

Second Sunday of Easter

**April 27, 2025
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgr.org
616.456.1684**

Welcome to St. Mark's!

... a vibrant community of faith, which has gathered for worship since 1836 and in the current building since 1848. If this is your first visit with us, know that we are delighted you are here. Please introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest sign-in sheet in the foyer and/or fill-out a Information packed from a welcome folder inside the lobby podium.

Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday— 9 a.m. to noon.

Weather Policy: St. Mark's will post closures to WZZM 13, WOOD TV8, Facebook and our website by 7:00 a.m. or as soon as possible. The decision on afternoon and evening activities will be made separately, posted by noon.

Reserved Accessible Spaces: There are three shorter pews, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please only sit there or in the adjoining pews if you have assistive devices or need of extra space.

Safety: The outer doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Please pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. In an emergency, an announcement will be made and children will be ushered to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. If you are able, please consider not parking in the Parish Lot to reserve access for those less mobile. Consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the Kendall Lot across the street when the gate is up, the upper levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street (only until 2 p.m.), and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: vouchers for free parking on Sundays are available from an Usher (must be used with original parking ticket).

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp. More rest rooms are available on the second level of the Parish House, if you are able to use the stairs.

Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's: Eucharist on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at noon from September through May. Compline (Night Prayer) on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook.

Sunday School: We offer children's and youth formation, including Make a Joyful Noise with Mr. Alex, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Nursery care for children under kindergarten is available from 9:15 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. Service. For more information please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at jeffb@stmarksgr.org.

Youth Ministry: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth: G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Our Director of Faith Formation is Jeff Brown, jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adult Formation Ministry: *Adult Forums* are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at different times of the year. *Episcopal 101: An Inquirer's Journey* is offered yearly for adults especially those seeking Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or to Reaffirm one's faith. A multi-year seminar, *Education for Ministry* (EFM), is offered during the program year: contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsencd@gmail.com.

Breakfast Café Ministry: A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal every Saturday at 8:15 a.m.. If you would like more information and to possibly volunteer, please contact Judy Freeman at judyfw@comcast.net.

Land Acknowledgment: St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the indigenous people of the Three Fires. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds created many years ago by our forebears.

eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, get the weekly eNews in your email or from our homepage.

Cell Phones: We ask that you silence your cell phone; if you are on call, please turn it to vibrate.

St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon

Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager
Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar

Mike Armour, Operations Manager
Ronnie Hammond, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video
Marquice Jackson, Weekend Sexton
Jamie Interrial, Security Representative
Eric Gable, Webmaster

The Gathering of the People

Prelude — Canzona

J.J. Froberger

Welcome

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 212: Awake, Arise, Lift Up Your Voice

Richmond

Salutation for the Easter Season

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Presider: Let us pray:

People: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen Gloria (*Bells ringing.*)**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace— to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al - might-ty God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry Lord Je-sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer, For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
you a-lone— are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most— High, Je - sus
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God—the Fa-ther. A - men.

Collect

Deacon: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Saint Mark

Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Hebrew Scripture *(You may sit.)*

Acts 5:27-32

Lector I: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150 *(Prayed responsively by half verse.)*

Laudate Dominum

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts; *

praise him for his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *

praise him with lyre and harp.

Praise him with timbrel and dance; *

praise him with strings and pipe.

Praise him with resounding cymbals; *

praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

Let everything that has breath *

praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Lector II: A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 209, vv. 1, 2: We Walk by Faith (*continues after Gospel*) *St. Botolph*

The Gospel

John 20: 19-31

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People:* Glory to you, O Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Gospel Hymn (*continued*) — **Blue Hymnal No. 209, vv. 3, 4: We Walk by Faith**

St. Botolph

Homily (*You may sit.*)

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People *(You may stand.)*

Lector I: As we celebrate this Season of Easter, we ask God to hear our prayers with our response: O God, hear us. During the periods of silence I invite you to add additional prayers either silently or aloud.

O God: We pray in thanksgiving for all those gathered here today. We pray for St. Mark's and our many ministries. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons: Sean, Presiding Bishop; the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod; the Bishop Whittmore Foundation; St. Matthew of Saginaw and its Priest, Mary Jo Hudson; Church of the Epiphany of South Haven and its Priest, John Wakefield. We remember the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For the President, Congress, our Governor, our Mayor and for all in authority, that they may be people of justice, integrity and truth. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For the good earth which God has entrusted to us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed, the homeless, refugees and for all who seek a better way of life. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For those who suffer from any grief or trouble. Give us grace to respond to the needs of those in distress, especially those who suffer because of hatred, racism, bigotry, violence and war. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries this week. Bless them with joy and well-being. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For all those on our Parish Prayer List, our military personnel, the sick, all those for whom we have promised to pray and those we now name silently or aloud. *(Pause to add additional names silently or aloud).* We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. *(Pause to add additional names.)* We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For what else or whom else shall we pray today? *(Pause to add additional prayers.)*
We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Deacon: For all these prayers we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts.
We pray: **O God, hear us.**

The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Presider and People:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Presider: †Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People: And always with you.

Presider: Respectfully, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

Reception of Gifts

Offertory Music — Canzona Prima

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Alex Wilson, cornetto
Pablo Mahave-Veglia, Baroque cello
Levi Smith, Baroque cello
Chris Belland, theorbo

Presentation Hymn

O Je - sus, King of gen - tle-ness, do you your-self our hearts pos-sess that
we may give you all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I (BCP)

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. †Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

†Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

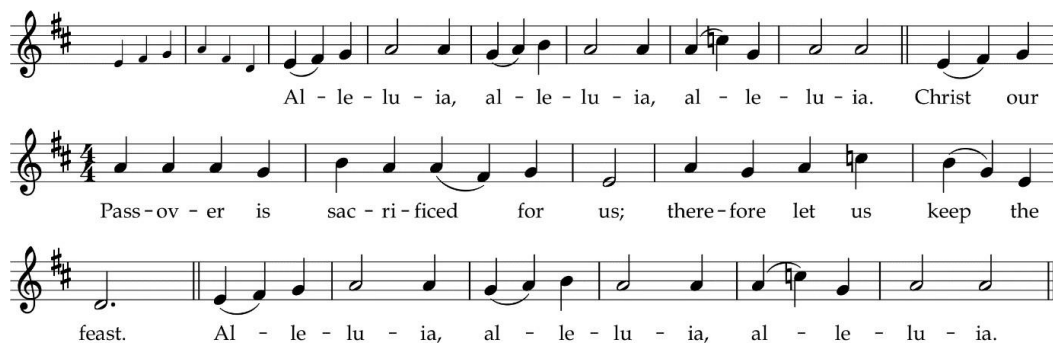
Presider: Let us pray the Lord's Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer.

(Traditional) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Contemporary) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Spanish) Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Reception of the Sacrament



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our
Pass - ov - er is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the
feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Instruction for Receiving Communion

All are invited to receive Holy Communion which contains both consecrated bread and wine. An intinction cup with consecrated wine is available. Gluten-free consecrated bread without wine is also available upon request. Please follow the guide of the Ushers to receive the Sacrament at the communion rail by filling in from right to left. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Healing Prayer: When present in the South Transept, healing ministers offer a brief and simple prayer.

Blue Hymnal No. 324: Let All Mortal Flesh

Picardy

Post-Communion Prayer *(You may stand.)*

Presider: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Holy God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Solemn Easter Blessing

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of the Son, Jesus, the Christ, bestow upon us the riches of Christ's blessing. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to our eternal inheritance. **Amen. Alleluia!**

†And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal No. 194: Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

St. Albinus

Sending Forth

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, alleluia, alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude — Toccata Quinta

Frescobaldi

Thank you for being with us today. We are all invited to participate in St. Mark's tradition to remain seated until candles are extinguished and the postlude has ended. Then please join us in the Parish Hall for further fellowship.

The St. Mark's Prayer List

Contact the church office to add names to the prayer list. Names may be removed after one month unless requested.

The Sick and Other Needs

Alissa Almonte
Dave Atkinson
Jayne Austin
Sally Bowie
Christopher Brewer
Ed Cox
Cullen Davies
Ellyn Davies
Derby Family
Terry Dusendang
George Elliott
David Leach
Kathryn Marmion
Laura Maslonka
Jackie McCarthy
Chris McClain
Jean McCormick
Carmela McIntire
Goebbert-McIntire Family
Bill Nasser
Ed Nicholson
Marilyn and Ron Oom
Joe Pinto
Linda Radke
Chris Reale
Michael Reale, Sr.
Julie Renauldo
Bea Rocco
Javier Ronquillo
Dan Scripsema
Meghan VanderMale

Sue Allen
Susan Andrews
Nita DeGraaf
John Gracki
Jennifer Julius
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara

In Military Service

B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
PV2. Cailen Donahue McLea, USA
Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
Col. Todd Murray, USAF
2LT. John Nicholson, USA

Members of the Vestry

Ben Busman, Sr. Warden
Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden
Emily Krueger, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Steve Bell
Scot Gugle
Laura Kozminski
Penny Larsen
Dan McDonald
Carmela McIntire
Rex Miller
Michael Reale

Search Committee

Bob Brower
Doug Busman
Nancy Dodge
Karen Hunter
Carmela McIntire
Shawn Miller
Heather Tafel
Darren Walhof
Tom Woudstra,
Chaplain

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng

Candidate for Holy Orders

Cathy Stevens

Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's

Place check or cash in the offering plate

Electronic giving (email pams@stmarksgr.org)

Vanco Mobile App from any mobile device:



Pay by text – text 616-205-9714 from your phone to send a payment

Mobile App Square Cash – Cashtag: \$stmarksgr Web address: [cash.me/\\$stmarksgr](https://cash.me/$stmarksgr)

Mail a check to the church

Online at our website at www.stmarksgr.org through PayPal

Remember St. Mark's in your estate planning (A brochure is available at the Welcome Desk.)

Gifts or transfer of stock



Church Spotlight: Your Vestry, the governing board of the congregation, met Tuesday, April 22nd.



- We are happy to report healthy finances that are within our budget for the year.
- We were excited to hear updates from our Building Project Committee and Kennari Consulting Firm (read more below).
- Our new rector discernment process is ongoing. We are so grateful for the hard work of the Search Committee. Please continue praying for this confidential process. We will share news when we can confidently do so.

To access last month's approved minutes, please visit our Vestry website (linked in the eNews).

Parish Notes

Welcome! Guests, please sign the book in the front lobby. Fill out the new parishioner information sheet (in the lobby podium) to get name tags, receive weekly eNews or officially join the St. Mark's Family in Faith.

It Takes a Church: Thank you to Rev. David, Rev. Hugh, Canon Tracie, Canon Sunil, Rev. Alan and Deacon Jan, as well as to our staff, Choir, musicians, Altar Guild and all other ministry and member volunteers who made our Passion Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services possible. Your efforts are seen and greatly appreciated. Alleluia.

Building Project Update: We have been in communication with five different construction companies about responses to our construction management Request for Proposal (RFP). The last of five did a walk through the building this week, and we will have all proposals by the week of April 29th. The Building Planning Team will meet with our architects to review the proposals and recommend a vendor to the Vestry. We anticipate choosing a construction firm and project manager by mid-May. We will then work with that firm to set up an initial construction schedule, realizing that it will be adjusted as we progress through the project. We will communicate with the congregation as that work moves forward. We will continue to work with local foundations and sources of public funds to help ensure broad financial support for the project.

There Is Power In Showing Up: Can you commit eight to ten hours a year to support the work of Together West Michigan (TWM)? We're not asking you to chair a committee, go to weekly meetings or meet with public officials (though you might choose to!), but there are a few times a year when TWM leaders from St. Mark's need parishioners to show up and become informed allies. One of those times is the Delegates Assembly, April 26th from 10 a.m. to noon. Please review the flyer on the lobby bulletin board or through the eNews link and sign up. You will learn:

- What's keeping local people up at night
- What's being proposed to address those concerns
- How the united efforts of the 18 or so organizations that make up TWM can really make a difference.



United Thank Offering (UTO), Ingathering May 4th: Participants are invited to bring their UTO Blue Boxes forward during the Offertory at both Services. There is still time to join in; we have Blue Boxes available at the Welcome Desk. Here's a reflection from our own Nancy Dodge on what UTO means to her:



"If I were asked to write a tagline for UTO, it would be 'building better Christians and building a better world'. The second part is pretty self evident— every cent donated to UTO goes to support worthwhile projects here in our country and throughout the world— "serving the least of these". But, what about the 'building better Christians' part? To me, the more we observe and respond to the bounty that we receive from God every single day, the closer we come to being the mindful and generous followers that God wants us to be. And UTO is built around using thank offerings as an expression of gratitude. I am thankful for this church family and for UTO." ~ Nancy

Feeding America Food Truck, May 8th, 4:00–6:00 p.m.: To volunteer contact Scot, s.gugle@comcast.net.