



### 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.

Visit our  
Website

### Pastor's Ponderings

#### Generous Living

**“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” – Matthew 6:21**

As mentioned in the previous 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.

Generous living is faithfully stewarding what God has given you for the advancement of the Kingdom. God has entrusted certain resources to each of us: resources we are to use for His Kingdom. We are to steward them wisely in a holistic sense: saving, investing, giving. Having an overall stewardship strategy in our lives puts us in a better position to live generously in all the myriad ways God would have us be generous. As pastor/author, Randy Alcorn said, “Abundance isn’t God’s provision for me to live in luxury. It’s his provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with



his money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven.”

Too often we think only of money when we think of generosity. But what else has God entrusted to us? If we have an abundance of time due to being unemployed or retired, we can use that for prayer and service. If we have a home, we can use that to welcome others. There are many, many ways God has gifted us that we seldom recognize. Take a moment (or probably as much time as you can give) to write down a list of all that God has entrusted to you: time, gifts, resources, situations, abilities, etc. List as many as you can. Call a friend and ask for help if you need. Then pray over each of these assets and ask God how he would have you steward it for his kingdom. *Read **Matthew 25:14-30***

You may think some of your time, gifts, resources, situations, abilities, etc. are too small to have an effect in God’s Kingdom. But as Dalai Lama XIV said, “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.” We all have different gifts. And that is the point of the Body of Christ. Each of us is incomplete without the rest. Individually, we each make a difference in only a small way. Collectively, the impact is huge. *Read **Romans 12:3-21***

Just as our time and giftings are not to be used for ourselves alone, so our money, property, and resources are not to be used for ourselves alone. All our gifts are given by God to bless others. We are to practice generosity in all areas of our lives. That includes our finances. Money can be a hard thing for people to talk about. “That is a private matter.” Yet God expects to be let into the most private areas of our lives. He tells us not to cling to our possessions for identity but to cling to him.

As we give, we need to be generous, offering money with open hands, and recognizing that it is not really our money, but God’s. We are stewards. At the same time, because we are stewards, we are to give wisely. We are to give in ways that forward the work of the kingdom, that bring redemption and hope to the poor, and that help others come into a position where they will be able to give generously and wisely as well. “Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life.” – *Confucius* Read also **Luke 12:15-21; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.**

Some questions to ponder: *In what ways are you generous with your resources? In what ways are you not? What is your internal attitude when you are faced with the prospect of giving? Since we all have a limited amount of time and resources, how do you decide where to invest what you have? What principles do you follow for practicing wisdom in giving?*

If you have never written on paper where you spend your money, take some time to make a rough budget. In one column write down all the sources of income you have in an average month. In a second column, write down all your standard monthly expenses (rent, gas, food, giving, etc.) What do you notice about how you spend your money? What do you notice about your priorities.

Another area of generosity is showing hospitality without favoritism. Generosity begins with an impulse of the heart to invite. We invite people into our lives, to share our food, our space, and our time with us. And this is not for our friends only. This includes the guests in worship, the stranger in our neighborhood, and the people we see frequently at our usual spots (e.g., the grocery store).

Hospitality does not need to be over the top. Often people find simplicity more

comfortable and authentic anyway. As Mother Teresa said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." *Read also* **Matthew 5:46-47; Matthew 22:1-10; Hebrews 13:1-3; 1 Peter 4:8-10; 3 John 1:5-11**

Lastly, how are you living out your God-given calling? "Calling" can be such an intimidating word. We picture being told our calling will occur in the same way the apostle Paul received his, bright light and blindness. Probably not. Martin Luther used the term vocation, which means "calling", and describes it in his *Lectures on Genesis* in this way: "Just as individuals are different, so their duties are different; and in accordance with the diversity of their callings, God demands diverse works of them." He continues into a theological doctrine called the "Two Kingdoms."

"Luther's 'two kingdoms' doctrine refers not to two separate, mutually exclusive spheres, but rather to two distinct ways in which God exercises divine authority: God is at work through the gospel, offering forgiveness and new life, and God is at work through the law, bringing order to the world." (Kathryn Kleinhans) *Other scripture to read: Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:1-10; Micah 6:8*

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, read and study the scripture together, 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*

## Council News



Color is very interesting. There is even an area of study and research on color. Colors also hold certain meanings and are used to symbolize different aspects of life. The psychology of color speaks to its influence on emotions and moods. You see this played out on a daily basis. If you watched the President in the Middle East, the colors of the welcoming carpets were

thoughtfully selected as were the colors of the ties that were worn. Colors also play a role in the church. In June the paraments will change from Easter white to red (power, strength) for Pentecost Sunday, to white (purity and completeness) for Trinity Sunday, and then to green (growth) for the season of Pentecost, the time of the church. In a church, there is meaning in what is displayed and how one carries out the order of worship. As members of the church, in addition to living as disciples of Jesus, if we have a church in which to worship, we are responsible for maintaining the church as well. The church council meets monthly to discuss matters of both natures. Below are some items the council has been discussing.

**Voters Assembly:** There will be a meeting of the Voters Assembly in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 22 at 10:15am following worship. The tentative agenda includes Pastor's Report, Committee Reports, Updates, and Elections for Church Council. The ballot for elections at the time of this writing includes the following:

- Treasurer - Peter Lehning
- Secretary - Vicki Laube

- Financial Secretary - Rod Amidon
- Evangelism Chair

**Help is always needed and appreciated:** There are always tasks around the church and Parish House for which volunteers are needed. Either working alone, with a partner, or a team, take on one of the tasks and let's get the list reduced or eliminated (at least for the moment). There is a list for volunteers to help maintain the garden beds located in the Fellowship Hall. Also, Jeff Lillie has a list of projects that need attention. Contact Jeff for more information on how you can put your God-given talents to use around the church facilities and property.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Mark:** Next year St. Mark will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. "So we, a number of German Lutherans in and around Mendon, Monroe County, NY living, go together to build a congregation." These were the first words of the "Konstitution" for St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mendon, signed on November 7, 1901, in the home of Mr. L. Ernst."

Planning will soon be underway to determine how we will celebrate this event. Watch the bulletin for details, and a call for a task force or a SWAT (servant willing although temporary) Team for the planning and implementation of the celebration.

**Outreach, looking ahead:** After looking at the demographics of our area, council brainstormed regarding outreach and came up with a list of possible activities. One of the ideas, VBS, is already being planned for August 11-15. Two other ideas that rose to the top were to again offer a community coffee hour (or lunch) at which different types of presentations would be offered and to offer a community garden. Both of these are in the thought process for next year and will be discussed at a Voters meeting before moving forward. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact any of the council members.

On behalf of Council, your fellow servant in Christ,

*Kristen Waterstram-Rich*

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace..."*  
1 Peter 4:10 ESV

## Vacation Bible School

*Join Us for a New  
Vacation Bible School Experience!  
Introducing Simply Loved:  
Never Fear, Jesus Is Here!*

- Bible-Based & Christ-Centered
- Fun, Faith-Filled Music
- Interactive Lessons & Games
- Family-Friendly Take-Home Resources



### *When & Where?*

Monday, August 11-Friday, August 15, 9am –11:30am  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
18 Victor Mendon Rd, Mendon, NY 14506  
For more info: (585) 624-1766

*Come experience the love of Jesus in a way that sticks!*

Registration is on the website. Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

All are welcome – and all are **Simply Loved**

## Ladies Aid News



Thanks to all of the ladies who came to our April meeting to start working on the Prayer Shawl ministry. There were 12 knitters - both beginners and advanced levels who participated. Thank you to Sabrina Urlaub for her patience in teaching the beginners.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 14. We will be conducting a business meeting from 11-11:30am to work on planning our next event for July - another wine, cheese and chocolate party. Then at 11:30am, we will be knitting for those who would like to continue with the prayer shawl ministry. You can come for the entire meeting or just for the part that interests you. Hope to see you then!

## LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat

Women of St Mark, you can get away for a weekend of spiritual renewal, fellowship with Lutheran women, and prepared meals in a relaxing, natural setting –Retreat 2025. The theme of this year's retreat is: "What a friend we have in Jesus," based on John 15:14-15. The guest speaker is Ethel Chadwick, the host of the radio ministry *Bagels and Blessings*. The retreat will be held at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler, PA. There will be special interest sessions, music, worship, devotions, entertainment, bonfire, and an ingathering. Contact any Ladies' Aid member for further information.



## Special Recognition



us.

After many years, Kay Killenbec will be stepping down as the cleaner for the church and Parish House. We thank Kay for her years of service in making certain the buildings were cleaned including the deep cleaning during Covid and our return to worship, and ensuring the candles had oil. Kay, St. Mark appreciates all you have done for

The responsibility of tending to the cleanliness of the church and Parish House has transferred to Vicki Laube. Thank you, Vicki, for agreeing to take on this very important responsibility; we are all very appreciative.

## Congratulations!

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and*

*he will show you the right way.” Proverbs 3: 5, 6 GNTD*



Graduates: As you enter the next chapter of your life, confirm to grow in the ways of the Lord and to serve as a faithful steward of the gifts and talents that God has given us. And if you do this, as Dr. Suess wrote, “oh the places you’ll go.”

- Jackson Blythe graduated from Honeoye Falls- Lima High School and will be attending Clarkson University in the fall, majoring in mechanical engineering.
- Chloe Laube graduated from Bloomfield High School and will be attending SUNY Brockport in the fall, majoring in Physical Therapy.
- Matt Blythe graduated from Grove City College, Grove City, PA with a BS in Data Science and minors in math and computer science and an MS in Business Analytics. He is exploring employment opportunities.
- Hank Lehning graduated from Northeastern University in Boston magna cum laude with a BS in Industrial Engineering and a minor in math. He will be moving to Texas this summer to work for SpaceX after taking some time to travel.

Confirmand: Lainey Blythe will be affirming her baptism through her confirmation and commencing to become a communicant member of St. Mark Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 15.

## Grace Choir Concerts



Made up of 60+ singers from more than 20 area churches, Grace Choir will be performing modern Christian music at the following locations: Friday, June 6 – Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Avenue, Rochester. 7pm doors open to the public, 7:30pm concert.; Sunday, June 8 – Edgewood Church, 111 E. Jefferson Rd, Pittsford. 3:30pm doors open to the public, 4pm concert. Both concerts are free. Hope to see you there.

## Hidden Books of The Bible

Many years ago, Pastor Hering included the fun exercise below in a Campus Ministry newsletter. With his permission, it is included here for your enjoyment. The paragraph below has 16 books of the Bible hidden in it. See if you can find them all. Have fun.



“I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible-it was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts but for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be really easy ones to



spot, others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One woman says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are really sixteen books of the Bible in the Story.”

## *Eastern District*

### *LCMS Eastern District Convention*

Pastor and I will be attending the ED convention in Tonawanda, NY on June 20 - 21. The meeting will include various reports, election of various officers and Board members, and action on resolutions proposed by the Board or a congregation. Below is a statement about the Eastern District strategic plan and summaries of each of the resolutions. If you have any questions about the convention, what is being presented, or want to see the entire wording overtures and resolutions, please contact Pastor, Guenther (the alternate to the convention), or me. Following the convention, you will receive a report. Thank you.

*Kristen Waterstram-Rich*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** The Eastern District has been working intensively with our LCEF consultant, Rev. Billy Brath, to develop a strategic plan for the District. The strategic plans include Bible literacy (everyone in the Word); Developing of Faithful Leaders; and Enhanced Life Together (hospitality and outreach).

A summary of the overtures with accompanying resolutions that were submitted and will be acted on in convention are summarized below. The first 3 overtures are from District and , if approved, would be sent to Synod. The second 2 overtures (which have a “C” in front of them) came from congregations to the District.

Overture 1 mandates Synod to establish a task force to consider methods, procedures, parameters and changes to any applicable Synod bylaws and polices to improve the representation of all districts in Synod Boards, Board of Regents, and Commissions elected during conventions...To improve the representation of all Districts in Synod Boards, Boards of Regents, and commissions elected during conventions... Furthermore, it mandates the composition of such a task force.

Overture 2 sites the dangers of AI as well as its benefits, if used appropriately. It further states that when employed it should be done so in “...honest, transparent, and Christ-like ways...” and that the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) provide a practical Guide to individuals and congregations in the use of AI in ministry and in the general life of God’s people.

Overture 3 proposes that resolutions brought to Synod convention that have support of 5 districts or more should carry more weight than other resolutions coming out of committee.

Overture C1 proposes that the District office develop a secure online platform by which member congregations and fulltime workers can log in and post organized file resources that would be free for all to share, download and utilize. This would include bulletins, sermons, Bible Studies, Power Points, newsletters, flyers, forms constitutions bylaws,

parochial school resources, various catechesis materials and any other resources that could be shared with other congregations.

C2 encourages congregations to consider holding a special recognition worship service to commemorate the writing and adoption of the Nicene Creed by the Council of Nicaea in 325.

## June Celebrations



### WEDDING

Pastor Brad & Sabrina Urlaub

6/2

Scott and Kathy Stranford 6/28



### BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Bendschneider 6/24

Norma Helm 6/26

Eric Laube 6/3  
Matthew Blythe 6/3  
Anne Eilinger 6/5  
Vickie Miller 6/6  
Lydia Eilinger 6/9  
Deborah Lillie 6/12  
Bev Matthews 6/17  
Rod Amidon 6/17  
Sandra Wade 6/24  
Derek Miller 6/29  
Kathy Stranford 6/29

## June Calendars

 June 2025 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 5-6pm Discipleship Leadership Class	4	5 7pm Choir Practice	6	7
8 First Communion 10:30am Sunday School	9 Bulletin Items Due	10 5-6pm Discipleship Leadership Class	11	12 10am-1pm Pastors Council Meeting 7pm Choir Practice	13	14 11am Ladies Aid
15 Trinity Day Worship 10:30am Sunday School Lenten Bible Confirmation	16 Bulletin Items Due	17	18	19 7pm Choir Practice	20 LOMS, Eastern District Convention, Tonawanda	21
22 10am-12pm Sunday School Veterans Assembly	23 Bulletin Items Due	24	25	26 7pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 10am-12pm Sunday School	30 Bulletin Items Due					

### JUNE 2025 Server Calendar

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29	July 6
Elder	Chuck Bannister	Chuck Bannister	Ted Veit	John Lehning	John Lehning	Chuck Bannister
Comm. Assistant	John Lehning	Peter Lehning	Scott Stranford	Chuck Bannister	Peter Lehning	Scott Stranford
Liturgist	Scott & Kathy Stranford	Rod Amidon & Deb Bolcko	Margaret Heiss & Kathy Stranford	Sally Hacker & Margaret Heiss	Rod Amidon & Deb Bolcko	Sally Hacker & Kathy Stranford
Greeter	Sally Hacker	Georgette Peterson	Barb Done	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Gary Weisensel	Sally Hacker
Altar Care	Barb Done	Margaret Heiss	Sharon Fiaschetti	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	NA	Marlene Hampson
Office Help	May 30 Barb Mitchell	June 6 Sharon Fiaschetti	June 13 Marlene Hampson	June 20 Barb Mitchell	June 27 Kristen Waterstram-Rich	July 4 Sharon Fiaschetti

## July Celebrations





Carrie Bendschneider 7/2  
 Guenther Heiss 7/2  
 Alexis Mynio 7/2  
 Pam Masterson 7/3  
 Nancy Connorton 7/5  
 Carolyn Krause 7/9  
 Chuck Bannister 7/12  
 Jim Knopp 7/13  
 Jackson Blythe 7/17  
 Pastor Brad Urlaub 7/20  
 Emily Laube 7/21  
 Bob Lasher 7/26  
 Chloe Miller 7/27  
 Richard Krause 7/28  
 Mabel Laing 7/28

## WEDDING

Diane & Greg Lewandowski 7/12  
 Richard and Carolyn Krause  
 7/25  
 Jim and Ginnie Knopp 7/26  
 Ralph and Mary Reimers 7/27

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Bob Shraeder 7/2  
 James Meyers 7/17  
 Eric Laube 7/23

## July Calendars

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Bapt. Worship 10:30am Sunday School	7 Bulletin Items Due	8	9	10 7pm Choir Practice	11 10am-1pm Pastors Circuit Meeting 7pm Choir Practice	12 11am Ladies Aid
13 Bapt. Worship 10:30am Sunday School	14 Bulletin Items Due	15	16	17 7pm Choir Practice	18	19
20 Bapt. Worship 10:30am Sunday School	21 Bulletin & Cross- walks Items Due	22	23	24 7pm Choir Practice	25	26
27 Bapt. Worship 10:30am Sunday School	28 Bulletin Items Due	29	30	31 7pm Choir Practice		

JULY

2025 Server Calendar

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	August 3
Elder	Chuck Bannister	Ted Veit	John Lehning	Guenther Heiss	Ted Veit
Comm. Assistant	Scott Stranford	Guenther Heiss	Peter Lehning	Chuck Bannister	Chuck Bannister
Ushers	Sally Hacker & Kathy Stranford	Scott & Kathy Stranford	Rod Amison & Deb Bolkio	Ted Veit & Peter Lehning	Scott & Kathy Stranford
Greeter	Sally Hacker	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Barb Done	Georgette Peterson	Gary Weissman
Altar Care	Marlene Hampson	Kristen Waterstram-Rich	Margaret Heiss	Sharon Fiaschetti	Barb Done
Office Help	July 4 Sharon Fiaschetti	July 11 Marlene Hampson	July 18 Barb Mitchell	July 25 Kristen Waterstram-Rich	August 1 Sharon Fiaschetti



Visit our  
 Website

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