

Scholarship Applications due in the office
by May 1st!

Hearth & Home presents a Community Easter Egg Hunt



Event on April 11, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. There will be light refreshments, door prizes and the Easter Bunny will pay a visit since his schedule is calmer after Easter morning!! 0-7 year olds start at 10 AM and 8-12 year olds start at 10:15 AM. Hearth & Home is located at 1118 Westwood Drive, Van Wert. For more information, please contact Meggie or Candace at 419-232-2450.

“Sounds of Liberty—an evening of Revolutionary-Era Music Celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary” will take place at First Presbyterian Church, W. Crawford St., VW on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. A special dramatic appearance will be by Isaac Van Wart. Hosted by the Isaac Van Wart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Cookie reception to follow. For more info visit the Isaac Van Wart DAR-Van Wert, OH facebook page.

Kitchen Coordinator — St. Mark’s welcomes Marcia Weldy as our new Kitchen Coordinator! Marcia will work with a team of volunteers to cover various events, along with coordinating efforts with other leaders who work to support our Evangelism, Christian Education, and Social ministries. A BIG thank you to Marcia and to those who continue to serve our church and community!

RECEPTION FOR RITA ADAM: Please join us for a reception in honor of **Rita Adam**, who has led St. Mark’s Kitchen Committee for 25 years. The reception will be held in the Gathering Area after the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 12. We thank Rita for her dedication and years of service. We hope you can be a part of this celebration.

ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer Request e-mail: stmprayer@embarqmail.com

Website: www.stmarkslutheranvw.com

April 5, 2026—EASTER SUNDAY

Prelude *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”*

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit (10:30 service)

Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **Yes! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
P: Death has no victory,
C: **Our victory is with Jesus!**
P: He is the resurrection and the life
C: **Life is ours because He lives.**
P: The stone is rolled away,
C: **The tomb is empty.**
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **Yes, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Hymn “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” # 365

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

Blue Bag Sermon (7:00 service) **Remi Thomas**

Prayer of the Day

Noah’s Park Children’s Church (10:30 service)

Acts 10:34-43 & Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (page 2 & 3 of bulletin)

Colossians 3:1-4 & John 20:1-18 (page 3 & 4 of bulletin)

Message

Hymn “Thine Is the Glory” # 376

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

Musical Meditation (7:00 service) *“The Night Before Easter”*

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

Adult Choir (10:30 service)

Holy Communion (pages 107 ff)

Lord’s Prayer (page 112)

Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)

Hymn “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia!” # 369

Doxology Sung by the Congregation **HYMN #884**

Postlude *“Christ Is Alive”*

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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### Acts 10:34-43 Peter at Cornelius's House

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 A Song of Victory

R: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

C: **Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

R: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

C: **There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

(Continued on page 3)

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.

Reminders: *Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by 1:00 p.m. AND the newsletter deadline for May is **April 20th**.*

Summer Camp information for Indiana www.lomik.com and Ohio www.hopewoodoutdoors.com is online. Hopewood Outdoors has a sign on the dreamboard with a QR code. Call the church office (Meisa 419-238-6336) with questions and for payment once parents have fully registered their child(ren). Bring your sign on information to the church to enable the church to pay online.

Geraniums Available for Planting at Church: We have



pre-ordered **45** red geraniums to purchase in honor or in memory of family, someone special or just a friend. These geraniums are from the YWCA to assist their fundraising efforts. They are first come first serve and are for planting in front of the church only. They are not available to take home. The order deadline (or until they are all spoken for) is May 11th. The cost is **\$4 per 4 1/2" pot**. Order envelopes are on the Gathering Place information table and cloak room table. Checks go to St. Mark's. Thank you

Updated Shut-in Address: **Trudy Webster**
Vancrest Assisted Lvg. Room A9
10357 Van Wert Decatur Rd., Van Wert, OH 45891

Prayer Chain Update: If anyone has a prayer request, please submit ALL requests to Meisa Coplin, Office Administrator—St. Mark's at 419-238-6336 or by email at meisacoplin@gmail.com. We will be adding a link on our church website (www.stmarkslutheranvw.com) to add a name to the prayer chain requests. If anyone would like to be on the telephone prayer chain team, please contact Meisa and your name will be added to the phone prayer chain call team.

ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Greeters.....(7:00) ...Kathy Van Eman
Lector.....(7:00) ...Warren Bowery
Comm. Servers...(7:00) ...Jana Ringwald & Randy Thompson
Acolyte.....(7:00) ...Lynix Thomas
Greeters.....(10:30) ...Gregory Pancake
Lector.....(10:30) ...Jacob Mohr
Acolytes.....(10:30) ...Gigi DeLong & Emmalynn Conley
Comm. Servers.(10:30) ...Cary Roehm, Judy Sampson,
.....Christine Krugh, Monica Campbell, &
.....Wes Thompson

LISTENING POST UPDATE: The listening post forms and envelopes are in the literature rack by the Gathering Place. Once you have filled out the form and enclosed it in the envelope, it can be put in the top right mailbox slot by the office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & REPORTS

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, **APRIL 26, 2026**. **THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THIS MEETING.** The meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary immediately following the service. *A copy of the Annual Report for 2025 will be available to pick up at St. Mark's on April 12th & 19th plus it will be attached to the Friday Announcement Emails beginning with April 10th.* If you would like a copy sent or emailed to you, please contact the church office. At this meeting, we will be voting on members for Church Council. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for the four (4) open seats during the Annual Meeting for individuals to be elected to a three-year term. Council nominations include Marc Grubaugh and Kevin Taylor. Additionally, at this meeting we will be voting on the proposal stating the recommendations by the Outreach Committee for the \$20,000 allocated from the Clara & Perry Harvey Farm Fund and \$5,000 from the non-designated investment income fund, totaling a \$25,000 Outreach distribution. A revised and council approved by-laws with highlighted changes will also be voted on to be adopted.

Get to Know Us on:



R: the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

**C: I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

R: The LORD has chastened me sorely,
but he has not given me over to death.

**C: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

R: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

**C: I thank thee that thou hast answered me
and hast become my salvation.**

R: The stone which the builders rejected
has become the head of the corner.

C: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

R: This is the day which the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Colossians 3:1-4 Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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 John's Gospel.

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

John 20:1-18 The Empty Tomb

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: Word of God. Word of life.

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

CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 5TH, 2026—Pastor Steve Nelson—EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 a.m. *Easter Sunrise Holy Communion Service*
8:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—*Roy & Jana Ringwald*
8:30 a.m. *LPE Rehearsal*
9:15 a.m. *Adult Choir Rehearsal*
10:30 a.m. *Easter Holy Communion Service*
10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

MONDAY—OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers
10:00 a.m. *A.J.'s Discussion Group Mtg.*
3:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. *AIM Committee Meeting*
6:30 p.m. *Audit Committee Meeting*

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. Catechism
6:30 p.m. The Anchor
6:30 p.m. Kid Min

THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. *Transition Team Meeting*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026—Pastor Sarah Schaaf

8:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—*Jim & Joan Holland*
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Choir
10:00 a.m. Youth 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 and in memory of
John & Marlene Freund by Naomi, Dan, Beth and Ed.

Pastor Steve Nelson is originally from Minnesota. He has served congregations in both Minnesota and Pennsylvania. His last congregation was First English Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta, where he served for 18 years. He has now been retired for 13 years and still lives in Wapak.