....Arn

**The Outreach Committee** will be seeking input from the congregation regarding potential recipients of Outreach Funds for hunger programs locally, nationally and globally. This will take place in the near future so please begin thinking of suggestions you can make to the committee. If you have questions about possible ideas you may have, please talk to Council Representative Karen Etgen or contact the church office. For national and global ideas, some suggested websites are (but not limited to):

[www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger), [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster),  
[www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission), [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org), & [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**Reminders:** *Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by 1:00 p.m.*  
*AND The deadline for March newsletter is **February 20<sup>th</sup>**.*

**Attention New Visitors to St. Mark's:** Located in the pews are blue Welcome Cards for our new guests. Please fill out this card and leave it on the pew when you leave the sanctuary. Greeters will be around to collect them after the service. This information is only to keep you informed of activities at St. Mark's and does not leave the office. We hope you will continue to join us for services and we are so glad you came to St. Mark's. We hope to see you again next Sunday.

R: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.  
C: **As they pass through the Valley of Baka,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.**

R: They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.  
C: **Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;  
listen to me, God of Jacob.**

R: Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.  
C: **Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

R: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
The LORD bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.  
C: **LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.**

**Hebrews 2:14-18 God Becomes Human for the Atonement of Sins**

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

R: The word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (10:30 service)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Good news in Luke's gospel.

C: **Glory To you O Lord!**

**Luke 2:22-40 Jesus Presented in the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

P: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

- 8:00 a.m. *Worship Service with Blue Bag Sermon*
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal  
**NO** Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

**TUESDAY**

- 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers
- 3:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
- 7:00 p.m. *Church Council Meeting with NW OH Synod Reps.*

**WEDNESDAY**

- 10:00 a.m. *Brewed Expressions Meeting*
- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 6:30 p.m. **The Anchor/Fusion**
- 6:30 p.m. Catechism
- 6:30 p.m. Kid Min
- 6:30 p.m. *Brothers & Brews*

**THURSDAY**

- 9:00 a.m. *Gathering Place in use until 4 PM*
- 6:00 p.m. Church Council Bylaws Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. *Men's Cornhole*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Choir  
**NO** Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the Glory of God by Dennis and Kathryn Wagonrod  
in loving memory of Karen and departed loved ones.