

All Things Great and Small

From Pastor Dale...

In holy baptism the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

The Christian community at worship celebrates God's gift of baptism in a number of ways. The sacrament itself normally takes place in the midst of the worshiping assembly as a sign that in baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise support to new sisters and brothers, confess the faith with them, and welcome them into the body of Christ. Water connected to the Word—God's saving promise in Jesus Christ—is at the center of the baptismal celebration.

Although a person is baptized once, the gift of baptism continues throughout a Christian's life. Instruction in the faith for a life of discipleship is part of the preparation of those who are to be baptized or their parents and sponsors. The ongoing nurture of that faith is part of the congregation's ministries of formation, education, service, and evangelical witness. The additional orders in this section—Welcome to Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, and Confession and Forgiveness—provide several ways by which God's people in worship may participate in the lifelong gift of baptism.

Having said all that, actually these words appear in the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), we are preparing to make some significant changes in the way we support and encourage the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Because of the beauty and significance of this precious gift, our plan is to embark on some changes that hopefully will increase the understanding and place of baptism in the lives of individuals and the life of St. Mark's.

Quarterly the worship services for a weekend here at St. Mark's will center around, or have as their theme, "Affirmation of Baptism." As a part of those services we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism (at any one of the services). The first one of these will be the weekend of November 27-28. It is always such a joy when family members can be present for that joyful time of baptism. So, it is our hope by doing these services quarterly, folks will know well in advance what those dates are, so families can make plans accordingly.

In addition, as we take preparation for baptism more seriously, we will ask those preparing for baptism (one being baptized and/or parents) to attend a "Preparing for Baptism Class" either one of the two Sundays prior to, in this case November 14 or 21. These classes will be conducted by either Pastor Darrell or myself. In those classes we will cover the "hows and whys" as well as logistics.

We will also be looking for folks in the congregation who might be willing to serve as "mentors" (representatives of the congregation) who would be available to the family, encourage them, and remember the baptism anniversary. These would not necessarily be sponsors, as they also have a specific role.

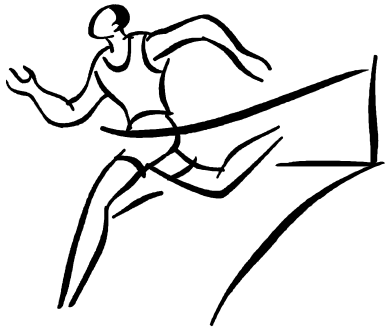
The weekend of November 27-28 is the first weekend in Advent and that time of preparation for the coming birth of the Savior seems like a good time to begin our new baptism practice.

So a quick re-cap. Our plan is to celebrate with great joy the sacrament of Holy Baptism quarterly in the life of our congregation. Hopefully this will provide good continuity and opportunity for planning and preparations as we celebrate one of God's great and precious gifts to the church.

In Christ,

Pastor Dale

From the Parish Administrator, Don Neifer...



It feels like we're running a race...

We are an odd lot. We can't wait for warm weather and then we can't wait for cool fall weather, then we can't wait until winter is over. As we get older the time seems to go faster and faster. The speed seems to blur our vision of the track.

Life is a blur, yet as a youngster it goes so slowly as we anticipate the next event. Is this not the way we spend our days and weeks, in anticipation of something to come and it seems like forever, and then it's just a memory. That's for those of you who can remember better than I.

I know I looked forward to the summer and working in my yard and garden. I looked forward to getting things caught up around the church during a little slower time. Now I want to know where that time went.

In the race through another summer, (though I don't think summer is over just because school has started), we accomplished so many things. We saw another terrific VBS. We saw a group of young and not so young head off to Appalachia to help spread the good news through their helping families in Knott County.

The building is in great shape with a lot of special carpet cleaning, dusting, trimming bushes and weeding. Light bulbs were changed and fixtures cleaned. Three dead Ash trees were cut and cleaned up. We couldn't have picked a hotter day, Thanks guys! The list is endless. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Karen Kline our custodian for their efforts for helping us move on to the next leg of our race.

Ken Hoot, through the Beth Hoot Memorial Funds, gave the church additional handicap parking by our front door as well as the pad to move the trash container off the sidewalk.

A great deal of planning was done by our staff and volunteers for confirmation, adult and youth Sunday school, youth activities as well as plans for our Worship services.

I hope your summer has not been a race but a time to enjoy family and friends. I hope it has been a time to stop and smell the roses and enjoy God's creation. I pray you have made time to praise the One who made life happen. I pray you took the time to reflect on your journey, not race, through life that it may be a reflection of the gifts you have all been given.

Thank you for running the race for St. Mark's!

From Kevin McGill, Director of Music...

Carl Orff, who lived from 1895 to 1982 and composed *Carmina Burana*, is known in the music education world for developing an approach for teaching music to children. This approach is known for combining music, movement, drama and speech into the everyday play world of children. One of the basic ideas of the approach is the inclusion of various percussion instruments.

Thanks to interest from the Ort Music Fund, we have purchased a beginning set of Orff instruments to incorporate into the music program at St. Mark's. These instruments include: xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels, handdrums, claves, tambourine, triangles, and more. Lindsey and I will be incorporating them primarily into the children's choir. This will not be an official Orff-Schulwerk, but rather a way to hopefully involve more students into the children's choir. These instruments will also be a part of a new music component in the confirmation classes, and you will certainly be hearing them in the worship services in the future.

THANK YOU

I WISH TO THANK everyone at St. Mark's for your prayers and encouragement during my recent knee replacement surgery. Thanks to Pastors Dale & Darrell for their visits and prayers, for all of the cards, for the prayer shawl, and to the Prayer Network. I am truly blessed.

Shirley McGee

TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. MARK'S:

Thank you for allowing the NW Ohio Synod the use of your building for the Ordination Service. Your ministry of hospitality to the people of the Synod, our two ordinands, and their guests was wonderful and is greatly appreciated! You, the people of St. Mark's through your involvement in the synod and the use of your space, have been Christ's shining light in Bowling Green as well as Northwestern Ohio.

May God continue to bless you and your mission in His name!

Thanks!

Rev. Joy Miller for the Synod Ordination Planning Team

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULE

Weekly Preparation and Serving:

**Donna Dill, Edie Johnson, Nancy Kern, JoAnn Miller,
Annette Reazin, Cheryl Sokoll**

Weekly Bakery Pick Up:

Bob Hansen

Weekly Salad Pick Up and Preparation:

Jane Koerner

September 1

Main Dish Preparation: **Judy Zirbel, Judy Long, Sue Rock,
Connie Meeker**

Clean Up: **Orrin Zirbel, Bill Rock,
BGSU Students**

September 8

Main Dish Preparation: **Sue Rock**

Clean Up: **Bill Rock, Orrin Zirbel,
BGSU Students**

September 15

Main Dish Preparation: **Dapper Bockbrader, Norma Cramp**

Clean Up: **Bob Hansen, Orrin Zirbel,
BGSU Students**

September 22

Main Dish Preparation: **Judy Zirbel, Judy Long,
Bob Hansen, Orrin Zirbel,
BGSU Students**

September 29

Main Dish Preparation: **Jan Ruffner, Mary Nelson**
Clean Up: **Bob Hansen, Orrin Zirbel,
BGSU Students**

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Saturday Scripture Readers

Sept. 4 Donna Mertz
Sept. 11 Deb Marten
Sept. 18 Susanna Herman
Sept. 25 Jody Germann

Saturday Worship Assistants

Sept. 4 Tammy Budd
Sept. 11 Gary & Deb Marten
Sept. 18
Sept. 25 Jody & Tricia Germann, Garrett & Gretchen

Praise Service Communion

Sept. 5 Ruth Ann Beaverson
Sept. 12 Kelly Roddy
Sept. 19 Carol Cartwright
Sept. 26 Diana Bruns

Praise Service Coffee Hour & Clean Up

Sept. 5 Flick Family
Sept. 12 DeWitt Family
Sept. 19 Morlock Family
Sept. 26 Stevens Family

Acolytes

	8:30	11:00
Sept. 5	Megan Swartz	Marc Tackett
Sept. 12	Hana Jennings	Stella DeWitt
Sept. 19	Grant Flick	Austin Digby
Sept. 26	Mike Schultz	Eric Allen

Scripture Readers

	8:30	11:00
Sept. 5	Stephanie Lane	Harold Lunde
Sept. 12	Bonnie Newby	Donna Dill
Sept. 19	Betsy Johnson	Anne Walston
Sept. 26	John Hiltner	Carla Gonyer

Welcome Center

	8-10:00 a.m.	10:00-12:00 noon
Sept. 5	Belva Kallenbach	Winnie Gallenstein
Sept. 12	Doug Kerr	Tim Nowicki
Sept. 19	Jan Ruffner	Ginger Schaefer
Sept. 26	Joan Staib	Shirley McGee

Welcome Ministry Visitors

Sept. 5	Rose Ackerman, Tom Baer
Sept. 12	Dave & Ellin Stoots, Gerry & Belva Kallenbach
Sept. 19	Orrin & Judy Zirbel, Sue Gilders
Sept. 26	Scott & Denise Kisabeth

Coffee Servers

Sept. 5	Norm & Carol Carpenter
Sept. 12	Bob Hansen
Sept. 19	Jim & Nancy Cessna, Hobart & Karen Johnson
Sept. 26	Gerry & Belva Kallenbach

8:30 Greeters

Sept. 5	Dale & Karen Lewis
Sept. 12	Bernice Lohmann
Sept. 19	John & Jane Kunstmann
Sept. 26	Jay & Deb Marten

11:00 Greeters

Sept. 5	Wib & Lola Miller
Sept. 12	Jan Schimpf
Sept. 19	Martha Armstrong
Sept. 26	Winnie Gallenstein

Crucifers

	8:30	11:00
Sept. 5	Don Ralston	Dave Hollinger
Sept. 12	Noah Lanning	Linda Allen
Sept. 19	Ken Lane	Sara Ione
Sept. 26	Lee Sundermeier	Heath Huber

8:30 Ushers:

September 12, 19 & 26

Sept. 12	Hank Ackerman, David Hollinger, Donna Pulschen, Kathy Thomas
Sept. 19	Hank Ackerman, David Hollinger Donna Pulschen, Kathy Thomas
Sept. 26	Hank Ackerman, David Hollinger Mary Strausbaugh, Kathy Thomas

11:00 Ushers:

Sept. 12	Kelly Jennings, Cole Jennings, Harold Lunde, Cindy Adcock
Sept. 19	Linda Allen, Kelly Jennings Cole Jennings, Ken Mauer
Sept. 26	David Harkness, Denise Detamore, Carla Gonyer, Pat Bucher

Upcoming Events

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MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, September 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. We invite all women of the congregation to attend. Our organization is a women's group gathering to study God's Word, care and support each other and for Christian fellowship. We pray you can join us.

ACOLYTE TRAINING: Sunday school students in grades 5 through 8 are automatically scheduled to serve as acolytes. Involving these students in the worship service is meant to be an enriching and rewarding experience. Acolyte training for those children entering 5th grade or for anyone who would like to be trained will be held on Sunday, September 26th, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. There is no need for pre-registration; just come to the sanctuary that morning.

ST. MARK'S ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SERVICE – Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 3, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. for the celebration of bountifulness provided by our Lord. You can bring your well animals and or/representation of your harvest for a special blessing. If you prefer, you can just bring a picture. Location is being negotiated since we have asked other churches to be a part of this celebration. Watch the weekly bulletin for updates. If you have any questions, ask any one on the Worship Committee: Carla Gonyer, Hobart Johnson, Kevin McGill, Lee Sundermeier, Randy LaFond, Shirley McGee, and pastor Dale Schaefer.

CHARITABLE GIVING: HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY GIVING BACK

How can you use your time, talents and treasures to make a profound impact on the organizations you care about most? Find out how to live out your values today and into the future by attending a seminar on "Charitable Giving: How to Make a Difference by Giving Back." This seminar, which is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, will provide you with information on:

- Charitable-giving financial tools that may decrease your taxes and/or supplement your retirement income
- Options for leaving a lasting charitable legacy
- Different ways to "give back," including volunteering

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. until about 10:00 a.m., depending on the number and type of questions asked.

Place: St. Mark's

Please call 419-354-3597 to register. BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED!



FALL INTO GOOD HEALTH

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Health Fair

Join us Saturday, September 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Family Life Center, Youth Choir Room, Multipurpose Room

Speakers – Displays – Activities for all ages!

Fitness Challenges for kids + Over 20 Booths!

Door Prizes will be given throughout the fair.

Scheduled Events:

9:30 a.m. **Puppets**

Multipurpose Room

9:45 a.m. **Snacks for seniors, Angie Bradford**

Youth Choir Room

10:00 a.m. **Healthy Snacks for Children, Jane Graffin**

Multipurpose Room

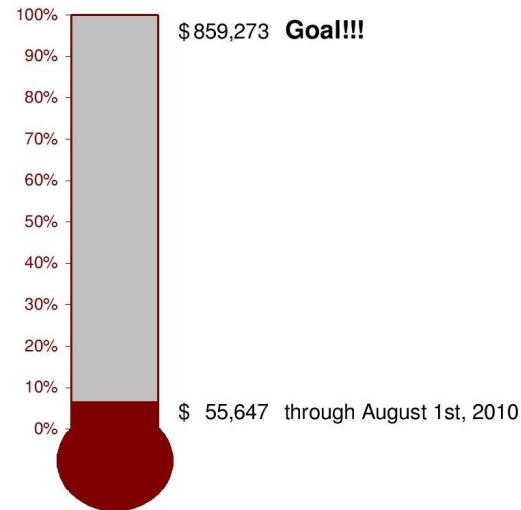
11:00 a.m. **Puppets**

Multipurpose Room

11:00 a.m. **Cardiologist, Dr. Ameer Kabour**

Youth Choir Room

PAID IN FULL



MONTHLY DEBT REDUCTION UPDATE:

Total giving to date: \$55,647 through August 1.

This means that we have now saved \$98,728 in interest and have knocked 22 payments off the end of the loan!

THANK YOU!

Dear Past & Future Supper Club Members,

It's that time of the year, time to look at signing up for Supper club groups again.

Supper club is a small group ministry at St. Mark's. We gather together at each other's homes for a meal. Everyone shares in the preparation and we get to know one another on a more personal level. Four couples/families gather monthly, sharing in the meal preparation. We're changing a few things this year in hopes that we'll get a larger number of people to participate!

1. We will spread our monthly gatherings out over the school year so that we have more time to coordinate schedules. Skip months with major Holidays... Nov, Dec, & month of Easter if need be.
2. When we sign up, list preference of meeting day: Friday night, Saturday night, or Sunday lunch or dinner.
3. Your preference for adults only or families. **Singles are welcome!**
4. Let people know that if they want to participate, but aren't able to host, they can let me know & we'll work something out.
5. Let me know your need for an accessible home or if you have an accessible home.

If you'd like participate or ask questions, call me 419-352-3791 or e-mail me at afassundermeier@verizon.net.

Thanks & I hope you are able to join us. It really is a great way to get to know other St Mark's members. - Sandy Sundermeier

YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Sept. 12

3rd & 4th Graders Swim Party

2:00 – 4:00 PM @ the Johnson's (watch for more details)

Saturday, Sept. 18

St. Mark's @ the Doyt, BGSU Football game

7:00 PM

Sunday, Oct. 24

Corn Maze, all youth and families

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Friday, Nov. 5

Family Movie Night @ the Church

7:00 PM

December

Christmas Caroling, all youth and families

JULY NOISY OFFERING totaled \$609.55. This money will go to the Wood County Area Ministries (WAM). The Noisy Offering for August will go to the ELCA Fund for Leaders, and for September to the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk.

Take a fresh look at your finances

September is a time of change. Vacation ends and kids return to school, making it an ideal time to examine your finances.

Experts recommend reviewing your finances at least once a year. Here's how:

- 1. Identify your goals.** What are your short- and long-term financial goals? Have you made progress toward them this past year? If not, where have you fallen short? Have your goals changed? If so, write down your new goals.
- 2. Evaluate life changes.** Events such as getting married, having a baby or getting a new job can have a big impact on your finances. Plan ahead to make the transition smoother.
- 3. Protect your assets.** Review your health, auto and life insurance to ensure you have adequate coverage. And don't forget long-term disability insurance, which protects your most valuable asset—your earning ability.
- 4. Evaluate your investments.** Calculate the return on each of your stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Are you satisfied with their performance? Are your assets diversified? Are you taking an appropriate amount of risk based on your age and financial circumstances?
- 5. Review your retirement plans.** Are you contributing the maximum to your employer's 401(k) plan or an IRA? If not, start today.
- 6. Prepare for the unexpected.** Review your will. Does it still reflect your desires? If not, now's an ideal time to update it. Do you have enough in an emergency savings account?

For financial guidance, contact David Polzin FC,CLU or Mich Sayen FIC today at 419-354-3597 or visit Thrivent.com

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Kevin McGill, Director of Music, Organist, ext. 119
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Diann Brown, Praise Team Director
teacher_mom_1@yahoo.com

Norm Carpenter, Bell Choir Director
nccarp23@gmail.com

Lindsey Sharrer, Senior Choir Director

Samantha George, Mattison Moomaw, Nursery Supervisors

Karen Kline, Part Time Custodian

Marilyn Noble, Treasurer

Jean Lewis, Financial Secretary

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