

John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, we are grafted by grace into His vine. We desire to be more like Him and grow into His image. That’s growth in fruit bearing, and it always comes with some pruning.

Sunday Worship – In Person and Livestream

Pastor Chris Rubino will share the message “*The Vine and the Branches*,” scripture focus John 15:1-17. Scripture readings are: Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:18-24 and John 15:1-17.

Anyone who is not feeling well or who is uncomfortable worshipping in person at this time is encouraged to worship with us online at 8:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on the *Livestream* page at saintmarkgr.com and fb.com/saintmarkkentwood. The livestream will begin approximately ten minutes before the service time.

Note: Next Sunday, May 9th - No Learning Hour

Wearing Mask or Shields and Health Screening

We ask that you wear a mask or shield when moving throughout the church and gathering areas. We are aware that some people have a difficult time breathing when constantly wearing a mask or shield. Wearing them is optional when sitting in the Sanctuary. When you get up and walk around please wear them.

When visiting during the week, we are asking everyone who enters the building to stop in the lobby and complete the health screening checklist.

Rite of Confirmation – Sunday, May 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

We will confirm three students during the late Worship Service which will begin at 10:00 a.m. instead of 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation is a church rite in which a congregation gives its catechumens who have been instructed in Christian doctrine according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions an opportunity to confess their faith before the church.

This year’s confirmands are: Donavin Balk, Elizabeth Nichols, Finneas White.

Celebrating Birthdays this Week

- May 2 Jon Krueger
May 4 Finn White
May 5 Moira Lancaster, Michael Puot
May 6 Karen Babinski, Aidan Lancaster, Dinah Losee, Cassidy Ochsankel, Randy Rabe
May 8 Dawn Gilcher

This Week's Calendar

- ⇒ Rite of Confirmation, Sunday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. during the late Worship Service. **Note change of service time.**
- ⇒ Ladies Bible Study, Monday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 205, Jessi Marsiglia, Leader.
- ⇒ Women's Ministry Meeting, Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room.
- ⇒ Men's Bible Study via Zoom, Wednesday morning at 6:45 a.m. Contact Jon Krueger for more info.
- ⇒ Couch to 5K Walk/Run Training, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact Paul Beuschel for more information.
- ⇒ National Day of Prayer
- ⇒ Men's Bible Study, Thursday 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room or Zoom. Contact Pastor Rubino for more information.
- ⇒ Couch to 5K Walk/Run Training, Saturday 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Beuschel for more information.

Altar Flowers:

The flower chart for 2021 is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. You are invited to sign up for altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or a special occasion in your family. Just sign your name by the date you have chosen. The cost for the flowers are \$12.50. The flowers may be taken home following the late service.

Call Committee Update:

The Call Committee is expecting a new list of Lead Pastors candidates from the District office by the end of April. The Call Committee is ready to review the next list as soon as it is received.

Preschool Enrollment:

Saint Mark Preschool is enrolling for fall classes. We have classes for 3 year olds, 4 years and young 5's. If you or someone you know is interested in sending their child to preschool please connect with Chris Stodola, Preschool Director, cstodola@saintmarkgr.org, 616-455-5320 ext. 212

West Michigan Lutheran High School News:

Hanging Basket Sale: Just in time for Mother's Day! . . . and hopefully warmer weather! WMLHS Boosters is having a hanging basket sale. Among the choices are: Fern, Fuschia, Non Stop Begonia, Geranium, New Guinea Impatiens, Petunia, and Wandering Jew. Connect with a WMLHS student, or call the WMLHS office to order. Hanging plants are \$20 or 2/\$36. Orders will be due Wednesday, May 5th with Pick up on Friday, May 7th at WMLHS. Questions?: Call Melisa McKendry 616-902-1539

One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure: Come check out the WML Booster's garage sale. **Note: Change of date.** When: May 6, 7 and 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Where: 2121 Pleasant Pond Drive SW, Byron Center, MI 49315. All proceeds will benefit the WML Boosters supporting all extracurricular for students.

Now Enrolling for the 2021-2022 School Year: An affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education that is within your reach. Contact the WML office at 616-455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork. WML looks forward to teaching your child!

Host Families Needed: West Michigan Lutheran is looking for families to host exchange students for the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in this joyful and rewarding opportunity contact the WML office at (616) 455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org.

Mathematics & Science Teacher: West Michigan Lutheran High School is looking for a full-time certified mathematics and science teacher with computer capabilities. Please contact Kristine Angers for more information at kangers@wmlhs.org or call 616-455-2200.

Athletic Director: West Michigan Lutheran is looking for an organized and energetic individual with a coaching background to serve as the West Michigan Lutheran Athletic Director. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the school office at 616-455-2200 or email kangers@wmlhs.org.

Camp Concordia:

Camp Special: Where can your children experience Christian growth while swimming, canoeing, shooting archery, riding horses, and zip-lining? At Camp Concordia! Don't let your children miss the adventure, joy and wonder that a week at a Christian camp can bring. Camp nurtures faith inside of kids! The week of June 13-18 has a special rate of \$300 for Grades 3-6! To read what parents have to say, please visit the camp's website at www.campconcordia.org or call the camp office for more information at 616-754-3785.