



## Disciples of Jesus, Connecting Our Community to Christ

Hello St. Mark,

Welcome! Please visit our website to find our Sunday livestream, worship videos, Sunday bulletins, an audio bible, personal devotions, calendars and more.

[Visit our Website](#)

## President's News

**"Gratitude  
is the inward feeling  
of kindness received.  
Thankfulness  
is the natural impulse  
to express that feeling.  
Thanksgiving  
is the following  
of that impulse."  
—HENRY VAN DYKE**



November has many days of recognition that inspire a myriad of thoughts and memories. Among the days of recognition or commemoration are All Saints Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christ the King Sunday (or last Sunday of the church year).

Thanksgiving can encompass many of the thoughts we have on the other special days – memories of things or people for which we are thankful. "Come ye thankful people come... God our Maker does provide all our wants to be supplied..." This is from one of my favorite hymns; a hymn that describes how truly blessed we are. This year, with Thanksgiving arriving so late, the last verse is especially meaningful since the church year will end on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Like the last verse in the hymn, the last Sunday of the church year reminds us that life on this earth will also come to an end when our Savior returns on the Last Day. But until that day, we should

demonstrate our thankfulness in all that we do.

As we move through the month of November starting with the change of clocks by one hour on the first Sunday (11/3), let us take time to reflect and be thankful; unlike television and most stores which have already overshadowed Thanksgiving by concentrating on Halloween and Christmas. With praise and thanksgiving may you act and give out of the abundance that God has provided for you so richly and dearly each day of your life.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,  
Kristen Waterstram-Rich

## Thank You, Veterans!

To all Veterans,  
Your service to our  
country is a debt we  
can never fully repay,  
but one for which we  
will be eternally  
thankful.



## Ladies Aid



### Operation Christmas Child

As you shop for back to school, pick up items for Operation Christmas Child! Shoeboxes are packed for a boy or a girl ages 2-4, ages 5-9, or ages 10-14 with fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.

Please **do not** include food, candy or gum; toothpaste; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; wearable traditional camouflage; liquids; medications; money; breakable items; matches, fire starters or

aerosols; knife, saw or razor blades.

Items can be placed in the collection box located inside the church entrance. Lists & empty shoeboxes will be available. We will be collecting items through Sunday, November 3.

They will be packed on Saturday, November 9 & delivered to a local Operation Christmas Child collection site. Please contact Nancy Connorton [njc1111@yahoo.com](mailto:njc1111@yahoo.com) or Vickie Laube [vlaube24@yahoo.com](mailto:vlaube24@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Saturday November 9, 11am - Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing event

Saturday December 14, 11am- Planning for next year's events

## Transitions

God works in wondrous ways. He changes us and plants us where we can serve and grow. Continued prayers for St. Mark as we start anew with the arrival of Pastor Urlaub and his family! God has temporarily transplanted me as well. I will be spending several months in N.C. near my daughter and grandchildren. Mixed feelings as I have had to give up facilitating the Community Bible Study group meeting here Thursday mornings. I have confidence God will open doors here. Saddened that the study ended, but excited for all of us to experience change with new leadership!



Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that for most of us in this country we can simply turn on a faucet and get a drink of clean water? According to Wikipedia a human can go 2-3 months without food and survive, but only 3-5 days without water! The account in John chapter 4 about Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well is familiar to many. This woman with a "questionable" past has a life-changing encounter with her savior. She came to physically draw water, but He saw that she truly needed to be spiritually refreshed. In a world that is a true spiritual desert, what quenches your thirst? God's word promises to satisfy our thirst. John 7:37-38 "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." How are you refreshing your thirst? Come, just like the woman, a broken sinner, come to the well. We are renewed in worship, sharing the word, and fellowship with one another. Let God make you the source of living water to all those around you!

*Kathy Stranford*

## Stewardship



What do the World Wildlife Fund, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and WXXI have in common? They all run pledge drives – and not just for a one-time donation, but for monthly help. As your Stewardship Committee gets ready for another year, we'd like to borrow a trick or two from these organizations and start our own pledge drive – especially

since we are at a critical moment for St. Mark.

At our last Voters Assembly meeting, we discussed our budget and the concerns regarding the financial well-being of the congregation. Like many churches around the country, we haven't returned to our pre-COVID attendance numbers and we have fewer people giving regularly in the collections. Our financial team's careful management has stood us in good stead and we are not in debt, however, we now face the agreeable prospect of getting a full-time pastor and that will mean a substantial increase in our financial needs.

In Malachi 3:10, God challenges us by saying, "Bring all the tithes into the store houses that there may be food in my house, and try me now in this" says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

God wants His people to have their needs fulfilled but He also asks us to step up and move forward in faith to partner with Him. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, God tells us that as stewards we own nothing of our own but are simply charged to manage what God has entrusted to us. Luke 12:42-43 tells us that the faithful and wise steward will be rewarded when his Master returns.

Now is the time to look to our own blessings and see how we can bless our church and community by sharing our wealth.

Your Stewardship Chair,  
Monica Smith

## *Received Thank You*

St. Mark joined with Pinnacle Lutheran in collecting hygiene items to be given to the guests at the House of Mercy. Recently we received a note from House of Mercy thanking us for the bags of items.

"The guests at the House of Mercy are really enjoying their bags and wearing them proudly... The snacks and hair products were a huge hit, and it was neat to see everyone commenting about each item they pulled out of their bags. Our guests were surprised at how much the bags contained! They commented about how much thought they felt it took to select the contents. They really felt special because of what your church group did for them. Thank you!"



## *Community Events*

# 54th Annual Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 16, 2024

9 AM – 3 PM

Bloomfield High School

Oakmount Avenue



**120 craft spaces**  
**Free admission & parking**  
**Handicap accessible**

Bring Your Holiday Shopping List!

Sponsored by the Ionia United Methodist Church

## Eastern District Events

### *LWML Fall Event*

Saturday, November 2, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 146 Reserve Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224 from 9am – noon. Breakfast foods and beverages will be available. Registration fee is \$5 and Mites monies will be collected. RSVP to Sharon McGuan at 716-803-3767 or [salmcg23@gmail.com](mailto:salmcg23@gmail.com)

### *Anniversary*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran in Hamlin, NY is celebrating their 150th anniversary. On November 17, they will have a special worship service at 9:30am followed by a free catered German luncheon. For reservations, please call the church office at 585-964-2550.

### *Candlelight Vespers*

The Sixty-eighth Christmas Candlelight Vespers will be held on Sunday, December 15, at First Trinity Lutheran, 1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Carol sing at 4:30pm; Vespers at 5pm.

## November Celebrations





Lainey Blythe 11/2  
 John Lehning 11/12  
 Monica Smith 11/19  
 Amanda Hautmann 11/21  
 Dan Poppenburg 11/21  
 Taylor Blythe 11/27  
 Joyce Haag 11/27

**WEDDING**  
 Lee & Kirsten Hilpert 11/10

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**  
 Nancy Connorton 11/24  
 Robert Haag 11/28

## November Calendars

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Worship	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5 7pm Choir Practice	6	7 11am Ladies Aid
8 8am Worship	9 ELECTION DAY	10 7pm Council	11	12 7pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 8am Worship	16	17	18	19 7pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 8am Worship	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28

November 2024 Server Calendar

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24	December 1
<b>Elder</b>	John Lehning	Chuck Bannister	Guenther Heiss	Ted Veit	John Lehning
<b>Ushers</b>	Ted Veit & Peter Lehning	Guenther & Margaret Heiss	Peter Lehning & Scott Serafinoff	Chuck Bannister & Sally Hacker	Guenther & Margaret Heiss
<b>Greeter</b>	Gary Weisenel	Barb Done	Georgette Peterson	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Sally Hacker
<b>Altar Care</b>	Margaret Heiss	Sharon Fiaschetti	Barb Done	Marlene Hampson	Kristen Waterstram-Rich
<b>Moving Team</b>	November 2 Jeff Lillie	November 9 Peter Lehning	November 16 Guenther Heiss & Chuck Bannister	November 23 John Lehning	November 30 Jeff Lillie
<b>Office Help</b>	November 1 Marlene Hampson	November 8 Barb Mitchell	November 15 Sharon Fiaschetti	November 22 Kristen Waterstram-Rich	November 29 Marlene Hampson
<b>Scripture Readings</b>	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	1 Kings 17:8-16	Dan. 12:1-3	Is. 51:4-6	Jer. 33:14-16
	1 John 3:1-3	Heb. 9:24-28	Heb. 10:11-25	Jude 20-25	1 Thess. 3:9-13
	Mat. 5:1-12	Mark 12:38-44	Mark 13:1-13	Mark 13:24-37	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:29-36



Visit our Website

**585-624-1766**  
[secretary@stmarkmendon.org](mailto:secretary@stmarkmendon.org)

Find us here

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