

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
302 East Pearl St.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895



St. Mark's Messenger, April 2025

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Pastor Doug's Letter

Greetings Good People,

May this Lent draw you into a deeper relationship with Jesus as you come to know him more fully and as you seek to serve him more faithfully.

This Lent I have invited you to fill up two cups, the **To Be Cup** and the **To Do Cup**. With these two cups sitting on your eating table, you are invited to reflect each day on what you have done to **be** more Christ-like and to **do** more like Jesus.

As I have begun preparations for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, I have been reminded once again how little time we in the church spend reflecting on the Passion of Jesus, that is, his suffering, death and resurrection for our sakes and for the sake of the world. The Gospel writers consider this final week of his life to be worth a quarter of their words. Their fast-paced action of the first three quarters of their writings slows down as each writer reflects on the events and the meaning of Jesus' Passion.

Simultaneously, I have been listening to James Finely reflect on ***The Interior Castle*** by St. Theresa of Avila. In this spiritual classic on prayer, St. Theresa invites us to imagine our soul being like an immense crystal castle with seven mansions. Through contemplative prayer we are invited to explore each mansion until we reach the seventh mansion where the pray-er and God become fully one with one another. Again and again, James Finely invites his listeners to a daily rendezvous with God in order to allow that union with God to begin in our prayer time and then flow into the rest of the day.

Also simultaneously, I have been reading of the absolute necessity to turn away from in our media-pulsing, crises-pounding, performance-driven world to turn to mindfulness, which is what the Christian mystics have been teaching for centuries. We are to pay attention to Christ by turning from the distractions of this world which lead to busyness, hurry, and folly.

I realized that I have not encouraged you all with sufficient vigor to pray contemplatively. To my dismay I realized that I taught my catechism students **about** prayer but have not sufficiently shown them **how to** pray. I hope at their young age that they might begin to integrate prayer practice into their lives before the world claims their souls with its 24/7 insistence upon stimulation and attention to itself.

So, to that end, I have prepared an exercise for them that I mailed to them prior to departing for our pilgrimage to Rome and Italy. Then it occurred to me that, perhaps, there might be others among us who would also like to become more adept at hearing Jesus speak. So, I have attached the prayer sheet suggestion I sent them.

Peace,

Pastor Doug

Praying the Passion of Jesus

In all four Gospels, the writers tell the Passion of Jesus (his suffering, death, and resurrection) in enough detail to take up one fourth their length. Yet, on Sundays we spend less than one week out of fifty-two weeks hearing these stories. This Lent I invite you to consider praying the Passion of Jesus daily. I invite you to consider using the following format:

- **Place** – Sit where you are alone and free from distractions.
- **Prepare** – For 1-5 minutes, pay attention to your breath, center in, and get quiet.
- **Pray** – “I ask for the grace that I desire that I might know Jesus & his sufferings & his love.”
- **Passage** – Slowly read the assigned passage, pause, and reread it twice more, slowly.
- **Imagine** – Sense the scene; see, hear, & feel it; become a participant in it.
- **Presence** – Be present to the story as long as possible, 1-15 minutes.
- **Petition** – Ask God for whatever gift or grace this passage invites you to ask.
- **Thanksgiving** – Give thanks to God for this time together.

March 23	Luke 19:28-40	Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
March 24	Luke 19:41-44	Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem
March 25	Luke 19:45-48	Jesus Cleanses the Temple
March 26	Luke 20:1-8	The Authority of Jesus Questioned
March 27	Luke 20:9-19	The Parable of The Wicked Tenants
March 28	Luke 20:20-26	The Question About Paying Taxes
March 29	Luke 20:27-40	The Question About the Resurrection
March 30	Luke 20:41-48	The Question About David's Son
March 31	Luke 21:1-4	The Widow's Offering
April 1	Luke 21:5-19	The Destruction of The Temple Foretold
April 2	Luke 21:20-28	The Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold
April 3	Luke 21:29-38	The Lesson of The Fig Tree and the Exhortation to Watch
April 4	Luke 22:1-6	The Plot to Kill Jesus
April 5	Luke 22:7-13	The Preparation of The Passover
April 6	Luke 22:14-23	The Institution of The Lord's Supper

April 7	Luke 22:24-30	The Dispute About Greatness
April 8	Luke 22:31-38	Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial; Purse, Bag, and Sword
April 9	Luke 22:39-46	Jesus Prays on The Mount of Olives
April 10	Luke 22:47-53	The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus
April 11	Luke 22:54-62	Peter Denies Jesus
April 12	Luke 22:63-65	The Mocking and Beating of Jesus
April 13	Luke 22:66-71	Jesus Before the Council
April 14	Luke 23:1-5	Jesus Before Pilate
April 15	Luke 23:6-12	Jesus Before Herod
April 16	Luke 23:13-25	Jesus Sentenced to Death
April 17	Luke 23:26-43	The Crucifixion of Jesus
April 18	Luke 23:44-49	The Death of Jesus
April 19	Luke 23:50-56	The Burial of Jesus
April 20	Luke 24:1-12	The Resurrection of Jesus
April 21	Luke 24:13-35	The Walk to Emmaus
April 22	Luke 24:36-49	Jesus Appears to The Disciples
April 23	Luke 24:50-53	The Ascension of Jesus



In the Spotlight

There are several servants of the Lord who have been contributing to the maintenance, upkeep and beautification of our church facility. Thanks to Willie Winter, Paul Fox, Rod Metz, JP Metz, Amanda Wilder and Marguerite Wallen who see to such things as lawn care, weeding, flowers, lightbulbs, arranging annual maintenance, prioritizing needed upkeep projects and cleaning. (This list does not include the members who quietly take care of things without anyone knowing 😊)

Call, text (567-356-6799) or email the church office to let Pastor Doug know if you are interested in being a part of serving the Lord with your property and maintenance abilities.

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday — Worship at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 12 @ 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 13 @ 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday — Tri-Congregational Worship at First English Lutheran Church

Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday — Tri-Congregational Worship at St. Paul United Church of Christ

Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 pm

Easter — Worship at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 19 @ 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 20 @ 10:15 am

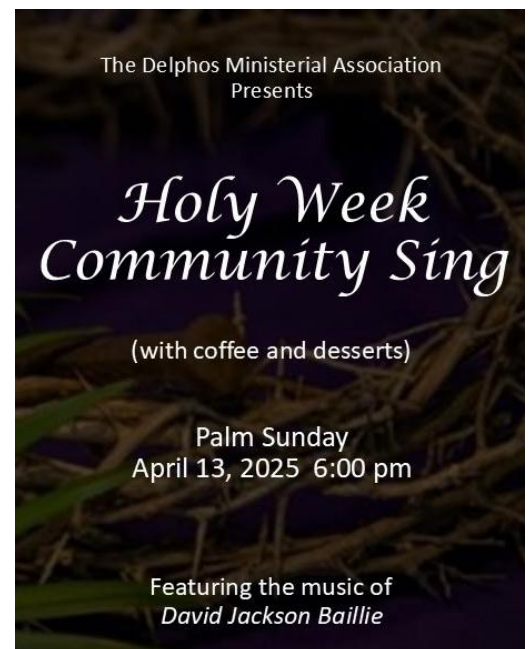
Senior Lunch and Learn

All are invited to attend the next Senior Lunch and Learn, which will be held on Tuesday, April 8, Noon, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our special speaker for the day will be Becky Niekamp, RD, LD, Registered Dietitian with St Rita's Mercy Health. She will speak about good nutrition, easy meals for the small household, and more! The meal will be provided by the Whaling Knife (downtown Wapakoneta). Please RSVP by calling Darlene Risner 419-202-5553 by Thursday, April 3. All are welcome! Bring a friend!



Genesis to Revelation in Scripture & Song

Come hear the story of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation told through readings and song. The featured musician is David Jackson Baillie, a seventeen-year-old piano prodigy. Pastor Carol will be singing *Via Delarosa*, and Pastor Doug will be telling the second creation story from Genesis. The Delphos Ministerial Association is putting on this Holy Week Community Sing at 6:00 pm on Palm Sunday, April 13 at the Delphos Trinity Life Center, 702 Ambrose Drive, Delphos.



In the Footsteps of Martin Luther



Pastor Dave from St. Luke's, Lima, and his wife Beth, pastor of St. John's Lutheran in Bellevue, are hosting a tour of the Lutheran Holy Land in Germany this October. The tour: **Reformation in Germany – In the Footsteps of Martin Luther**, is October 7-15, 2025, and follows on the heels of the traditional Oktoberfest. Experienced travelers, Pastors Dave and Beth have been to the region before and are anxious to get you acquainted with Luther and the people and places associated with the Reformation in Germany. If you are interested, you may visit www.eo.travelwithus and search for the tour **Reformation in Germany**. or you can contact Pastor Dave at pastordavedelc@gmail.com, or by phone at 419-455-0513.

Diaper Shower

Our administrative assistnat, Elaine, is expecting a baby in July. The Worship & Music Committee is throwing a "Diaper Shower" for her on Sunday, April 6, after the worship service during fellowship. let's "shower" her with diapers and baby wipes to celebrate her precious gift from God. Please bring diapers to our gathering space to gift her with an abundance of diapers!!

Leftover Garage Sale or Spring Cleaning Items

Miracle Meal Inc. is asking all area churches for any leftover garage sale items or from spring clean-up that you would like to donate or give away at this year's Miracle Meal. Contact Rollie Kent at 419-905-9360 or rkent1@woh.rr.com for pick-up. Please no clothing except coats, sweaters, hats or gloves. Thank you from Rollie Kent and the Miracle Meal Board!



Prayer Partners Needed

Pastor Doug regrets he did not arrange prayer partners for our seven catechism students. Even though the first year is two thirds gone, if you are willing to pray for a catechism student on a regular basis (& perhaps give a gift or two), please contact Pastor Doug.



The Kiwanis Club is reaching out to the community.

"Donate your gently used sports equipment to those in need and "Play it Forward" for someone to enjoy the game."

"PLAY IT FORWARD"
WITH KIWANIS

COLLECTION BINS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS.
MARCH 22 - APRIL 4
YMCA, MCDONALD'S, COMMUNITY MARKETS, WAC, & FIT
DISTRIBUTION DAY APRIL 5TH @ VETERANS PARK SHELTER HOUSE
HOURS 9-11 AND 1-3





FROM PASSOVER TO PASCHAL

AT DO GOOD

Tuesday, April 8
Wednesday, April 9
Thursday, April 10

Travel back in time and spend an evening in Jerusalem celebrating Passover just as Jesus and the Holy Family would have! Do Good will be transformed into biblical times with “sukkah” tent coverings over our tables and other authentic decor. Guests will enjoy a Passover meal served by “servants” dressed in biblical attire, and each group will receive a traditional Seder plate. Listen as guest speakers explain the meaning of Passover and how it has been transformed by Jesus Christ’s Passion and glorious Resurrection. We hope this experience may help to prepare your hearts and minds for Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Doors open at 5:30 pm | Dinner served at 6:00 pm

* Reservations are required to attend this event. To place your reservation, please email jordynkoverman@dogoodrm.com.

The Passover meal consists of Brisket, Potato Kugel, Choraset, Roasted Carrot and Sweet Potato, and Matza Bread. Each group will also receive one complimentary Seder plate with symbolic food items on it.

Adult Passover meal with a glass of wine \$16

Adult Passover meal without wine \$14

Children’s Passover meal (smaller portion) \$12

Children’s mac and cheese with applesauce \$6

Take home an extra Seder plate for \$2.50 (*food not included*)

* *Payment for meals must be made when placing the reservation.*

Please note Do Good will be closing early at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, and 3:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday in preparation of the events on each day.

“And He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’” Luke 22:15





Top from Left to Right: Lyla Wilder, Steve Heitz, Karen Numbers, Carol Garber, Cindy Klosterman, Tracy Blake, and Sandy Davis are pictured preparing meals for Loaves & Fishes.

Bottom from Left to Right: Karen Numbers, Cindy Klosterman, Carol Garber, Tracy Blake, Carol Rogers, Kay Ault, and Tina Waltz are pictured preparing meals for the St. Joseph noon Lenten Service.



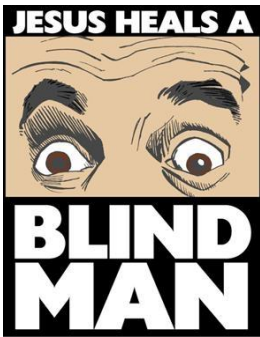
Worship Services for April

April 6 **Blindness** Fifth Sunday in Lent TSC Taping Sunday Communion

Psalm 84 Luke 18:31-19:10

Those Who Cannot See

Jericho is a city of palm trees located on the Jordan River. Across the river is the barren desert. Rising up behind the city is Mount Sinai; the holy city of Jerusalem can barely be seen in the hazy ten-mile distance. But distance is not the only thing that keeps people from seeing the City of God. In today's Gospel we encounter blind disciples, a blind man, and a short man.



April 13 **Triumphal Entry** Palm/Passion Sunday Communion

Luke 19:29-44 Psalm 69:1-21 Luke 22:1-23:56

The Passion of Jesus

Today is the start of Holy Week. We begin today with the remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. We conclude by recalling his suffering, crucifixion and death.



April 17 **Maundy Thursday** 7:00 pm Communion Worship Service @ **First English**

Luke 22:1-27 Psalm 34



April 18 **Good Friday** 7:00 pm Worship Service @ **St. Paul**

Luke 23:32-47 Psalm 31:5-13

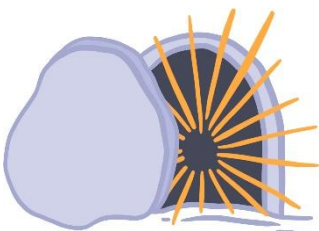


April 20 **Resurrection of Our Lord** Easter Sunday Communion

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Psalm 118:15-24 Luke 24:1-12

The Last Enemy to be Destroyed is Death

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with hymns of praise and shouts of joy. Truly, this changes everything.



Hope is Alive

April 27 **Emmaus Road** Second Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday

Psalm 30 Luke 24:13-35

Mourning Into Dancing

Today, in one of the most dramatic Easter stories, we hear of two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus on the day of Jesus' resurrection. They do not recognize him, but he knows them. Jesus turns their mourning into dancing.



THE **ROAD TO**
EMMAUS

Thank You Notes Received

Your kind expressions
of sympathy are much
appreciated. Blessings

Your kind expression
of sympathy and
friendship will always
remain in our memories.

Thank you for your
thoughtfulness.

The Family of
Howell Headapohl

Dear St Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$460.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*"[Jesus said,] 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor
to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' [The lawyer] said,
'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Giving, Service and Justice
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response



Happy Birthday to...

Jean Thompson	April 1	Julie Miars Golden	April 19
Brandon Wilson	April 4	Caleb Hicks	April 20
Mark Swaney	April 7	Rod Miller	April 22
Stephanie Kiefer	April 8	Bryce Converse	April 24
Rylie Jeanneret	April 12	Jeanne Clark	April 26
Avery Kiefer	April 12	Sarah Garber	April 27
Caleb Kiefer	April 12	Nathan Doll	April 30
Carol Jeanneret	April 13		

St. Mark's Motto

Be God's Grace in Action

St. Mark's Mission

St. Mark's Mission is to fulfill the Great Commission by extending God's Grace to all people.

St. Mark's Vision

St. Mark's will transform the Wapakoneta area and the world into a community of love by connecting the disconnected to God's grace and salvation.

We welcome, support, and care for all people.

Pastor	Doug Pretorius	PastorDougP@gmail.com	419-512-4491
Administrative Assistant	Elaine Hawkins	StMarksWapak302@gmail.com	
Church Musician	Melissa Grunden		
Custodian	Amanda Wilder		
Technology Coordinator	Dustin Jeanneret		



April 2025 – St. Mark’s Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 12p- Lent Worship 6p- Simple Supper 7p- Lenten Service 7:30p- Choir Pract.	3	4	5 8a- Men’s Bible Study 5p Communion
6 TSC Taping 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Communion	7	8 9a- Preschool Chapel 8p- Finance Mtg.	9 10:30a- Gardens 12p- Lent Wshp. 6p- Simple Supper 7p- Lenten Service 7:30p- Catechism 7:30p- Choir Pract.	10 9a- Preschl. Chapel 10:30a- Otterbein Worship 6p- Council Mtg.	11	12 5p Communion
13 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Communion <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 7:30p- Property Meeting	15 9a- Preschool Capel	16 10:30a- Gardens 6:45p- Catechism	17 9a- Pre. Chapel 7p- Maundy Thursday Serv. @ First English	18 7p- Good Friday Service @ St. Paul UCC	19 8a- Men’s Bible Study 5p Communion
20 10:15a- Communion <i>Easter</i>	21	22	23 5:30p- Worship & Music Meeting 6:45p- Catechism	24	25	26 5p Communion
27 9a- SS for All 10:15a- Worship Youth Sunday	28	29	30 6:45p- Catechism			

April Who Does What?

10:15am Sunday	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr
Greeters, Pearl St	Marlow Johnston Barb Srisongkham	Karl Schlegel Shelley Koch	Dick Ault Jeanne Clark	Susie LaMarr Landon Baeumel
Greeters, Seltzer St & Offering	Paula & Ashley Schmerge	Cindy Klosterman JP Metz	Karen Numners Tracy Blake	Jacob Hicks, Nate Garber Ella Price
Bulletins & Offering	Amanda Schmerge Deb Osborne	Collin Lenhart Ron Lenhart	Mandy Wilder Lyla Wilder	Kelsey Schneider Grace LaMarr
Candle Lighter	Evelyn Oen	Ethan Dickey	Ella Price	Avery Newman
Cross Bearer	Avery Newman	Kelsey Schneider	Ethan Dickey	Ella Price
Reader	Taryn Newman	Chad Doll	Karen Lenhart	Lyla Wilder
PowerPoint	Chad Doll	Mike Burton	Shelley Koch	
Communion	Courtney Burton	Meddy Ruck	Tina Waltz	X
Servers	Mike Burton	Karl Schlegel	Julie Miars Golden	
Song Leader(s)	Kristin Doll	Jen Garber	Nelson Golden	Lyla Wilder, Kaylee Dickey, Addi Fisher, Gabby Raney, Kenzie Schneider, Kerrigan Lenhart
Fellowship	Elaine Hawkins	Karen Lenhart	Tina Waltz	Carol Rogers
Sound Tech	Chad Doll	Rich Garber	Chris Sorensen	Blake Rogers, Trent Lisi
Video Tech	Rich Garber	Dustin Jeanneret	Elaine Hawkins	Dustin Jeanneret
5:00pm Saturday	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
Greeter	Mark Swaney	Dianne Knipp	Alex Rompilla	Laura Heitz
Bulletins	Sandy Swaney	Marguerite Wallen	Connie Rompilla	Barb Srisongkham
Reader	Mark Swaney	Alex Rompilla	Melissa Grunden	Laura Heitz
Communion	Carol Jeanneret	Carol Pretorius	Alex Rompilla	Terry Shoup
Servers	Betty Elsass	Dianne Knipp	Connie Rompilla	Barb Srisongkham
Singer	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius	Carol Pretorius
Musician	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden	Melissa Grunden
Altar Guild for the Month of April: Trish Miller, Karen Numbers, Carol Rogers				