

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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March 2022

Upcoming Events

Wed., Mar. 2nd – Ash Wednesday – see article

Wed., Mar. 9th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church.

Wed., Mar. 9th through April 13th – Lenten
Bible study at St. Mark's Sanctuary

Sun., Mar. 20th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Wed., Mar. 23rd – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at
St. Mark's Church.

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Lenten Bible Study

From March 9th through April 13th,
Pastor Dave will be holding a
Lenten devotional Bible study on
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
These classes will consist of a
short meditation with time of
prayer and will be held in the
sanctuary. Please join us as we
take our Lenten journey in
preparation for Easter.

Prayer Chain Requests In February

Family of Connor Delaney
Family of Judy Berard
Family of Renee
Family of Charles Serrie, Sr.
Family of Norwood Tompkins
Family of Jim Meinsma
Family of Michael Chacon

Mark Wainright
Friar Peter
Sue Rumph
Pastor Richard Blue
Renee & Laraine
Adrianna Blessner
Mardi Massaroni
Sarah
Amy Cox
Ryan
Gloria Jahnke
Harry Amendola
Dan Zaloga
Austin Roney
Gianna
Charlie Fremgen

Thought for the Day:

You never so touch the ocean of
God's love as when you forgive
and love your enemies.

- Corrie ten Boom

Rediscovering Lent

Lent is the forty day period leading up to Easter, excluding Sundays. Easter is traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon — officially called "Paschal Full Moon" — that comes on or just after the spring equinox. If the spring equinox is on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. The spring equinox this year is March 20th, the next full moon is April 16th which makes April 17th Easter. When we count back forty days, excluding Sundays, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten journey for 2022.

Why is Lent forty days long? There are many events in the Bible that had the number forty as a designated marker. Here are a few examples: Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God, Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb, God sent 40 days and nights of rain in the great flood of Noah, the Hebrew people wandered 40 years in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land, Jonah's prophecy of judgment gave 40 days to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed, Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. Jesus overcame all three of Satan's temptations by citing scripture to the devil, at which point the devil left him, angels ministered to Jesus, and He began His ministry. Jesus further said that His disciples should fast "when the bridegroom shall be taken from them", a reference to his Passion. Since, presumably, the Apostles fasted as they mourned the death of Jesus, Christians have traditionally fasted during the annual commemoration of his burial. It is the traditional belief that Jesus lay for 40 hours in the tomb, which covered a span of three days which are designated as Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday.

What is Lent for? Lent is our period of preparation for Easter. It is accomplished through prayer, mortifying the flesh (an act by which an individual seeks to put to death their sinful nature, as a part of the process of sanctification), repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living, and self-denial. When we look at Jesus' time in the wilderness, he denied himself the conveniences of readily available food, water, and the fellowship / companionship of others.

In this Lenten season let each of us look at the quality and quantity of our prayer life and how we might enhance and improve it. Let us look at what we think sin is and then consider what we may have allowed in our lives that goes against God's will, and then let us repent from it. Alms are the money, food, and material items that we are able to give to improve the quality of life for those living in poverty. Living more simply and loving more purely are truly following in the footsteps of Jesus. Finally, self denial begins with fasting. Fasting isn't always about going without food for a set period of time. Health wise, fasting from eating isn't a good idea for those of us who may not be physically ready to attempt it even if we believe we are mentally ready. Fasting can be about giving up or reducing what we consume or what consumes us and our time. Can we reduce the time we spend with all of our technologies? Can we reduce or change what and/or how much we eat? Can we utilize the time we gain by appreciating the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us; by being in God's word more; by praying more; by just being still and knowing that God is with us?

Throughout our lives we prepare for our education, our vocations and employment, our vacations, and our futures. Let us make the most of this time, this year, by preparing ourselves to be resurrected anew on Easter Sunday. Remember the Bible was not just given for our information, it was given to us for our transformation.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

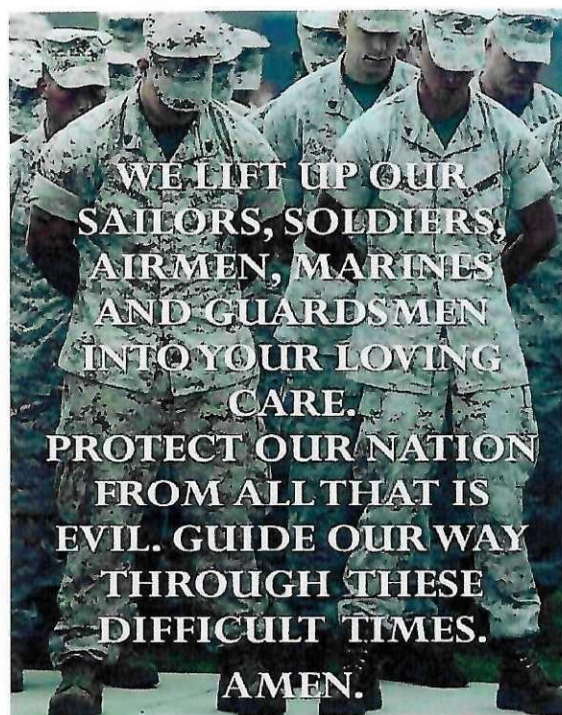
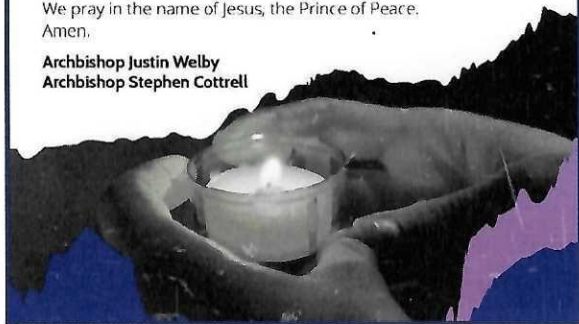
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Prayer Warriors....man your stations. We are being called into battle using our most powerful weapon – **prayer**. Please pray for all men, women and children whose lives have been disrupted and affected by conflicts in Eastern Europe and in other places around the world. Please also pray for the protection of those serving in the U.S. armed forces who are being deployed to those areas. Remember, the battle belongs to the Lord and as His prayer warriors, we do our best fighting on our knees.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



**When Prayer
becomes
your habit,
miracles
become your
lifestyle.**

**Never give up
on Prayer,
no matter
what comes
your way.**



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 3, 2022

There will be a special congregational meeting immediately following our worship service on Sunday, April 3, 2022. The meeting has been called to discuss a proposed amendment to St. Mark's Constitution, Chapter 12, Section 12.05c.

Chapter 12 provides information regarding the members of our Church Council and their responsibilities as our governing body. Section 12.05 gives specifics regarding their responsibility for financial and property matters.

12.05c currently reads as follows:

*The Church Council may enter into contracts of up to **5%** of the annual budget for items not included in the budget.*

Our budget for 2022 is \$52,100. As it currently reads, at 5% our Council may enter into contracts no more than \$2,605.

The proposed amendment is to change from a percentage to a flat dollar amount. It reads:

*The Church Council may enter into contracts for up to **\$10,000** for items not included in the budget.*

Please note the congregation will be kept apprised of Council's decisions regarding finances and property.

Altar Paraments

Age, wear, floods and dry cleaning have taken a toll on the condition of our altar paraments, and they are now beyond repair. Therefore, we would like to purchase new ones. The estimated cost to purchase a full set is between \$350 and \$500. Since we have several liturgical seasons, replacements will be needed for each one. Please prayerfully consider making a monetary donation to help us defray the cost of new altar paraments.



"Souper Bowl" Sunday 2/13/22

The game was nearing the end of the 4th quarter. The score was tied with St. Mark's team at the one-yard line. With the final snap, quarterback Jesus threw a pass. The crowd went wild and roared with excitement and joy as the referee signaled a touchdown.

The winner of our "Souper Bowl" Sunday game is St. Mark's food pantry and all those who will be recipients of the various kinds of soup you donated. Thank you for your support and your generosity in helping to feed those in need.

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Servers for March

Mar. 6th:

Reader – Edna

Prayer – Ron

Ushers – Marie / Deb R.

Counter – Sharon N.

Mar. 13th:

Reader – Bob

Prayer – Carolyn

Ushers – Dennis F. / Greg

Counter – Diane

Mar. 20th:

Reader – Lori

Prayer – Georgia

Ushers – Bob / Peggi

Counter – Carrie

Mar. 27th:

Reader – Deb P.

Prayer – Cheryl

Ushers – Tom / Ginny

Counter – Deb P.

Ushers Wanted!!

Beginning in March, we will reinstate ushers during our worship service. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Cheryl and she will include your name on our server list. She will also be able to answer any questions you may have about what the duties of an usher are.

March Birthdays:

Carrie Foland	Mar. 1
Jim Brigadier	Mar. 14
Cheryl Cater	Mar. 19
Dean Roney	Mar. 22
Linda Amond	Mar. 26
Ginny Tinney	Mar. 27

March Anniversaries:

Pastor Dave / Melody	Mar. 24
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The congregation of St. Mark's was founded in 1824. In 2024, our church will celebrate its 200th anniversary. It is our desire to have a celebration that honors and glorifies God for the opportunity He gave us to reflect His light in our community for so many years. A celebration like this will take much planning and sharing of ideas as well as organization. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please contact Diane France or Georgia VanDyke.



Movie Night at St. Mark's

On February 26, St. Mark's hosted a movie night where 20 people came together to enjoy the Sight and Sound Theater production of "Joseph". Stay tuned for future movie nights with delicious snacks and fellowship.



Fellowship Time



Is it 6:30 yet?



Yummy!!



Guess who???



Believe me...it was this high!