

The Christmas Creed

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
announced by the angels,
worshipped by the shepherds,
adored by the Wise Men,
who lived to suffer, die and rise again,
to free us from sin, death and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who has brought me to faith
in the Christ of Christmas
and by whose continuous work in my heart.
I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ
the treasures of my love and
live under Him as my King,
both now and forevermore. Amen**

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**Card Ministry:** If you know of someone that is sick or in the hospital, or has lost a loved one, or just to let them know they are being thought of, please let me know so a card may be sent to them. They do not have to attend our church. It could be a friend or a co worker etc. Contact me by phone or text at 419-771-0795 or email [ahickerson55@gmail.com](mailto:ahickerson55@gmail.com). Alicia Hickerson

**Attention New Visitors to St. Mark's:** Located in the pews are blue Welcome Cards for our new guests. Please fill out this card and leave it on the pew when you leave the sanctuary. Greeters will be around to collect them after the service. This information is only to keep you informed of activities at St. Mark's and does not leave the office. We hope you will continue to join us for services and we are so glad you came to St. Mark's. We hope to see you again next Sunday.

## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer Request e-mail: [stmprayer@stmarkslutheranvw.com](mailto:stmprayer@stmarkslutheranvw.com)

Church Website: [www.stmarkslutheranvw.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranvw.com)

Rev. William C. Haggis, II, Pastor

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 1, 2024**

Prelude

*"Advent Meditation"*

Welcome and Announcements; Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Choral Introit

Two Advent & Christmas Carols; Message

Prayer of the Day (page 98)

Children's Message (8:00 service)

Noah's Ark Children's Church (10:30 service)

Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalm 25:1-10 (pg. 2 of bulletin)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:29-33 (pg. 3 & 4 of bulletin)

Two Advent & Christmas Carols; Message

The Christmas Creed

page 8

Two Advent & Christmas Carols; Message

Intercessory Prayers, The Peace

Musical Meditation (8:00 service)

*"Who Would Imagine a King"*

Adult Choir (10:30 service)

*"All Is Well"*

Holy Communion

10:30 service on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. (pages 107-109)

Lord's Prayer (page 112)

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

Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)

One Advent or Christmas Carol; Message

Doxology Sung by the Congregation

HYMN #884

Postlude

*"Macht hoch die Tür"*

Get to Know Us on:



## 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.**

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Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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## Psalms 25:1-10

### Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance Of David.

R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C: **O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

R: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C: **Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

(Continued on page 3)

**Reminders:** *Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by 1:00 p.m.*  
*AND deadline for January newsletter is **December 16<sup>th</sup>**.*

**OPEN POSITION** – After 20 years, Monica Campbell is resigning as Children's Choir Director as of 12-31-2024, and we are seeking a replacement. The current schedule for the Children's Choir includes weekly rehearsals from 10:00am-10:25am on Sundays from the week following Rally Day until after their last performance in April or May, a Christmas Play or Concert in December, and an Easter Play (usually one or two Sundays after Easter, depending on when Easter falls). Alternatively, the new director could choose to have the choir sing an anthem monthly throughout the school year. Qualifications include a music background and a love for children. Please text Monica with any questions (419-203-6744). For an application, please contact the church office.



## Breakfast at the Manger

**Saturday – December 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00—11:30 AM**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Corner of N. Washington & W. Sycamore Van Wert**

## **FREE ANNUAL EVENT**

**Breakfast Buffet--Christmas Crafts--Family Photo  
Picture Booth--Cookie Decorating  
Info: 419-238-6336**

[www.stmarkslutheranvw.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranvw.com)

**Update on the Salvation Army Christmas Food Basket collection.** We needed a total of 600 cans before December 15<sup>th</sup>. We have met our goal and collected 745 !! Any green beans brought after today will go in the Blessing Box.



Thank you for your generosity and helping with those in need.

### ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Greeters (8:00) ....Kathy Van Eman  
Lector (8:00) ....Marc Grubaugh  
Acolyte (8:00) ....Ushers  
Comm. Servers (10:30)....Tom Rhoades & Denny Wagonrod  
Greeters (10:30) ....Phil McClure  
Lector (10:30) ....Abby Stechschulte  
Acolyte (10:30) ....Caleb Mohr

**Christmas At St. Mark's With Van Wert Jazz** at **7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Due to extenuating circumstances, **Christmas with Van Wert Jazz will now be held at St. Mark's**. Bring a friend as we come together for worship with singing of Christmas carols led by Van Wert Jazz as well as partake of cider and hot chocolate with light snacks.

***Congregational Budget Meeting December 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the 9:30 Cantata service.***

This meeting is to vote on the 2025 Budget, motions and Proposed Amended Constitution that are recommended by Church Council. A copy of the 2025 proposed budget, motions, Proposed Amended Constitution are in the electronic newsletter and at the church. This is your official notification to attend the 2025 Congregational Budget Meeting.

**Choir Christmas Cantata: "The Mystery and the Majesty"**

Join us on Sunday, December 22, at 9:30 a.m. service (one service only) for the Adult Choir Christmas Cantata. Directed by Stacie Korte and accompanied by Dee Fisher-piano/organ, William Stanley – Violin, Bethany Maltinsky – Violin, Rod Sroufe - Double Bass, Erin Grim – Flute, Jeff Squire – Clarinet, Susan Brubaker – Bassoon, Jason Lozer – Trumpet, Julie Buzzelli – harp, and Sidney Rindler – Percussion. Bring a friend as we worship together the birth of our Savior!

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
or you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

C: **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,  
and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

R: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

C: **Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

R: He leads the humble in what is right  
and teaches the humble his way.

C: **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

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1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Timothy's Encouraging Report

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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Gospel Acclamation (10:30 service)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

P: The Good news in Luke's Gospel.

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

**Luke 21:29-33      The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

P: Word of God. Word of life.

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

**Fourth Quarter 2024 Bell Tower Project Update:** As reported in previous church bulletins, the Bell Tower Project has experienced significant delays due to medical issues within the Smith Bell & Clock Company. It was also communicated that a bell company in upstate New York was expected to assist Smith Bell & Clock Company to complete our project. That company has declined to do so. Consequently, Verdin Bells and Clocks of Cincinnati (www.verdin.com) will take on our bell tower project in addition to their existing schedule of projects. We do not yet have a time line leading to a completion date as a contract is still being developed. Thank you for your patience with the unforeseen disruptions and delays to the Bell Tower Project. You will be kept informed on a quarterly basis with the progress of this project. Your next update will be in the first quarter of 2025.

**Card Shower:** Milo Wyandt will turn 100 years old on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We are having a card shower for him. If you would like to send a card mail it to: Van Wert Manor, 160 Fox Rd., c/o Milo Wyandt, Van Wert, OH 45891.



**CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024—1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**STUMP THE PASTOR HYMN SING**

8:00 a.m. *Worship with Children's Message*  
9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service with Choir  
10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

**TUESDAY**

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers  
3:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice  
7:30 p.m. *Christmas at St. Mark's with Van Wert Jazz*

**WEDNESDAY**

10:00 a.m. *Brewed Expressions Bible Discussion Group*  
12:00 p.m. *Mid-Week Advent in the Gathering Place*  
6:00 p.m. Supper  
6:30 p.m. **The Anchor**  
6:30 p.m. Catechism  
6:30 p.m. Kid Min  
7:30 p.m. *Mid-Week Advent in the Gathering Place*

**THURSDAY**

6:00 p.m. Cornhole

**FRIDAY**

6:00 p.m. *Set-up for Saturday's Breakfast at the Manger*

**SATURDAY**

9:00 a.m. *Breakfast at the Manger until 11:30 a.m.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024—2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Gathering Place  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. *Worship Service with Baptism*  
10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

THE ALTAR FLOWERS  
are given to the Glory of God in memory of  
Dorothy Weis by her loving family.



## ADVENT CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>—7:30 PM**

Christmas at St. Mark's with Van Wert Jazz

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mid-Week Advent Services

Noon & 7:30 PM

"Restore Unto Me. Walking Through Advent"

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Breakfast at the Manger—9:00-11:30 AM

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>—10:30 service**

Children's Christmas Concert with Scripture

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 AM Choir Christmas Cantata (1 service)

10:30 AM Congregational Budget Meeting

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve Communion—7:30 PM

Candlelight Service—11:00 PM

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 AM Lessons & Carols (one service)



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