



The Light

St. Mark Lutheran Church

 **March 2023**

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Be sure to “spring forward” when you go to bed on Saturday, March 11, or you’ll be late for church on Sunday!



Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, March 1 – 29
11:30 a.m. (traditional)
7:30 p.m. (contemporary)

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VISION STATEMENT

St. Mark Lutheran Church glorifies God and makes disciples by making caring connections with the people of our community.



Concordia University Wisconsin Kammerchor to perform in Chesterland

Mentor High School graduate Hannah Ryan (Class of 2020) will be returning to the Cleveland area to perform with the Concordia University Wisconsin Kammerchor.

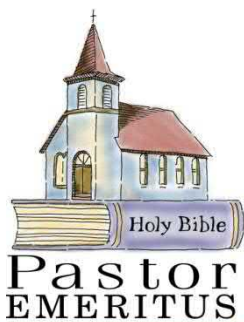
Mequon, WI – Kammerchor, Concordia University Wisconsin's select touring choir, will be singing a concert at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Chesterland, Ohio, on Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 pm as part of their 2023 spring tour. St. Mark Lutheran Church is located at 11900 Chillicothe Road. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be collected.

The choir will be singing a program consisting primarily of unaccompanied choral pieces in a variety of musical styles from the 1500s to the present. Entitled "His Wondrous Love," the concert will include selections by William Byrd, Johannes Brahms, Randall Thompson, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as others.

Kammerchor (German for "chamber choir") was founded by Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche as a small vocal group selected from concurrent membership in the Concordia Chorale. In 1981 it became established as Concordia's touring choir, and the Concordia Chorale became the chapel choir. Tours subsequently have taken Kammerchor virtually all over the continental USA, several times to Canada, and overseas to locations as varied as Brazil, Great Britain, China, Italy, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Kammerchor has provided recorded music for broadcasts of *The Lutheran Hour*, the radio ministry of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, and for *Worship for Shut-Ins*. Membership in Kammerchor is not limited to music majors, but includes students with a range of majors and minors. Kammerchor sings a wide variety of choral literature from the Renaissance to the present, including concert pieces, anthems, spirituals, and hymns.

Dr. Alexa Doebele, conductor, is professor of music at Concordia University Wisconsin, where she conducts Kammerchor, Selah, and the Chapel Choir, as well as teaches courses in music education and parish music. She has taught previously at the University of Wyoming, the University of Colorado, and Front Range Community College. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and is active as an editor of choral music. She is also active as both a solo and choral singer, having appeared with the Milwaukee Chamber Choir, Vox Antiqua, Milwaukee Choral Artists, the Colorado Conductors' Chorus, the Ars Nova Singers, and St. Martin's Chamber Choir.

For more information, call St. Mark Lutheran Church at (440) 729-1668 or the CUW Department of Music at (262) 243-4405, or visit the tour website at www.cuw.edu/springbreaktour.



“You Will Be My Witnesses...”

That is what Jesus Christ is recorded as saying in Acts 1:8.

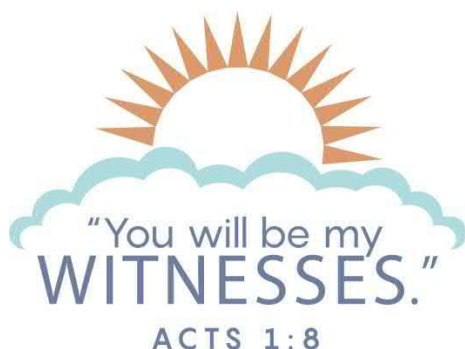
He was speaking to the disciples at the time. He said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” The importance of this is reinforced in Matthew 28:19, which says to all believers, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

I hope these words speak to all of our hearts at this time in history. As I see it, Christianity is under attack in many places world-wide, even here in our own country! It is time to speak up. It is time to take action. It is time to stand up for Jesus. More churches are closing than are opening. Some are trying to silence Christian teaching in the public arena. The percentage of those who profess to being Christian in the United States is declining, especially among the young.

Now there are many ways in which we can be a witness. I hope to write more about this in a future article. But St. Mark offers YOU an opportunity to be a witness by inviting someone to a special class on Sunday, March 19, when we resume our seven week “Life With God” course of study. These classes should meet the needs of seekers who have questions about God, those who desire to strengthen their faith by a review of eight main teachings of Christianity, and those who are interested in membership and possibly joining our church.

INVITE SOMEONE to attend this one special class. Don’t be concerned about the other six classes. They will receive a schedule of them at the end of the March 19 class and can decide later whether to return for the other classes. The class will be held in the Matthew Room from 9 a.m. sharp until 10 a.m. It’s best to enter the back entrance of the church, step into the hallway, and take the first classroom on your left. There will be signs. Feel free to come with your guest for this special class. There will be a nice gift for non-members who attend. Please REGISTER with “Pastor Ken” at 440-321-7510, and please be on time.

Pastor Ken Welsh



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



If you have any news that you would like to share with your St. Mark family, be sure to give it to **Beth Christopherson** by the third Sunday of the month, either by email or in the newsletter mailbox in the church office.

-- the church elf



- Paul Adam
- Jeff Atchley
- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Joshua Burke, studying at Bowling Green
- Donna Cartwright (mother of Diana Monaghan)
- Eloise Cavalier
- Dan Cicchella
- Tamela Cook
- Jeff Croucher (son of Ron and Pat Croucher)
- Ardis Danicic
- Dawn Dean
- Carol Deau
- Dale and Bobi Fellingner
- Gayle Fecsik
- Marti Gildersleeve
- Grace School in Haiti
- Pat Hanna
- Ted Holt
- Matt Huston (son of Rick and Cathy Huston)
- Nancy Johnson
- Betty Judkins
- Janet Kimmel (daughter of Phil Dular)
- Sarah Koester (daughter of Jim and Ruth Mowery)
- Lois Locher
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Jerry Malinowski (brother of Chris Meister)
- Sue Matzke
- Susan Matzke (mother of Pr. Mark)
- Ministry in Mission
- Stan and MaryAnn Moczulski

- Diane Molnar
- Glenn Moore (son of Bonnie Moore)
- Janie Palmer
- Beth Reksten
- Jack and Marilyn Smith
- Steppin Out Missions
- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- Julia Waltz (cousin of Kim Craig)
- Capt. Matt Webb, continuing his residency in neurosurgery
- Grace Wright, studying at Edinboro College
- WomenSafe



I would like to thank the Caring and Sharing Committee for the delightful fruit basket and also my St. Mark family for the phone calls, cards, and flowers. It truly brightened my days during my recovery from knee surgery. I feel blessed.

Pat Hanna

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Jesus says in John, "By this shall men know you are my disciples, that you love one another." We thank our brothers and sisters here at St. Mark for all your love and prayers, also food during our COVID and Connie falling, ending up with a broken arm. God bless you all.

Bob and Connie Boddy



LaDonna Frantz was called home to heaven on February 11. We thank the Lord for the gift of eternal life in Christ, and for the good LaDonna was permitted to receive in this life. May the Lord bless Allan and the Frantz family with confidence in His resurrection.





We Need a Secretary! Stop-gap measures have been taken to make sure that the most essential tasks are covered, but that is all. If you are interested in being our secretary/office manager, please contact **Dave Toth**.

St. Mark Ladies Luncheon Saturday, March 4, 12:00 noon

The annual St. Mark Ladies Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 4 at St. Mark in Fellowship Hall. The event will be catered by Corners Catering from Mantua. The cost per person attending will be \$10. Paid reservations are due to **Sue Brill** by February 25. This is a wonderful opportunity for new and more seasoned members to get to know each other. If you have any questions, please contact Sue.

After lunch there will be a brief business meeting to update all ladies present on events and projects of our Women's League and Lutheran Womens Missionary League (of which we are a part), and election of officers.



Concordia Wisconsin Choir to Visit

The choir from Concordia University – Wisconsin will be here at St. Mark on Wednesday, March 15 as part of the 7:30 p.m. midweek service. A dinner for the choir, which will be open to the congregation, will proceed the service.



Canned soups, stews, and pastas; canned tuna; canned or dry beans, canned fruits and vegetables; boxed macaroni and cheese; peanut butter and jelly – these are all items that are needed every month for the Trinity Food Pantry.

You can leave your donations at the drop-off point near the coat racks.

A note about boxed macaroni and cheese: Many do not have the milk or butter needed to make the regular mac 'n' cheese. Please consider purchasing the deluxe package that contains ready, creamy cheese in a foil packet.

-- *Chris Meister*



We are doing Easter baskets again this year for the foster children of Geauga County through Job and Family Services and the children at WomenSafe.

For those of you that are new to this mission or for those who need clarification we have Easter baskets in the narthex of the church. **Janie Palmer** and **Monica McGurer** put these baskets together for you to take home with you and fill. In the basket there is grass, bow, cellophane bag, stuffed animal and a tag. On the tag is girl/boy and age groups. This year we would also like some gender/age neutral baskets for WomenSafe.

WomenSafe is a bit of a challenge for us because the children come and go. So we never know for sure how many children there will be, age or gender. The children we like to focus on are the younger ones age 1 to about 10 years old. This is why we would like some gender neutral baskets.

We will be delivering the baskets for Job and Family Services the week of March 19, so we will need the baskets returned to the church no later than March 19.

Suggestions for gender neutral baskets would be: Gift cards to McDonald's, Wendy's etc.; candy; puzzles; games small enough to fit in a basket; books; coloring book and crayons or markers; water color paints; stuffed animals (which we supply); yo-yo; jump rope; sand toys.

For Job and Family Services we usually deliver around 100 baskets. You can choose to do a theme – for instance, baseball, and make up a basket with baseball cards, baseball hat, a ball, a book about baseball etc. You can make up any theme you want or just do a general basket.

Suggestions for Job and Family Services are the same as the list above with some other additional suggestions: toy truck or car; doll; nail polish and/or manicure items for teen girls; balls (baseball, soccer ball, football, basketball); squirt

gun; card games; T shirts; flip flops; food baskets for teenage boys (small bags of chips, cheese crackers ,little smokies, pretzels, etc.).

Be as creative as you want. Last year we had someone that bought a child size outdoor chair and filled the basket with outdoor toys. Have fun filling your basket/ baskets.

As always you can give donations to Monica and she will put a basket together for you. There is no minimum dollar amount, it's whatever you feel comfortable spending.

If you have any questions Monica attends the 10:15 a.m. service. You can talk to her before or after the service, call her at home or email her. You can also put any monetary donation in her mailbox at the church.

Please watch the church bulletin for updates. Thank You in advance. God bless all of you for your generosity,

Monica McGurer



This is to remind you that the recycling bins in the back of our parking lot are for paper and cardboard only. Please do not put anything else in there. Also, please break down any cardboard boxes.



Let Your Shopping Help St. Mark

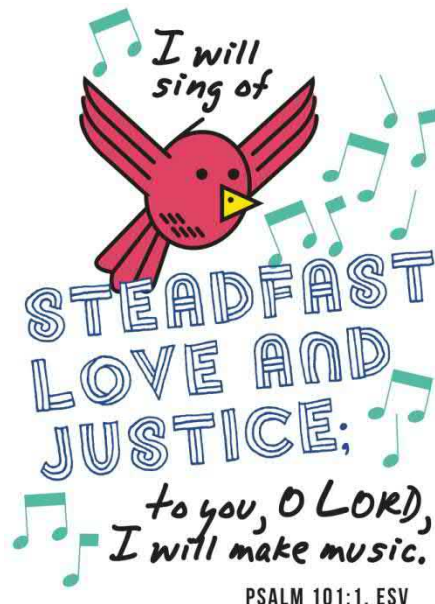
Do you shop at GFS? If so, you can support St. Mark just by doing what you are already doing! When you are checking out at GFS, please let them know that you are supporting St. Mark Lutheran in Chesterland and we will get credit for your shopping trip, which will save us money on our next trip there.

Are you looking for an Avon lady (yes, they still exist!)? Contact **Beth Christopherson**, who will donate 10% of your purchase to St. Mark Preschool.



From Caring and Sharing:

We have a family who needs assistance with cleaning supplies and paper products. In the mail room there is a bin with hearts listing these needed supplies. You can help by taking one of the hearts, purchasing the product, and returning it to the bin with the original heart attached to the item. Thank you!



GROUP MINISTRIES



Outreach MINISTRY

Faucet leaking? Is salt too heavy to put in your softener? Can't reach a light bulb? Who you gonna call? *Not Ghostbusters*, but St. Mark toolbox. A band of St. Mark members have gathered together to help those in need of small home repairs. If you need something done, you can reach someone from St. Mark Toolbox by calling **Mark Rychel**.

The Board of Outreach is planning a back-to-church Sunday on September 17, which coincides with the national back-to-church Sunday that has been observed since 2009. Watch for more information in bulletins and newsletters as we get closer to the date.



A new outdoor security system has been ordered and received, and plans are to have it installed soon.



St. Mark Sunday School is in search of any gently used books from the children's **Arch book series**. These are fantastic Bible story books and we would like to integrate these stories into our lessons for young kids. If you have any of these books that your kids or grandkids have outgrown and would like to share, we will put them to good use. Please bring them in and put them in **Kim Craig's** mailbox or in the mailroom with Kim's name on them.



The next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, March 13 from noon to 5:00 p.m.



The Fellowship Committee is planning to meet one afternoon a month with any retired or stay-at-home adults who want some socialization with others. The first meeting was Tuesday, February 21 in Fellowship Hall. We discussed our hopes and ideas going forward and how we can be part of this new group. Please plan to attend!

Fellowship Committee is also planning on providing Lenten Soup Suppers before each of the Wednesday evening services from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. starting Ash Wednesday, February 22. This is your opportunity to have supper, fellowship with others, and attend service all in about 2.5 hours. If you would like to help with one of the Lenten Suppers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact **Lori Cudnik**. Thank you for your help!



LWML Future Events

The **Spring Rally** of the Northeast Zone will be held on May 6 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 32410 Willowick Drive, Willowick. Under the theme "Savior of the Nations, Come," we will receive an update from **Jackie Rychel** on the work being done by Ministry in Mission. We will also hold election of officers.

Our **Fall Retreat** will be held on September 23 at the Environmental Learning Center/Jordan Creek Park.

And don't miss the **LWML National Convention**, June 22-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin! National conventions are always mountaintop experiences, with reports from the mission field, voting on mission grants for the next two years, and lots of singing!

Check the winter edition of *The Nor'easter* (newsletter of the Northeast Zone), the *ODE* (newsletter of the Ohio District), and the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* (published by the LWML) – all of which can be found on the Women's League table – for more information.



During the month of March, why not send your sister an Irish blessing?

"May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.
May the soft winds freshen your spirit."

May the sunshine brighten your heart
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.
And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love."

The important thing is to encourage your sister and let her know you are keeping her in prayer. All those who signed up for the 2023 Secret Sister Ministry should have heard from their Secret Sister by now. If not, please contact **Chris Meister**.

Women's League Notes

About the Plant Sale: Do we want to hold a Plant Sale again this year?

To those who are new members: we offer a Plant Sale in May comprised of hanging baskets, veggies, 4 inch pots and flats of 24 or 36 annuals. Older members need to know that participation has dropped considerably. For example, we only sold 60 hanging baskets last year compared to 110-120 in past years.

We use Urban Growers who are very well known around the area and very, very fair on their prices to us. Our prices are very competitive to nursery prices. Yes. Marc's and Walmart have cheaper prices but they definitely aren't the quality of nursery plants.

Those of us who work the plant sale truly enjoy it but we feel we need the support of the church members if we are going to continue.

Please think about this, as it will be brought up for discussion and a vote at the March 4 Ladies Luncheon. If you have any questions, contact **Lee Stone**.



CELEBRATIONS



- 1 Jennifer Brenkus
Isla Douglas
- 2 Rick Houston
- 3 Edward Gembka III
Joyce Peltz-Allin
- 4 Ardis Danicic
Ruth Mowery
Mark Ryan
Joyce Schneider
- 6 Kirk Jacobson
Elisabeth Peterson
Scott Whitney
- 7 Morgan Atwara
- 8 Dona Weber
- 10 Julia (Nicoletti) Stanley
- 11 Kimberly Craig
Megan Reed
- 12 Jennifer (Zeitz) Kattler
Kelley Meyer
- 13 Charlotte Carducci
Diane Keehl
- 14 Asher Dugan
- 15 Ryan Whitney
- 16 Emily (Schmidt) Boothby
Elizabeth Schneider
- 17 Jerry Bartels
- 18 Nicholas Rybak
- 19 Michael Hardy-Elwell
James Kinnaird
Isabella Schmidt
Chip Toth
Allison Zelznick
- 20 Donna Blankschaen
Caroline Hill
Matthew Ziccarelli
- 21 Melanie Orosz
Joseph Simonetti
- 22 Melanie Palivec
- 23 David White
- 25 Barbara Prinkey
- 26 Jenny Klopf
Robert Schneider, Sr.
- 27 Chris Ryan
- 28 Ellen Gilbert
Mark Rychel
- 29 Jeremy Hallums
Chris Turk
- 31 Doug Nass
Lina Schneider



- 1 Margot Fretz
Rick Huston
Dona Weber
- 4 Lindsey Coppock
Mark Ryan
Jillian Uchbar
- 5 David Toth II
- 8 Sue Brill
Peggy Kump
- 10 Lauren Dvorak
- 11 Bernard Komar
- 12 Ron Meister
Becky Wright
- 13 Victor Wright
- 14 Roy Blankschaen
- 15 Margita Costello
Gretchen Sutter
- 16 Tom Allen
Timothy Burke
- 17 Kiersten Wiley
Sonja Wiley
- 18 Lillian Fisher
- 19 Ryan Dvorak
Howard Mabel
Donna Toth
Brett Zeitz
- 21 Colm Dugan
- 22 Karen Miller
- 26 Ardis Danicic
Phillip Dular
Julia Stanley
- 27 Kendra Rockow
Nancy Seabrook
- 29 Geoffrey Molnar
Jenny Klopf
Kelley Meyer
Michelle Reksten
- 31 Nicholas Rybak



- Ernest & Carol Kiminecz
March 3, 1962 (61 years)
- Ray and Margaret Haserodt
March 3
- Rodger and Jennifer Dunn
March 4, 2017
- Frank and Diane Keehl
March 8, 1975
- Robert and Joyce Schneider
March 18, 1971 (52 years)
- Mike and Jennifer Dugan
March 24, 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Traditional 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:20am -	27 9:30am - Devotions 7pm - Education Board	28 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Confirmation	1 9:30am - Children's 11:30am - Lent Worship 7:30pm - Lent Worship	2 9:30am - Devotions	3 7:30pm - @ the Cross	4
5 8am - Traditional 9am - Choir (Women) 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 11:20am -	6 9:30am - Devotions 7pm - Elders' Meeting	7 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Confirmation	8 9:30am - Children's 11:30am - Lent Worship 7:30pm - Lent Worship	9 9:30am - Devotions	10 7:30pm - @ the Cross	11 8:30am - Men's Breakfast
12 8am - Traditional 9am - Choir (Men) 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 11:20am - 11:30am - Council 6pm - Lutherans in the	13 9:30am - Devotions 12pm - Red Cross Blood	14 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Confirmation	15 9:30am - Children's 11:30am - Lent Worship 7pm - CUW Choir Concert	16 9:30am - Devotions	17 7:30pm - @ the Cross	18 2:30pm - Trinity Lutheran
19 8am - Traditional 9am - Choir (All) 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:20am - 5pm - Newsletter Due	20 9:30am - Devotions	21 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Confirmation	22 9:30am - Children's 11:30am - Lent Worship 7:30pm - Lent Worship	23 9:30am - Devotions	24 7:30pm - @ the Cross	25
26 8am - Traditional 8:30am - Debt Reduction 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:20am -	27 9:30am - Devotions 7pm - Education Board	28 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study	29 9:30am - Children's 11am - Free Lunch 11:30am - Lent Worship 7:30pm - Lent Worship	30 9:30am - Devotions	31 7:30pm - @ the Cross	1 9am - Private Event**