

CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026-Deacon Helena Morris
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah’s Park

TUESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers
- 9:00 a.m. Meeting in Gathering Place until 12 noon**
- 3:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- 6:00 p.m. Cornhole**
- 6:00 p.m. Outreach Committee in meeting room**
- 6:30 p.m. Sisters & Sips at Mi Ranchito Rest.**

REMEMBER-MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD SATURDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2026—Pastor Mindy Elliott
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—**Marc & Cindy Grubaugh**
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah’s Park

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

are to the Glory of God by Craig & Kathy Staley in honor of our children and grandchildren: Katelynn, Shawn, Charlotte & Hailey Hovlid and Jacob, Brooke and Canaan Staley.

ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer Request e-mail: stmprayer@embarqmail.com
Church Website: www.stmarkslutheranvw.com

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 1, 2026

- Prelude Toccatina on *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*
- Welcome & Announcements
- Choral Introit (10:30 service)
- Hymn “Lift High the Cross” # 660
- Kyrie & Hymn of Praise (pages 98-100; 10:30 service)
- Prayer of the Day
- Children’s Blue Bag Message (8:00 service)
- Noah’s Park Children’s Church (10:30 service)
- Genesis 12:1-4a and Psalm 121 (pg. 2 & 3 of bulletin)
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and John 3:1-17 (pg. 3 & 4 of bulletin)
- Message
- Hymn “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus” # 451
- Apostle’s Creed, Intercessory Prayers, The Peace (pages 105-106)
- Musical Meditation (8:00 service) *“The Love of God”*
- Offering: offering plates, website, text 419-273-9947
- Adult Choir (10:30 service)
- Lord’s Prayer (page 112)
- Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)
- Hymn “Blessed Assurance” # 638
- Doxology # 884
- Postlude *“Allegro Energico”*

Get to Know Us on:



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.**

Genesis 12:1-4a The Call of Abram

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Psalm 121

R: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

C: **My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

R: He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

C: **indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

R: The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

C: **the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

(Continued on page 3)

ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Greeters (8:00) Kathy Van Eman
Lector (8:00) Marlene Foss
Acolyte (8:00) Lynix Thomas
Greeter (10:30) Roger Overholt
Lector (10:30) Paula Johnson
Acolyte (10:30) Emmalynn Conley
Coffee Hour.... Roediger

**See the Dreamboard for a full list of
Assisting Ministers for the month**

2025 Year End Giving Statements are ready for pick up at the table by the Nursery. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Rhoades at 419-203-6296. Thank you.

Kitchen Committee Leader Needed! St. Mark’s is looking for a dedicated and organized individual to step into the role of Kitchen Committee Leader. This position will work closely with our Wednesday Night Youth and the 3rd Thursday Meal leaders to support our Evangelism, Christian Education, and Social ministries. Please contact the church office if you have questions and/or are interested in serving!

Sisters & Sips: St Mark's now has a new Women’s Bible study and fellowship opportunity, for women of all ages—Sisters and Sips! We meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Mi Ranchito, 6:30 p.m. If you would like to join us, please text Stephanie Stechsulte, 419-296-7372, just so I can make sure to grab a table large enough. However, even if you forget to text but want to come, please do! There is always room at the table for God's women of faith.

LENTEN MID-WEEK SERIES: This year our Lenten Midweek Worship Series will be based on the Northwestern Ohio Synod book of the year, “*Love Is the Way*” by Bishop Michael Curry. The series continues each Wednesday through March 25. *Our worship services will be led by a dedicated group of lay people from the congregation. Please support our ministry team leading these services by joining us at the noon or 7:30 p.m. services in the Gathering Room through 3/25!*



SPRING IS ON ITS WAY, and it's time for Spring flower orders. This year we are offering Lilies, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Daffodils. Order forms are in the Gathering Place, Elevator Room and by the front door entrance. Lilies are \$11.00 each and all others are \$9.50 each. All are in 6-7 inch pots. Deadline to order is March 1st.

Do you have a Fob, Card or Key to the Church? If you have a key, fob or card granting you entrance to the church, please report it to the church office at 419.238.6336. Meisa will check her records and make sure we have the appropriate documentation.

Bell Tower Update: Verdin has moved the bells and keyboard to their Kellogg factory for surveying and preparing detailed drawings that they will be sharing with us in the coming weeks. These will contain the frame layout, transmission, keyboard, and all connecting equipment. A Bell Tower Giving exhibit is posted on the dream board and updated at the end of each quarter when investment figures are available. Through year-end 2025, \$147,000 in giving and investment earnings received. We continue to receive offerings directed at the Bell Tower Project and thank the congregation for your generosity! As voted upon by the congregation, bell tower related expenses are first paid out of the designated bell tower fund. Once these funds are depleted, the remaining expenses are to be paid out of the property improvement fund, undesignated Memorial Fund, and the Thrivent Choice Dollars. Any questions may be directed to a Council Member, Craig Staley of Property, or Marilyn Morgan, Treasurer.



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 to see you again next Sunday!

R: The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

C: **the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Abraham Justified by Faith

⁴ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Good news in John's Gospel.

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

John 3:1-17 Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

P: Word of God. Word of life.

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

3RD THURSDAY LUNCHEON NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to help serve the meal from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for our 3rd Thursday Luncheon, please contact the church office at 419-238-6336. We served 64 in January & 73 in February including carry-outs. We could use another person or two to help. The March meal will be ham & cheese sliders, coleslaw, homemade mac & cheese and baked beans. We hope to reach more people who need help with a hot meal.

The PRAYER SHAWLS are located behind the accordion doors in the meeting room across from the office. The clipboard is hanging from a support post ready for you to let us know who you are taking a shawl to. If you know of someone who is hurting, or grieving the loss of someone feel free to pick out a shawl, date and sign the clipboard and tell us who you are taking it to. If you knit or crochet, there are patterns and yarn in the hall next to the book cart. Help yourself and help others. If you have questions please call Sharon Blank 419-203-4383.

Scholarship Applications: Due date for St. Mark's Scholarship Application is **May 1st of 2026**. Applications are in the gathering area.



HopeWood
Outdoors

Summer Camp information for Indiana www.lomik.com and Ohio www.hopewoodoutdoors.com



is online. Hopewood Outdoors does have a sign on the dreamboard with a QR code to get information. Please call the church office (Meisa 419-238-6336) with questions. They have changed how registration/payment is done. Registration may need to be done in the office. Thank you, Meisa

Thank you all so much for your donations to the PLC, it means so much to have your continued support. Because of your generous donation, we are able to bless many families with needed baby items.

Thank you and God bless, The PLC Staff

2026 JANUARY GIVING REPORT

(Approved at February 17, 2026 council meeting)

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2026</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| CURRENT EXPENSE: | \$ 24,230 | \$ 19,447 | (\$ 4,783) |
| MISSION SUPPORT: | \$ 3,486 | \$ 3,340 | (\$ 146) |
| PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT: | \$ 2,580 | \$ 2,809 | \$ 229 |
| BELL TOWER FUND | \$ 55 | \$ 4,931 | \$ 4,876 |
| SPECIAL/DESIGNATED GIFTS | \$ 256 | \$ 931 | \$ 675 |
| TOTALS: | \$ 30,607 | \$ 31,458 | \$ 851 |

Investment Funds Used for Current Expense in 2026 \$ 1,881

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:11

Thank you, Congregation, for your generosity!