

Quick Reminders: *Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by 1:00 p.m. **Deadline** for November newsletter is **October 22nd**.*

TODAY'S THE DAY!!: YOU have already played a HUGE part in helping the Pregnancy Life Center meet their 2023 goal of \$52,000. We have gone way beyond the \$300 needed to be a sponsor of the PLC Walk For Life. The additional money given for the sponsorship will be divided between the budget and the Langdyn House. Come and join us for a leisurely two mile walk around Franklin Park. Where? On South Walnut where Franklin School once stood. You know...where the Pickle Ball courts are. ***The Walk for Life registration begins at 1:30.*** If you have a pledge folder you will turn this in at the registration table. ***The walk starts at 2:00.*** Lots of visiting and laughing will be going on. THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Hope to see you there.

50 Year Members: Here is the listing we have for our 50 Year new members for 2023: ***John Freund, Marlene (Oehrtman) Freund, Edward Freund, Daniel Freund, Lori Thompson, Bill Wolverton and Nancy (Hile) Wolverton.*** If you or someone you know is not on this list and you believe them to be a 50 year member, please contact the church office at 419-238-6336. ***50 Year Member Sunday is Sunday, October 15, 2023. Reception at 9:15 AM in the Gathering Place!***

Thank you for all the cards. Your words were so kind and thoughtful. We appreciated your support with the passing of our mom, Marge Clouse. Thank you Pastor Will for your visits and wonderful service. Dee, your music was beautiful and a great tribute. Thank you to the kitchen group for providing such a great meal that brought comfort, and everyone enjoyed. Blessings, Carol, Roger Mengerink & family and Stevan Clouse

Hanna Circle will be meeting on Thursday, September 21 at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and bible study. Any women of the church are welcome to join us in the Gathering Place.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer Request e-mail: stmprayer@stmarkslutheranvw.com

Church Website: www.stmarkslutheranvw.com

Rev. William C. Haggis, II

September 17, 2023

Welcome and Announcements;

Prelude 8:00/10:30 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

Choral Introit (10:30 service)

Hymn "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" # 452

Kyrie & Hymn of Praise (pages 98-101; 10:30 service)

Prayer of the Day

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

Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:1-8 (pg. 2 & 3 of bulletin)

Romans 14:1-12 and Matthew 18:21-35 (pg. 3 & 4 of bulletin)

Message

Hymn "There Is a Redeemer" see insert

Apostles' Creed, Intercessory Prayers, The Peace (pages 105-106)

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

Adult Choir (10:30 service)

Holy Communion (pages 107-109; 10:30 service)

Lord's Prayer (page 112)

Blessing & Dismissal (pages 114-115)

Hymn "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!" # 393

Doxology Sung by the Congregation HYMN #884

Postlude "Foundation"

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YouTube

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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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## Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph Reassures His Brothers

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. <sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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Psalms 103:1-8 Forget Not All God's Benefits

R: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.

C: **Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—**

(Continued on page 3)

Piecemakers began sewing on Tuesday, September 5th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We have air conditioning, so no more working in the heat. If you would like to join this group, please contact Carol Doner 419-513-1070 or Sharon Blank 419-203-4383.

Bell Tower progress pictures and video can be viewed on our website's homepage: www.stmarkslutheranvw.com, our Facebook page, and on YouTube. We will do our best to bring you updates as they happen.

St. Mark's Men's Cornhole Group Forming: A men's cornhole group is currently forming for those who like to play cornhole. If you like to play cornhole, join the group for Fun, Faith and Fellowship. Seven have joined already and we welcome more! We will be meeting the *1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month* at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We will play outside in the parking lot during the warm weather months and inside the church during the cold weather months. For more information contact Denny Wagonrod at 419-203-4501.

Thank you: The Cooperative Ministries Board acknowledges your donation to the Food Pantry located at the First UM Church. It takes many hands and talents to make the food pantry run so we may help those in need. You are one set of hands that helps us! Thank you so much! God bless, Jana Thompson, Food Pantry Treasurer

Thank you for the check I received for the St. Vincent de Paul Society food bank. The requests for help have greatly increased in the last few months. Since the cost of food has increased as well, this money will go a long way to help us provide the needed help for those less fortunate. Many thanks to your congregation for your generosity. Please be assured we will use this money as you requested. Sincerely, Dennis R. Hickey, Treasurer

Thank you: On behalf of Karla's Kupboard (Trinity Friends Food Pantry) I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the generous monetary gift we recently received from you. Your donation will help us to meet the grocery needs of many local persons. Most important though, it allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus along with you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Sincerely, Jodi Mayes, Treasurer

Thank you for your recent donation to Love, Inc. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with your church to come alongside folks in need in Van Wert County.

Giving Statements through July 31, 2023 are available in the cloak room (look for the basket). They are in alphabetical order. If you do not see one for you please let the office or Elaine Rhoades know that you need one. Thank you

A new opportunity is on the horizon to come together twice a month to eat, have game time fun, and explore what it means to follow Jesus a little closer. If you would like to know more then contact Mark Schaberg 567.259.9153, Dewaine Johnson 419.235.3657, or Pastor Will 419.203.3441.

Hymn of the Month: *Other poems set to*

Lasst uns erfreuen

Our red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) includes four hymns that use the hymn tune *Lasst uns erfreuen*: #367 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*; #393 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*; #424 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*; and #835 *All Creatures, Worship God Most High*. Two of these commemorate important days in the church calendar (*Now All the Vault*—Easter Day; *A Hymn of Glory*—Ascension). The other two are general hymns of praise. *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* makes mention of the praises of the angels (cherubim, seraphim, etc.) as well as the praises of the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets and the New Testament church fathers. All four hymns include multiple cries of “Alleluia!”—from the Hebrew for “Praise the Lord!”

Legacy Grandparenting Summit 2023. Hosted by Trinity Friends Church of Van Wert, this two day gathering will help you build your spiritual legacy as a grandparent. Topics will include “What Does God Ask of Us?”, “Grandparenting Teenagers”, “Raising Resilient Grandchildren” and more. Register at trinityfriendschurch.com or legacycoalition.com/summit. \$59 if you register September 12-October 19.

Thank you so much for your church’s gift of \$200 to the Rockford United Methodist Church’s Christmas Day Dinner. It is truly a blessing to serve the needy in our community in this way and your support is really appreciated. May God’s blessings continue to be passed to others through your congregation.

Peace of Christ be with you, Pastor Bill Halter 6

R: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**C: who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

R: who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

**C: The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.**

R: He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:

**C: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

Romans 14:1-12 The Weak and the Strong

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’” ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel Acclamation (10:30 service)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Good news in Matthew's Gospel.

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

Matthew 18:21-35 The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: Word of God. Word of life.

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

CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

8:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Choir
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service
10:40 a.m. Noah's Park
2:00 p.m. *PLC Walk for Life @ Franklin Park*

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers
4:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. *Church Council Meeting*

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. *Brewed Expression Discussion Group*
6:00 p.m. *Supper*
6:30 p.m. **The Anchor**
6:30 p.m. *Catechism*
6:30 p.m. *Kid Min*

THURSDAY

11:30 a.m. *Community Luncheon*
6:00 p.m. *Men's Cornhole Group*
7:15 p.m. *Choir Christmas Cantata Rehearsal*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service
9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:40 a.m. Noah's Park

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

are given to the Glory of God by Jim & Elaine Rhoades in memory of Paul "Dusty" & Betty Lou Rhoades and Lowell Schaberg and in honor of Joan Schaberg.

ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Greeters (8:00)Kathy Van Eman
Lector (8:00)Joan Holland
Greeters (10:30)Gregory Pancake
Lector (10:30)Eric Overholt
Acolyte (10:30)Claire Donaldson
Comm. Servers (10:30)Wes Thompson & _____
Coffee Hour.Grubaugh

THERE IS A REDEEMER

Eb Bb/D Eb A/C Bb7/D Eb Bb/D Eb A/C Bb Eb Bb

1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;

Eb Bb/D Eb Ab Eb/G Fm7 Bb7sus Eb A/Bb

pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Ho - ly One.
 pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
 there I'll serve my king for-ev-er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain
 Ebsus² Eb Gm7 Ab Eb/G Fm A/Bb Bb7 Eb Bb7sus Bb7

Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and

Eb Bb/D Eb A/C Eb/Bb Ab Fm7 Bb7sus Bb7 Eb

send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, October 1st
 Quilt Dedication Sunday

Sunday, October 8th
 Prayer Shawl Dedication Sunday

Sunday, October 15th
 50 Year Member Celebration

Sunday, October 22nd
 First Holy Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 29th
 Reformation Commemoration Sunday

Sunday, November 5th
 All Saints Remembrance

Sunday, December 3rd
 Stump the Pastor Christmas Hymn Sing

Wednesday, December 6th
 Mid-Week Advent Services begin
 Noon & 7:30 PM

Thank you: One behalf of The Salvation Army, thank you for your important and generous gift of \$800 received on August 6, 2023 to support Van Wert Food Pantry and feeding program. With your support we are able to continue our mission of providing hope and services to those in the most need within the community. Your compassion restores hope for families and individuals facing crisis. You are a significant partner in helping fulfill our mission. Kindest regards,
 Julie Budden, Divisional Director of Development