

St. Mark's August Newsletter 2020

Meetings at the church during the week: Continuing through August, small groups and committees can meet at the church **ONLY** in the Meeting Room across from the church office or in the Gathering Area. Meetings **MUST** be scheduled with Office Administrator Meisa Coplin (419-238-6336) and strict adherence to protocol is to be followed. The Protocol List can be emailed to you from Meisa and will be posted in both rooms with other signs for cleaning.

If you are not receiving St. Mark's Mid-Week emails - please contact the church office at 419-238-6336 or mcoplin@embarqmail.com to request these updates. Thank you.

Make a difference for an Under-resourced Student: Operation Back to School: A \$25 gift will send an under-resourced local student back to school with a backpack containing basic supplies. We are patterning with First United Methodist Church to help local students. Checks can be made payable to "First United Methodist Church" with "Operation Back to School" in the memo section and mailed to: 113 W. Central Av., Van Wert. For more information or if you would like to volunteer in this project— go to vanwertfirst.net or call Teresa Shaffer: 419 238 0631 ext. 307.

Pregnancy Life Center Walk for Life: Once again it is time to start planning for the Pregnancy Life Center/PLC Health Clinic Walk for Life. As in the past few years, we are partnering with PLC to be a sponsor church. As such our church name will appear on the walker pledge forms, the walk T-shirts, the PLC website, social media accounts, the newsletter and local newspapers as well as a sign displayed at the Walk. To make this happen, we need to raise \$300 by the end of August. It would take 30 people at \$10 each, or 20 people at \$15 each OR 10 people at \$30 each to reach this goal. Will you please prayerfully consider donating whatever you can to this worthy cause in our community. Make your check payable to the church but PLEASE put PLC Sponsor on the memo line so Elaine can keep it separate from the other giving. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Blank at 419-203-4383.

PLC is a pro-life Christian ministry providing free services including pregnancy tests, limited obstetric ultrasounds and STI/STD testing, along with emotional, educational, spiritual and material support to families facing crisis pregnancies. They also provide free programs to all Van Wert County Schools urging purity, integrity, new ideas, knowledge, understanding and excelling. These programs equip students with positive-self esteem and decision-making skills.

Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday August 23rd—11:15 am in the Sanctuary

At this meeting we will:

1. Vote on members for Church Council. Four seats available. Rick Roehm, (incumbent), Karen Etgen and Jim Sowers. A fourth person who loves the lord and his church is needed to complete the slate. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. You can also contact the Nominating Committee of Randy Thompson, Denny Wagonrod and Nancy Wolverton.
2. Review Annual Reports. Vote on specific ones.
3. Vote on the Outreach Committee recommendation of \$13,000 from the farm income and \$5,000 from investment income.

Due to COVID-10 there will not be a congregational dinner.

Blessed and Beloved People of God and Members of His Forever Family,

Church Council, at their July 21st meeting, made the decision to follow the potential upcoming change in protocol on wearing masks that could come from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's office. Governor DeWine did indeed announce on July 22nd the new policy regarding the wearing of masks in public. You can read the announcement by going to:

<https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/media/news-and-media/covid19-update-07222020>

Consequently, Church Council is asking in-person worshippers to wear their masks during the ENTIRE WORSHIP SERVICE in the sanctuary for the love and safety of those around you beginning Sunday, July 26th.

Each month Church Council will review the in-person Worship Protocol.

Other Announcements:

- Sympathy and prayers to Roger Mengerink upon the recent passing of his sister, Meredith Ann High.
- Sympathy and prayers to Marlene Foss on the recent passing of her sister-in-law, Michelle Foss.
- Sympathy and prayers to Dick Kirkendall upon the passing of his brother, Larry Kirkendall.
- Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday—August 23rd at 11:15 in the sanctuary

I give thanks for all of you for your love for Christ and His church,

Pastor Will

Important Reminder !

As our financial situations change, we understand that ability to give will change as well. Your physical and spiritual well-being are our number one concern. We only ask that you remember the missions of the Church and their importance to God's kingdom. I Timothy 6:8—There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

THANK YOU CONGREGATION FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

Thank you: I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls and concerns on my recent surgery and recovery. I am blessed with a wonderful church family. *Kathy Van Eman*

St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church

160 W. Sycamore St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Office: 419-238-6336

Email: stmarkvw@embarqmail.com