



The Light

St. Mark Lutheran Church

December 2024

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Special Holiday Services at St. Mark

Midweek Advent Services

December 4, 11, and 18
11:30 a.m. (traditional)
and 7:00 p.m. (contemporary)

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 8
Both services

Christmas Eve Services

12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.

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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.

Sharing the Ball in the Body of Christ

As of this writing, the Cleveland Cavaliers own a perfect 13—0 record, and are sitting atop the National Basketball Association as the only undefeated team. Many things factor into this type of success, but one thing that stands out is their ability to pass the ball.

Passing the basketball, at least at the professional level, is a bit of a lost art. Modern teams tend to get bogged down by dominant players who attempt to run the offense themselves. As the Cavaliers have proven, it is much harder to stop a team that shares the ball and trusts each other to score. It is a simple concept, yet impressive to behold—a ball passed from one player to another is always going to travel faster than even the quickest athlete.

Team ministry in a healthy church functions in much the same way. A church team that “shares the ball” is able to respond to a variety of needs as they arise. The “offense” of helping and serving gets bogged down when it runs through one player alone. Much more can be accomplished when the whole team is empowered to pass and shoot, that is, cooperate in showing and telling of Jesus’ love in each situation. The New Testament epistles present this kind of vision for congregations, using analogies like the “body of Christ” to support the point. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he assembles a roster, claiming that God “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, *to equip the saints for the work of ministry*, for the building up of the body of Christ...” (4: 11—12) Carrying out the mission Jesus has given His church is a team effort, which plays out in countless ways every day.

Best of all, the victory is already won, thanks to the death and triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We can run every play in full confidence that, in the end, we will stand with the Champion!

Pastor Mark Matzke

[note from the church elf: as of this editing, the Cavs are 15-0]

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

From the Newsletter Editor



All of us on the newsletter staff wish you all of the blessings that the holiday season and new year have to offer!

-- the church elf



- Boise Bouton School in Haiti
- Building Hope in the City
- Joshua Burke, studying at Bowling Green
- Tom Chaapel (brother of Sally Ahrens)
- Dan Cicchella
- Jeff Croucher (son of Ron & Pat Croucher)
- Lori Cudnik
- Ardis Danicic
- Dale and Bobi Fellingner
- Steve Fellingner
- Grace School in Haiti
- Lynn Gross
- Kathy Hardy
- Winnie Holt
- Randy Hyde
- Nancy Johnson
- Linda Johnston (mother of Tracy Deets)
- Janet Kimmel (daughter of Phil Dular)
- Lois Locher
- Larry Long (father of Sue Matzke)
- Love and Hope Children's Home in El Salvador
- Susan Matzke (mother of Pr. Mark)
- Ministry in Mission
- Diane Molnar
- Brian Oroc (brother of Melanie Oroc)
- Melanie Oroc
- Beth Reksten
- Steven & Emma Repas, serving their residencies in emergency medicine
- Sue Ruff
- Jack Shaw
- Marilyn Smith
- Steppin Out Missions

- Trinity Lutheran, Ohio City
- Tamela White
- Scott Whitney
- WomenSafe



We extend our prayers and sympathy to: **Tamela White**, whose husband, **Cornell**, recently passed away; the family and friends of **Mike Daily**, who passed away on November 10; and the **Mowery family**, on the passing of Jim's mother, **Louise Mowery**, on November 14. May our Lord send peace and comfort to all who mourn.



Thank you everyone for your support of OCC! With the help of several volunteers, we were able to transport our Operation Christmas Child boxes to the Greater CLE East area collection point, Friends Church in Willoughby Hills. This year we collected more than 300 fun, filled, and personalized shoeboxes. This is the most that our congregation has ever collected and is a double-digit increase from our 2023 emphasis. Every box represents a Gospel opportunity. Please continue to pray that the children who receive boxes packed by our congregation will be delighted by the contents and that the Holy Spirit will grant them faith when they hear about the "Greatest Gift" - Jesus!

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Thank you to all who helped make the 2024 Gift of the Magi Christmas Boutique a huge success. Your time, talents and prayers were greatly appreciated. There were 27 vendors plus our own crafters and bakers who participated.

From the Library Committee

Check out the card rack located on the table near the entry to Fellowship Hall. There are cards for all occasions as well as calendars and other small items. You can pay for them right there in our "St. Mark Library Cardboard Church" located next to the display.



Feed the fish He is hungry. To our new members, the fish on the table in the narthex supports the feeding program at Boise Bouton School on the island of Ile-a-Vache, Haiti through the Caribbean Children's Foundation (CCF). If you read the newsletter from CCF you will learn that the children at Boise Bouton and the Grace Schools are truly feeling hunger pains as gas is at a premium and getting a boatload of food and supplies to the island is very difficult. Look for the "I am hungry" sign and please generously feed the fish! If you have any questions contact **Lee Stone**.

Food Pantry Needs

Please remember the Trinity Food Pantry when you shop at the grocery store. Needed items are canned soups, stews or pastas, canned tuna, canned beans, canned fruits and vegetables, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly. We are also accepting monetary donations to help the pantry purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Make your check out to St. Mark and put "Trinity Food Pantry" in the memo.

-- *Chris Meister*



Praise Him in the sanctuary! Do you love serving, praising and worshiping the Lord through music? If so, the Praise Team would like to talk with you. We would welcome another guitar player and percussionist to supplement our team. Interested? Please email, at wendylzimmerman@gmail.com or text or call 440-773-4732.

Have a few hours? The office is looking for someone to help 2 mornings per week. If you are interested contact **Dave Toth**. 216 210-0175.

GROUP HAPPENINGS



The next meeting of the St. Mark Book Club will be on Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the small dining room off St. Mark's Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we discuss Mary Ann Shaffer's epistolary (written in the form of letters) novel, "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society" Please feel free to pack a lunch and join us after the Advent service for extra fellowship. Questions? Need a book? Contact **Sue Matzke**. Please bring a friend or two!



The November Council meeting was held in conjunction with the congregational meeting on November 17. Council officers and board members were available to answer any questions congregation members might have about the ministries of St. Mark, and about the proposed

budget for the coming year. Treasurer **Erna Mabel** presented the proposed budget and, after discussion, the budget was accepted. Erna also noted that the mortgage should be paid off by December 2025. A slate of officers was presented by Vice President **Chris Powell** for election, and was voted in.



Christmas Time – 'Tis the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior! 'Tis the season to be jolly. 'Tis the season to reveal yourself to your Secret Sister. When you send your Secret Sister a Christmas card, now is the time to sign your name. After a year of anonymity you can disclose that you have been praying for your Secret Sister.

Women's News

Women's League

At the November Council/Congregational meeting, **Sue Brill** expressed the thanks of Women's League, and especially the members of the Boutique Committee, to all of the volunteers who made this year's boutique a success. Approximately \$8,000 was raised, which will go towards mission grants, the community lunches, and keeping the kitchen pantry stocked with supplies, among other things.



Northeast Zone
Ohio District

Mark your calendars now for the following events in 2025:

- ❖ Prayer Service: The Northeast Zone annual Prayer Service will be held on February 15 at St. Mark, Chesterland (hey, that's us!). Help of all sorts will be needed, so prayerfully consider where you can let your light shine to God's glory.
- ❖ Spring Rally: The annual Spring Rally will be held on April 26 at Our Savior, Mayfield Hts. (hey, that's practically just around the corner!). The theme of the rally is "Faith, Not Sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7), and our guest speaker will be from Lutheran Braille Workers in Akron. We will also be electing a new recording secretary for the zone.
- ❖ Fall Retreat: The Fall Retreat will be held on September 20 at the Environmental Learning Center/Jordan Creek in Concord Township. This year's theme is "It Could Be Worse – BUT God Has a Plan" (Romans 8:28).

CELEBRATIONS



- 1 Scott Mabel
- 2 Nicole Pavilonis
- 3 William Carducci
Sara Molnar
- 4 John Hosa
- 7 Bob Boddy
Todd Chambers
Robin Huston
- 9 Brady Brown
Daniel Civitarese
Adam Douglas
- 11 Pat Hanna
Camden Hedrick
- 12 Ryan Gleske
- 13 Catherine Hyde
- 16 Aiden Doll
Iris Doll
Steven Fellingner
Dwight Miller
Dawn Roth
- 17 Tom Allen
Abigail Atchley
- 18 Janet Grieshammer
Jane Haller
- 20 Tracy Deets
Polly Larrick
- 21 Elfrieda Krause
Lyla Kuchenbecker
- 23 Sue Brill
Patty Large
Kathi Roloson
- 27 Lynn Gross
William Hubley
Arabella Sharaba
- 28 Alex Fellingner
- 29 Tina Repas
Kristina Rosenbaum
Victor Wright
- 30 Emmett McCrudden
- 31 Linda Downs
Larry McGurer
Caitlin Shulman



- 1 Kathe Klein
Byron Whitney
Thomas Meyer
Marsha Olsen
- 2 Robert Schneider, Sr.
- 4 Regan Jordan
Alexander Palchick
- 5 Jennifer Schneider
Lina Schneider
- 6 Lori Cudnik
Jeff Atchley
- 11 Chad Murawski
- 14 Erna Mabel
- 15 Don Lombardy
- 17 Janet Vesbach
- 20 Todd Seabrook
- 23 Jessie Wilson
- 28 Scott Mabel
- 31 Penny Kalberer



- Kyle and Erika Ruedin
December 4, 2016
- David & Janet Grieshammer (53 years)
December 11, 1971
- Gayle & Linda Gifford
December 11, 2010
- Rob and Briana McCrudden
December 15, 2012
- Joseph and Charlotte Carducci
December 19, 1987
- Bruce and Donna Robinson
December 25, 1975
- Jim and Ruth Mowery
December 28, 1990
- Al and Patty Large
December 28, 2021
- Mark and Ann Schmidt
December 30, 1978
- Steven and Emma Repas
December 30, 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 8am - Traditional 9am - Choir - Women 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 11:15am - Women's 11:20am - 6pm - Confirmation Class | 2 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions 7pm - Elders' Meeting | 3 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal | 4 9:30am - Children's 10:30am - Office Hours 11:30am - Advent Midday 7pm - Advent Evening | 5 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 6 7:30pm - @the Cross | 7 9am - Decorate Church 2pm - Celebration of |
| 8 8am - Traditional Service 9am - Choir-Men 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 11:20am - 11:30am - Council 7pm - Evening Bible | 9 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 10 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal | 11 9:30am - Children's 10:30am - Office Hours 11:30am - Advent Midday 1pm - St. Mark Book Club 7pm - Advent Evening | 12 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 13 7:30pm - @the Cross | 14 8:30am - Men's Breakfast |
| 15 8am - Traditional 9am - Choir -all 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:20am - 5pm - Newsletter Due | 16 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 17 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study 7pm - Handbell Rehearsal | 18 9:30am - Children's 10:30am - Office Hours 11am - Community Free 11:30am - Advent Midday 3pm - Christmas Carol 7pm - Advent Evening | 19 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 20 12pm - Red Cross Blood 7:30pm - @the Cross | 21 10:30am - Trinity |
| 22 8am - Traditional 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Contemporary 11:20am - 7pm - Evening Bible | 23 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions 7pm - Education Board | 24 12pm - Christmas Eve 5pm - Christmas Eve | 25 10am - Christmas Day | 26 9am - Office Hours | 27 7:30pm - @the Cross | 28 |
| 29 7:30am - Traditional 9:15am - Education Hour 10:15am - Blended 11:20am - | 30 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Devotions | 31 9:30am - Prayer Group 11am - Bible Study | 1 | 2 9:30am - Devotions 10am - Office Hours | 3 7:30pm - @the Cross | 4 |