



### 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, audio bible, personal devotions, calendars and more.

### Message from Our Pastor



### The Dimensions of Discipleship

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

As mentioned in the last Crossroads, each month of 2025 we will look at the first part of our mission statement: **Disciples of Jesus**, Connecting our Community to Christ. A disciple of Jesus reflects God in the world. When Jesus talked about discipleship, it was an all-in kind of thing.

**A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.**

**“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish**

**it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'" – Luke 14:25-30**

Perfection is not necessary to be a disciple of Jesus, but we do have to know what we are signing up for and be willing to submit all areas of life to God. As Jesus disciplined people, he expected that their discipleship would touch all aspects of their life, relationships, and even society as a whole.

A real disciple needs to embrace and continually grow in all the dimensions of discipleship. We can't be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a disciple, picking and choosing, for a disciple when fully trained is like his or her teacher: Jesus (Luke 6:40). True discipleship is holistic: we can't be content to be growing in some areas and lacking in other areas.

When thinking of the nature of discipleship, we naturally look to our teacher, Jesus. As Jesus became incarnate and lived among us, we see him living a specific way. The picture attached to this article is a diagram that represents the 8 dimensions of a disciple as developed by Robert E. Logan. We will be looking into each of the 8 dimensions of a disciple over the next eight months, detailing one dimension each month.

It will be important to keep this diagram in mind and examine it to see how the pieces fit together. (I will include the diagram in subsequent articles). As you begin to understand how the pieces fit together, use it to evaluate your own life. Allow others to speak into your life as well. We never travel alone on the journey of allowing God to work in our lives.

Here are the eight dimensions of a disciple of Jesus (in case the words are too small in the diagram):

- Experiencing God
- Spiritual Responsiveness
- Generous Living
- Disciple Making
- Personal Transformation
- Authentic Relationships
- Community Transformation

As I write on each topic, I encourage you to meet with one, two, or three other people. Discipleship is not an individual endeavor. Use the articles for discussion and encourage each other in your walk. The result will be transformation – not of ourselves only – but of others and the whole community around us.

A fellow disciple of Jesus,

*Pastor Brad Urlaub*

## *President's News*

### *Serving One Another*

Just like in our own homes, at the church and Parish House there is always something that needs to be done. As good stewards, we are mindful of cost, level of need, and timing to complete the projects. 2025 at St. Mark started off with making great progress with respect to major projects. Two projects have been completed in the church and Parish House under the lead of Jeff Lillie.

Thank you, Jeff.

The projects in the Parish House that have been completed includes the following: new lighting in the pastor's office, general office, youth room, and meeting room; a new floor installed in the pastor's office, general office, and meeting room; and painting of all of the downstairs rooms and the stairwell (except for the storage room). The painting crew worked hard and got the job completed in a matter of days. This work has brightened up the spaces. The office will soon be put back together and organized.



The church has a new sound system. Mike Morse and his crew drove here from the Horseheads, NY area and worked incredibly hard over the span of a week to get the project completed. As one can expect, an old building, such as the church, often presents interesting and unexpected challenges. Several individuals participated in the training on the sound system and those who could not attend may also be trained. By the time you read this there will have been at least two Sundays of worship that have been aired with the new system; hopefully, those watching online will have seen and heard a difference.

We have scheduled RG&E to come May 15<sup>th</sup> to move the church and Parish House gas meters to the outside of the buildings. The crew will be working inside and outside of the buildings throughout that day. I mention this now, so, no one plans anything at the church during that day.

The Eastern District will have its convention on June 20 - 21, 2025 in Tonawanda, NY. More information and details will be forthcoming as the convention approaches.

As we move through February, although it is the shortest month, it seems to be a big month for planning for the year. There is always something to do and ways to volunteer. As was stated in 26 January 2025 Portals of Prayers "We are not given gifts for our own sake but for the sake of the community in which God has placed us." May we each find ways to demonstrate how blessed we have been to be a blessing.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

*Kristen Waterstram-Rich*

## Ladies Aid



### Upcoming

Ladies Aid will be collecting items to make care packages for our college students. There will be a box in the entryway for you to donate items. We will be packing these boxes at our next meeting on Saturday, February 8 at 11am. We will only be packing for approximately 4 boxes. Here is a list of suggested items to include: breakfast bars, pb

crackers, hot cocoa, oatmeal, single serve mac & cheese, nuts, protein bars, tea, soup, M&M's, cookies.

Here is a preview of some upcoming events:

March 8 at 11am, we will be meeting at Caife Erin in Mendon (1350 Pittsford Mendon Rd.).

Join us for good food, fellowship and to support a local business.

We are not having a formal meeting in April due to the Easter season. We are planning on doing a food collection drive instead.

We are hoping to have a craft day for our May meeting (May 10). Sabrina Urlaub will be teaching us how to knit in the hopes of making prayer shawls.

Please look for further details as they become available in the weekly bulletin in the upcoming Crossroads.

Hope to see you at some of these exciting upcoming events!

# thrivent®

Please join us

## Thrivent Night at the Strong National Museum of Play

Hosted by the Thrivent Member Network—Northeast Region

As part of a Thrivent Member Network, you're among a group of local Christians who come together to learn, support one another and make a real impact in our communities.

### Event details

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**

4 to 8 p.m. (Doors open at 3:45 p.m.)  
Strong Museum of Play  
1 Manhattan Square Dr., Rochester, NY

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**4 to 5:30 p.m.: Thrivent Member Pre-event Gathering**

Enjoy dinner and a Thrivent update. Each Thrivent client with membership can bring up to three guests.

**5:30 to 8 p.m.: Open Play – Thrivent**

Members, friends and family can enjoy all the museum has to offer. Non-members can register for Open Play.

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**Admission and parking are free.**

Pre-event registration is necessary for all attendees. Space is limited so register today at [bit.ly/Strong2025](https://bit.ly/Strong2025), scan the QR code or visit the Events page on [thrivent.com/northeast](https://thrivent.com/northeast).

Please feel free to invite others to celebrate with us.



## Around the District

**Help Our Brothers and Sisters in Need in California:** We have all seen the news and heard stories of the terrible and tragic fires that continue to burn in CA. The LCMS Pacific Southwest District has many churches and schools affected by these fires. Please visit <https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response> for more information and how you can help.

**Trinity Christian School** invites you to our **Winter Carnival and Open House** on **Sunday, February 2** at 146 Reserve Rd, West Seneca from **12:30-3pm**. Families interested in Christian education can take a tour of our school and receive free lunch vouchers! Bring the kids to enjoy free carnival games, prizes, and a bounce house, and stay for delicious popcorn and hot dog lunches for sale. For more information, contact us at 716-674-5353.

**Women in Ministry Meeting:** February 8. [CLICK HERE](#) for flyer.

**Phil's Friends** is a nonprofit based out of Indiana and Illinois. They are trying to spread the word about their ministry by inviting Lutheran churches and schools to partner with us in helping us **spread the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to cancer patients** across the United States. If you are interested in learning more about their work, [CLICK HERE](#)

**Spring Craft, Vendor Show and Basket Raffle, Saturday, March 15**, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 453 Old Falls Blvd., N. Tonawanda NY 14120. Basket donations are still needed for our basket raffle! They can be dropped off at the church starting March 1. The office is open Monday - Wednesday, 8am to 4pm and Thursday and Friday, 8am to noon. More information is available at [www.stpaulnt.com](http://www.stpaulnt.com).

Dr. Charles and Susan Whited of **First Trinity (Tonawanda, NY)** invite you to join them for a **10 day tour of the Holy Land**, UPDATE: The departure date has been changed to October 20, 2025. We will visit Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem, take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, walk the path Jesus took from the Garden of Gethsemane to the dungeon in Caiaphas' house, travel the Via Delarosa (way of the cross) through Jerusalem, and so much more. It is the spiritual adventure of a lifetime. For information call (716-835-2220) or email Pastor Chuck at [cwhited@firsttrinity.com](mailto:cwhited@firsttrinity.com).

Lutheran Braille Workers Training Weekend: [CLICK HERE](#) for flyer.

**\*LBW Training and dedication will take place at St. Mark Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda, NY.**

## February Celebrations



Octavia Laing 2/3  
 Eileen Bendschneider 2/5  
 Kathryn Killenbec 2/7  
 Barb Mitchell 2/11  
 James Meyers 2/12  
 James Pluta 2/12  
 Jeff Lillie 2/12  
 Tim (TJ) Eillinger II 2/12  
 Georgette Peterson 2/20 Melissa  
 Poppenberg 2/20  
 Erika Mynio 2/24  
 Jacob Lehning 2/24

Mike & Vickie Miller 2/19

**Baptismal Birthday**  
 Scott Stranford 2/3

## February Calendars

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9am Worship 10:30am Women Assembly & Sunday School	3 Bulletin Items Due	4	5	6 7pm Choir Practice	7	8 11am Ladies Aid
9 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	10 Bulletin Items Due 	11 Epm Council	12	13 7pm Choir Practice	14 	15
16 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	17 Bulletin Items Due	18	19 9:30am Elders Meeting Crossroads Items Due	20 7pm Choir Practice	21	22
23 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	24 Bulletin Items Due	25	26	27 7pm Choir Practice	28	

*February*  
 2025 Server Calendar

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	March 2
Elder	Chuck Bannister	John Lehning	Guenther Heiss	Ted Veit	Chuck Bannister
Ushers	Guenther & Margaret Heiss	Scott & Kathy Stranford	Rod Amidon & Deb Bolcko	Guenther & Margaret Heiss	Peter Lehning & Ted Veit
Greeter	Barb Done	Sally Hacker	Georgette Peterson	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Barb Done
Altar Care	Barb Done	Marlene Hampson	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Margaret Heiss	Sharon Fiaschetti
Office Help	January 31 Barb Mitchell	February 7 Marlene Hampson	February 14 Sharon Fiaschetti	February 21 Kristen Waterstram-Rich	February 28 Barb Mitchell
Scripture Readings	1 Sam. 1:21-28 Heb. 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-32 (33-40)	Isaiah 61:1-8 (9-13)	Jer. 17:5-8	Gen. 45:3-15 1 Cor. 15:21-26, 30-42	Deut. 34:1-12 Heb. 3:1-6 Heb. 3:1-6



**Visit our Website**

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**Find us here**

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