



Sunday Worship Services 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM | Sunday School 10:00 AM

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- FROM THE PASTOR
- UMC NEWS
- OUR CHURCH FAMILY
- BIRTHDAYS
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- PRAYERS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Why was Jesus baptized? One answer to that question is that Jesus was baptized as a way of rejecting every possible expression of his life except one: to be the Son of God, crucified and resurrected. This reasoning is reinforced by the fact that the story of Jesus' temptation follows his baptism in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In other words, Jesus' baptism is a commitment on Jesus' part to the mission of God making all things new, and nothing was going to derail him from that mission.

Sunday in worship we will hear the story of Jesus' baptism and we will remember our own baptism.

Remembering our baptism reminds us that God loves us. In fact, before we can say "yes" to God, God has already said YES to us. In fact, the baptismal liturgy says this,

"Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price."

These remind us that baptism is a gift of love, a gift of salvation, and a gift of new life. All of this is a reminder that the work of God's grace is making all things new. Furthermore, our baptism is an invitation to participation in the work of God's grace. Again, the liturgy teaches us: "the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ."



This January our focus in worship is on God making all things new. How does that happen? First and foremost, it is the work of God's grace through the Holy Spirit. But it is also through the very real participation of disciples like you and me. We know this well at St. Mark's. Every week our church touches the lives of countless people through our ministries, and each of these ministries has a human face, human hands, and a human heart beating behind it.

The stories of Jesus' incarnation and baptism point to the fact that God became human to show us how to be human together for the sake of God's kingdom. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in such a way that the kingdom can be experienced, and God's grace is made known.

This means that St. Mark's needs you to help us spread the love of Christ from Love Road to the community and the rest of the world. It begins with each one of us. We believe that God is making all things new and to make that happen God needs you.

Next week you will receive a Consideration of Annual Giving Card. This card is intended to be a part of your new year's resolutions. I hope that you will prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. Marks in 2022 as we live into the way in which God is making all things new. Be in prayer. And be in worship, on site or online, while you consider the ways God is making all things new in you.

In Christ,

Pastor Mills

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

St. Mark's Moravian Love Feast Service

By: Allan Lindstrom
St. Mark's First Moravian Love Feast was celebrated at a special 10:00 am service on Sunday, December 26th. This Christian Fellowship service was hosted by the Agape Class.

Those in attendance sampled a variety of foods as they worshiped together in an informal table setting. Love Feasts date back to the 1700s when the Moravian Church held them to foster love, fellowship and service to others as described in the Book of Acts. John Wesley adopted the meal approach in his early development of American Methodism."



Churches see lots of need this Advent

By Sam Hodges

Dec. 15, 2021, | UM News

The Rev. Ruth Marsh (right) comforts Angi Rogers, a guest in the day shelter at Trinity United Methodist Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Rogers had not been feeling well and Marsh settled her in a Sunday school classroom to get some rest. "Everybody here takes care of me and each other," Rogers said. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Copy and paste the link to learn more:
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/churches-see-lots-of-need-this-advent>



Please Pray for...

Ann Johnson

Monday, January 3rd 2022

By: Joann McElroy - Please pray for Ann Johnson, Ed's sister-in-law. Recovering from brain surgery (cancer)

Anne

Monday, January 3rd 2022

By Patty May - Please pray for Anne suffering from depression, due to the loss of her son



Where love leads community



Happy Birthday!

Kaitlynn Escontrias, Jan 9th

P.J. Green, Jan 9th

John Tune, Jan 10th

Kathleen E. Goff, Jan 10th

Peter Craig, Jan 10th

Cathy Ortiz, Jan 11th

Gabby Floren, Jan 12th

Ray Jimenez, Jan 12th

Suzanne Walsh, Jan 12th

Allison White, Jan 13th

Curtis Ethan Osburn (16), Jan 13th

Diane E. Dunn-Arms, Jan 14th

John Peterson, Jan 14th

Mason Johnson (17), Jan 14th

Ruth E. Lindstrom, Jan 14th

Corey W. Haugland, Jan 15th

Jan. 9- Jan. 15
Next Week at St. Mark's

Sunday, January 9

8:00 am Nursery (Ages 6 Weeks - 2 Yr)
9:00 am Kids Church
9:00 am Praise Worship Service
10:00 am NUDGE Youth Sunday School
10:00 am Agape Class
10:00 am Sunday School (Ages K - 6)
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

Monday, January 10

10:00 am Reader's Book Chat
6:00 pm Traditional Service Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 59

Tuesday, January 11

12:00 pm Needlework Group
6:00 pm Jazz Band Rehearsal
6:30 pm Grief Share
6:30 pm Divorce Care group

Wednesday, January 12

8:30 am Church School Use of Sanctuary

Thursday, January 13

8:30 am Weight Watchers
9:00 am Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 pm Weight Watchers

Friday, January 14

11:00 am St Mark's School EARLY RELEASE
12:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm NA - Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, January 15

8:30 am Weight Watchers

St. Mark's 2021
All Rights Reserved.

To receive our weekly email version,
go to loveroad.org
Click Messenger

Our mailing address is:
5005 Love Rd. El Paso, TX, 79922 Phone:
(915) 581-4444



SHARE PRAYER

New things: baby Jesus, baby year,
baby church Not baby church? Maybe, but
we are learning new ways to be the church.

Baby Jesus grew. "the Child continued to
grow and become strong, increasing in
wisdom; and the grace of
God was upon Him.

Luke 3:40

Pray that we, the church, led by God,
will do the same.

Our work together is to pray, listen, and
follow.

How to Share Prayers:

Send your prayer requests to prayer group
leader Ruth Lindstrom at
ruthlindstrom@yahoo.com.

Call the church office at 915-581-4444
during office hours.

Contact one of our Chaplains (see St.
Mark's Chaplains tab on the website).

You can ask that your prayer requests be
published to groups or kept private.

<https://loveroad.org>



*[this section is blank
forming information
on the printed version]*

*St. Mark's United Methodist Church 5555
Loveroad, El Paso, TX 79922
(915) 581-4444 | email: admin@loveroad.org*

St. Mark's Church Staff

Senior Pastor – Rev. Douglas Mills
to schedule an appointment with Dr. Mills

[Schedule Now!](#)

<http://meetme.so/WDouglasMillsmaster>

Business Office Manager - Laura Ronald

Cheri Bridges - Office Assistant

Traditional Music Director - Stephen Jackson

Children's Ministry Director - Bianca Milan Analla

Communications Director - Bill Wilkson

Praise Team Director - Lawrence Brown III

Facilities Superintendent - Bunnie Betancourt Head

Head Kitchen Chef - Miguel Guillen

St. Mark's School Principal - Linda Smith