

CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026—Deacon Sherry Krieger
5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah’s Park

MONDAY

- 5:15 p.m. *Crisis Care Meeting*
- 6:00 p.m. *Outreach Committee Mtg.*

TUESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers
- 10:00 a.m. *AJ’s Group Meeting*
- 3:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. *Preaching Workshop*

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 6:00 p.m. Catechism
- 6:30 p.m. **The Anchor**
- 6:30 p.m. Kid Min

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026—Pastor Steve Nelson
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

- 8:00 a.m. *Holy Communion Service with LPE*
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service
- 10:40 a.m. Noah’s Park

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

are to the Glory of God in memory of William Weldy and other departed loved ones by Pauline Weldy and family.

ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK

- Greeters(8:00) Kathy Van Eman
- Lector(8:00) Erin Pohlman
- Greeter.....(10:30) Roger Overholt
- Lector(10:30) Sharon Blank
- Acolyte(10:30) Maverick Conley
- Coffee Hour..... Holland

ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer Request e-mail: stmprayer@embarqmail.com

Church Website: www.stmarkslutheranvw.com

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Prelude Meditation on “*Italian Hymn*”

Welcome & Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness (page 94ff)

Choral Introit (10:30 service)

Hymn “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” # 886

Prayer of the Day

Noah’s Park Children’s Church

Isaiah 58:1-12 and Psalm 112:1-10 (pg. 2 & 3 of bulletin)

1 Corinthians 2:1-161 and Matthew 5:13-20 (pg. 3 & 4 of bulletin)

Message Deacon Sherry Krieger

Hymn “Bring Forth the Kingdom” see insert

Apostle’s Creed, Intercessory Prayers, The Peace (pages 105-106)

Musical Meditation (8:00) “Go Light Your World”

Offering: offering plates, website, text 419-273-9947

Adult Choir (10:30 service)

Lord’s Prayer (page 112)

Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)

Hymn “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” # 543

Doxology # 884

Postlude “The Lord Reigneth”

Prayer of Illumination

R: Before reading from the Bible, we seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit that we become receptive to the life-giving Word which comes to us through both the reading and proclamation of Scripture.

C: **Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Isaiah 58:1-12 True Fasting

¹ “Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. ² For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ³ ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ ‘Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ ‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. ‘If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, ¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. ¹¹ The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will

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Sisters & Sips: St Mark's now has a new Women’s Bible study and fellowship opportunity, for women of all ages—Sisters and Sips! We meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Mi Ranchito, 6:30 p.m. If you would like to join us, please text Stephanie Stechschulte, 419-296-7372, just so I can make sure to grab a table large enough. However, even if you forget to text but want to come, please do! There is always room at the table for God's women of faith.

Northwest Ohio Synod Assembly Event —Church Council is seeking a couple members to attend the 2026 NWOS Assembly scheduled for 5/30/2026 in Bowling Green. If you’re interested in representing St. Mark’s and learning about the Lutheran Church as a Business and the Business of the Church, call Jana Ringwald at 419.203.4433.

February 18th-Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent.

7:00—9:00 AM

Ashes 2 Go. Under the Porte-cochere of the Jefferson St. parking lot.

Noon & 7:30 PM

Worship Services only-no communion

LENTEN MID-WEEK SERIES: This year our Lenten Midweek Worship Series will be based on the Northwestern Ohio Synod book of the year, “*Love Is the Way*” by Bishop Michael Curry. We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 12 noon and 7:30 pm. The series continues each Wednesday through March 25. *Our worship services will be led by a dedicated group of lay people from the congregation. If you are interested in helping or learning more, we will be meeting to plan the worship series this coming Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Room.*

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY, (The groundhog got it wrong!!!), or at least it’s time for Spring flower orders. This year we are offering Lilies, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Daffodils. Order forms are in the Gathering Place, Elevator Room and by the front door entrance. Lilies are \$11.00 each and all others are \$9.50 each. All are in 6-7 inch pots. Deadline to order is March 1st.



Master List on Dreamboard: If you need to know information on who is preaching, serving communion, lector, etc. there is a Master List for February on the Dreamboard located on the west wall just outside the sanctuary.

SANCTITY OF LIFE MONTH IS JANUARY PLC HEALTH CLINIC & THE LANGDYN HOUSE



The PLC Health Clinic of Van Wert approaches pregnancy and sexuality as a gift to be pregnancy testing and limited obstetric ultrasound, the care doesn't end after the child is born. We offer parenting programs as an "Earn While You Learn" incentive to reward moms with material assistance such as diapers, hygiene items, clothes and other baby needs.

The Langdyn House Maternity Home opened in July 2024 and offers housing to at-risk homeless moms and babies. These moms also utilize the PLC Health Clinic services and programs offered, along with life skills and mentorship.

We ask that during this Sanctity of Life month, you do something powerful for us – support us through PRAYER and financial or material donations. Your support means everything to us!

For more information, visit our website at plchealthclinic.org or follow us on FaceBook at PLC Health Clinic and The Langdyn House of PLC Health Clinic. *Donations needed are: Pampers Size 2, 3 and 6; Hypoallergenic baby wipes (unscented, no dyes); Desitin and A&D ointments; Dr. Browns baby bottles; Baby bush/comb sets; Baby nail clippers; Sleepers size 12 month – 2T (girls & boys). **There is a collection cart in the Sanctuary.***

NEW SANCTUARY BANNERS: The Altar Guild is investing in new banners for our sanctuary, as many of our banners are showing their age. Due to the high cost of these banners, we are asking our congregation to donate funds for this project.

Donations can be put in an envelope marked "Sanctuary Banners" and placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. The donation can be in honor or memory of someone.

If you have questions or wish more information you can contact Joan Holland at 419-203-9754, Jeannine Roediger at 567-259-9906 or Martha Martin at 419-203-3395.

always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. ¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Psalm 112:1-10

R: Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

C: **Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

R: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

C: **Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.**

R: Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.

C: **Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever.**

R: They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

C: **Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

R: They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.

C: **The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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## Gospel Acclamation (page 102)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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P: The Good news in Matthew's Gospel.

C: **Glory To you O Lord!**

Matthew 5:13-20 Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the

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world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

P: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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## Seeking a Heart to Serve: Kitchen Committee Leader Needed!

Rita Adam, after serving for 25 years, will step down on 2/1/2026 from serving and leading our Kitchen Committee. We extend our heartfelt thanks for Rita's many years of service to this ministry. Are you passionate about the power of food and fellowship in bringing a community together? St. Mark's is looking for a dedicated and organized individual to step into the role of Kitchen Committee Leader and help us continue our ministry of hospitality. Please contact the church office or Jana Ringwald, if you have questions and/or are interested in serving!

## Coffee Hour for February 15<sup>th</sup>: Rex & Patti Arn

**2025 Year End Giving Statements** are ready for pick up at the table by the Nursery. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Rhoades at 419-203-6296. Thank you.

## Call Process Update (1/18/26)

- **Farewell Committee—Carol Lininger and Rachel Rohrs co-leads.** Thank you to our church family. The Farewell Committee would like to thank ALL people who helped make Pastor Will's Farewell Service and luncheon on January 1<sup>st</sup> a BIG success. We had a total of approximately 260 attend the service and approximately 240 attend the luncheon. We are so thankful and truly blessed to have a church family to help out when needed. This concludes the work of the Farewell Committee. Rachel Rohrs, Carol Lininger & The Farewell Committee
- **Transition Committee-Jana Ringwald and Marilyn Morgan co-leads,** met on January 8, 2026. It reviewed the schedule of Supply Pastors assigned by the Synod (a Journey Team) to begin to take us through April 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee is working with Worship and Music to develop Ministry Teams who will help cover worship services and the scheduling of guest pastors going forward. A Preaching Workshop led by Pastor Will and Jason Tyas was held on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Several members expressing a desire to deliver a Sunday message when Supply Pastors are not scheduled participated in the workshop. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 6:30pm.
- **Call Committee—Cary Roehm and Kathy Taylor co-leads.** There will be no further updates until candidates begin getting referred to us by Synod.

**Do you have a Fob, Card or Key to the Church?** If you have a key, fob or card granting you entrance to the church, please report it to the church office at 419.238.6336. Meisa will check her records and make sure we have the appropriate documentation.

**Church Safety and Security — A Reminder from our Safety Policy:** All personnel, volunteers, members or others who have been in charge of an event or program outside of normal business hours, are responsible to see that all doors and windows are closed and locked, and all lights, fans, appliances used during such event are turned off. We have had instances of doors left unlocked and lights on the next day after a meeting or event so taking extra care when you “close” is much appreciated! Any questions or concerns about our security, please contact Denny Wagonrod at 419-203-4501.

## Bring Forth The Kingdom

Leader

D G/D D D/F# All G D/F# A D

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!  
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!

Leader

G D/F# G A D All G D/F# A D

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!  
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!  
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!  
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!

Refrain

G D/F# Em A D G D/F#

Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the

Em A D G D/F# G A D

king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,

G D/F# Em/G A D G D/F# A D

bring forth the cit - y of God!

Text and music: Marty Haugen

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