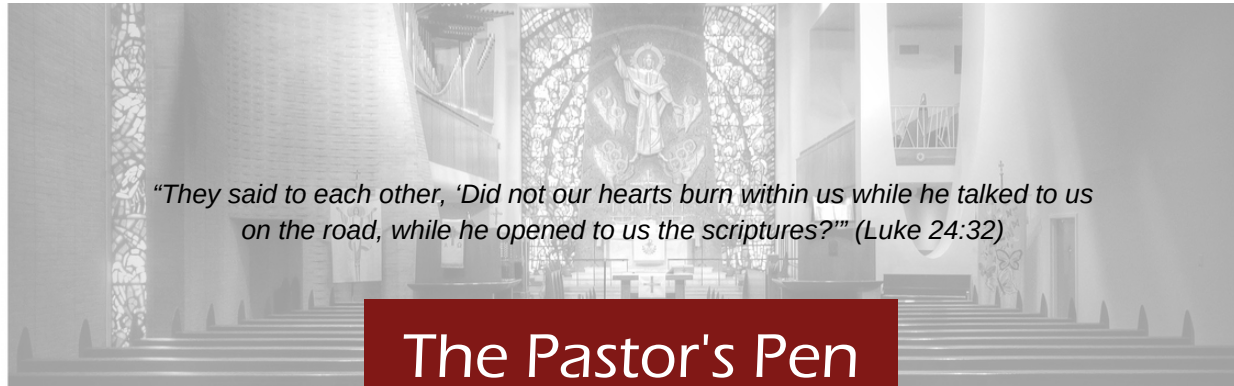


ReMarks

April 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

On Easter day Jesus met two disciples and accompanied them along the road to Emmaus. Though they did not recognize him, this stranger interpreted to them the things said about himself in the scriptures. The story culminates with the two disciples asking the stranger to stay with them for it was evening when they arrived in Emmaus. When he was with them at the table, he took a loaf of bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus with them.

This is one of my favorite stories about Jesus because it reminds me of how Jesus accompanies us on our journeys revealing himself to us. He comes often unbidden and unrecognized into our lives in the person of a stranger. This Easter resurrection story is a reminder that he is alive accompanying us on our travels in this world. He is the silent companion watching over you and he is the power of grace, causing your heart to burn with the understanding of faith in him wherever or however you are.

This story describes what we do as Christians journeying in this world: we walk with others, often accompanied by strangers who become a blessing to us. In this world as we are increasingly told to fear others, strangers, and foreigners among us, we risk turning our back upon the ones whom Jesus sends to us that he might help them through us.

I experienced this over and over during many years of mission service in another part of the world where I was often the foreign stranger who was welcomed into new community among people who also opened the scriptures to me. It goes both ways; we welcome the stranger, and we can be the stranger finding welcome in Christ. Whether I was sharing in the breaking of the bread in the Eucharist, or sharing a meal with someone of another religion, I knew and trusted that Jesus was accompanying me on my travels in this world, helping me and others grow in friendship through his presence alive among us.

We recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, the most tangible reality of his resurrection life among us. As you partake of the bread of life, you become living bread feeding others with his living presence so that all whom you meet will have met him in you.

His light will burn in your heart, leading you as you befriend and help others on your journey. He lives, walking with and ahead of you, and little by little through you, he gathers us into one flock – a new community of friends living in the power of his resurrection.

In the fellowship of the gospel, Pastor Timothy McKenzie

March Council Highlights

On 3/11/2024, the congregational council held their monthly meeting via Zoom.

From the Treasurer's report:

- Overall, church in good financial shape
 - Operating at net surplus for February

From Pastor's report:

- 2/23 – Carolina ProMusica concert: Handel Concert Program
- 2/24 – Annual AA Women's Retreat
- 2/25 – Guest Cellist and Baptism of Erich Wartner
- 3/10 – St Mark's Handbells and Temple Talk
- Thank you to the committees who have served Lenten Suppers
- Pastor "planted seed" for discussion on a Columbarium Garden Restoration
 - Restoration will be spearheaded by Evelyn Gerdes, Millie Cansler, and Sally McCauley
 - Council to discuss during April meeting
- **Motion:** Accept Ted Seman and David Thomason as members at St. Mark's. Accept Barbara McKenzie and Jonathan McKenzie as associate members at St. Mark's.

Other business:

- Account name has been updated from "Stop Hunger Now" to "Rise Against Hunger"
- **Motion:** Donate \$2,102 to Rise Against Hunger

In Peace,

A.J. Pridgen
Council Secretary

New Associate Members



On Sunday March 17, new associate members Barbara McKenzie and Jon McKenzie worshipped with us. Pictured here with Pastor Tim and Mari.

Around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

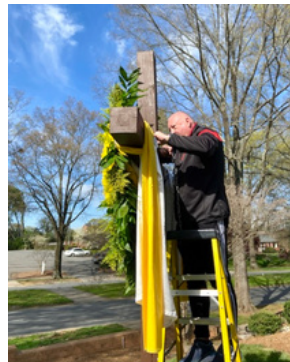
St. Mark's Men's Group Lenten Meal



On March 20, the Men's Group served a midweek Lenten supper of vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and sugar cookies. Thank you to all who served and attended the Midweek Lenten Suppers, it was a good time of fellowship.

Easter Preparation

The Worship and Music Committee was busy preparing the cross in the church yard and the sanctuary for Easter Day worship services. Kevin Feezor hung the sunburst floral arrangement on the yard cross, while Les Ackerman rehearsed with the brass and timpani ensemble for Easter services. The butterfly banner and resurrection cross are signs of Easter hope in the sanctuary.



Around St. Mark's



The cherry trees on Queens Road bloomed the week before Holy Week, and a grasshopper on the church door were reminders of spring and the coming festival of Easter. The Christus Victor relief on our church is a constant sign that Christ is alive!

Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

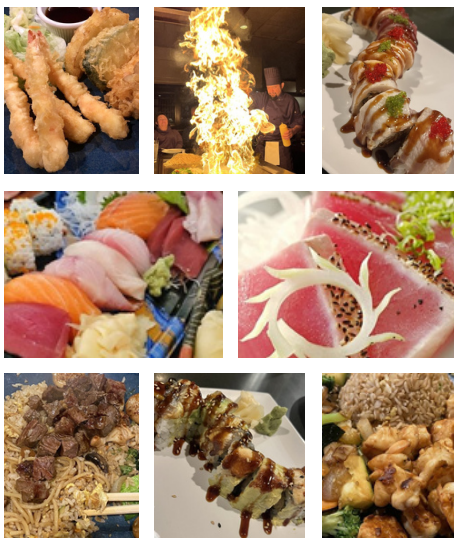
St. Mark's Men's Group

The Men's Group April meeting is Saturday, April 13 at 9:00 am. We look forward to getting together. Stay to serve with us, helping to clean the street we have adopted.

Pictured right: Adopt-a-Street Clean-up
Saturday, March 11, 2023



Ethnic Restaurant Group



The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Nakato Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar on 16 April 2024 (Tuesday) at 7:00 PM. The Nakato family has run Japanese-themed restaurant in Charlotte since 1976. The address is 8500 Pineville-Matthews Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226.

All are welcome. Nakato has an interesting water-feature to deliver various sushi items, and the hibachi chefs are as flamboyant as those you will find anywhere. The sushi rolls are particularly colorful. The hibachi offers chicken, salmon, shrimp, scallops, beef, and vegetarian treats. Picking a favorite may be challenging, especially since combinations of different proteins increases the number of options! All of our meals there have been palate-pleasing, and have left us with a desire to return for additional culinary experiences. You may check the corridor TVs for inspiration when the photos of various dishes are posted.

Nakato requires our entire group to arrive and be seated at the same time. Sushi can be ordered at the hibachi tables. Start planning to select the ideal meal for your individual preferences. Because Nakato needs an accurate count, please plan appropriately, and RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert.

Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson



Love Circle

We meet the second Wednesday of each month. Join us April 10 at 11:00 am in the Large Conference Room.

St. Mark's Book Group



The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. All interested persons are welcome to participate. Our book this month is *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel* by Kati Marton.

An acclaimed biographer, Marton set out to pierce the mystery of Merkel's unlikely ascent and the unique political genius that enabled Merkel to achieve so much success: both in confronting Russian aggression and outmaneuvering strongmen like Putin and Trump, and in weathering surprisingly complicated relationships with allies, such as Obama and Macron. Merkel emerges from this account as a role model for anyone interested in gaining and keeping power while staying true to one's moral convictions.

For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

Gifts & Memorials

Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

In Memory of Drew Robinson Smith

Gene & Jackie Ellington - Gifts & Memorials

Rev. Dr. Carl McKenzie - Pastor Tim's
Father

McKenzie Family - Altar Guild Fund

In Memory of Robert Shirley - Genna Hurley's
Father

Marty & Dawn Schwartz - Capital Campaign
Wayne & Jill Nelson - Capital Campaign
Grace Circle - Capital Campaign

Family Ministry

THEOLOGY ON TAP



Next one is April 18 at 7p at The Pizza Peel located in Cotswold at 4422 Colwick Rd. Everyone is welcome!



TOT at Sweet Union Brewery March 21. Our St Mark's team won the trivia prize!

PLEASE DONATE FOR COLLEGE CARE PACKS

WE ARE SENDING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS CARE PACKAGES FOR FINALS WEEK. HERE ARE SOME TREATS AND SWEETS THAT THEY LOVE AND HELP POWER THEM THROUGH EXAMS:

SUGAR FREE GUM
SINGLE SERVE BAGS OF
CHEEZ-ITS, CHEX MIX, OR
POPCORN
CANDY!
CHOCOLATE
SKITTLES
MOTTS FRUIT SNACKS
POPARTS



NUTRIGRAIN CEREAL BARS
SLIM JIMS
PRINGLES
GOLDFISH
CHEESE OR PB RITZ CRACKERS
LANCE CHEESE CRACKERS
COOKIES, OREOS, OR CHIPS AHOY
CARDS SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS
& SUPPORT

WE WILL GLADLY TAKE YOUR LEFTOVER EASTER CANDY!

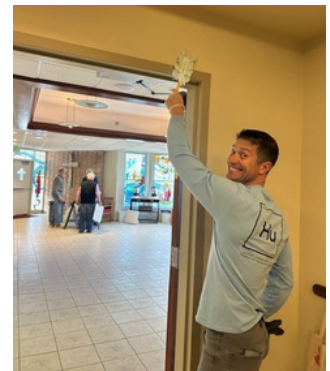
PLEASE BRING IN YOUR DONATIONS BY APRIL 14!

THANK YOU FOR LOVING AND SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

IN ADDITION TO SENDING BOXES TO OUR COLLEGE PALS, WE WILL ALSO BE SENDING A BOX TO WILL JACOB WHO IS SERVING IN THE AIR FORCE. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A NOTE FOR WILL OR ANY OF OUR STUDENTS PLEASE DROP THOSE IN THE COLLECTION BINS.

Property

Genna Hurley Committee Chairperson



On Saturday March 16, the Property Committee led a Spring Clean-up Day to prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter. The sanctuary was cleaned, new ceiling tiles installed in various places, a new tile floor installed in the elevator, shrubs trimmed in the yard, and the carpets were cleaned on Monday March 19. Thank you to all who participated in helping to keep our church welcoming and bright!



Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

Vespers at St. Mark's

Several outstanding musical events are planned during April. Please join us as you are able.



Carolina Pro Musica
In Concert

APRIL 5, 2024
7:30 PM

A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

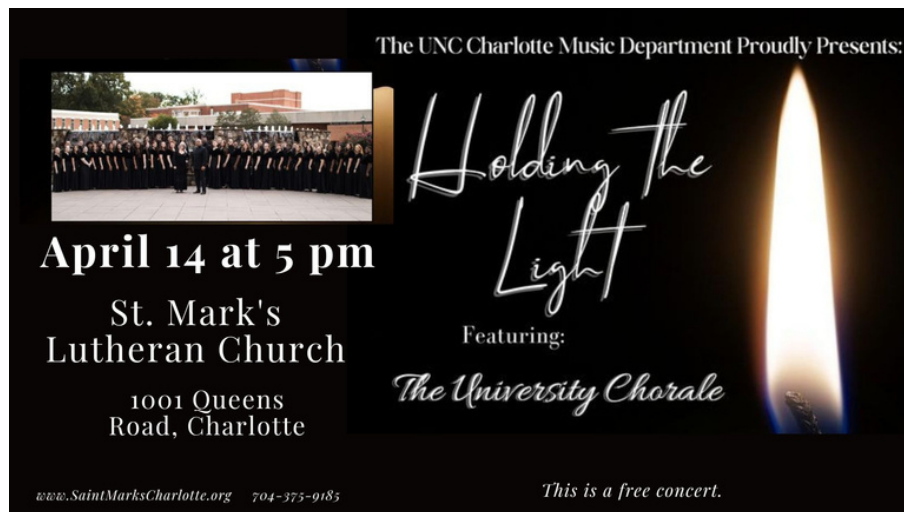
Join Carolina Pro Musica as we travel the world through popular songs & dances of medieval times to present day. Visit Europe, the Americas, and more.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church


Ticket reservation:
[HTTPS://WWW.CAROLINAPROMUSICA.ORG/SCHEDULE](https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule)

Half price tickets for SMLC!! Call the church office.

704-375-9185 www.SaintMarksCharlotte.org



The UNC Charlotte Music Department Proudly Presents:




Holding the Light

April 14 at 5 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte

Featuring:
The University Chorale



www.SaintMarksCharlotte.org 704-375-9185

This is a free concert.



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2023 5:00 PM

Free! Donations welcome.

Queen City
RINGERS IN CONCERT

Dancing to the Light

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

Worship Highlights



St. Mark's Choir, Sunday, March 3rd, Third Sunday in Lent



Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, cantors and 8:30 am song leaders, Third Sunday in Lent



St. Mark's Handbells, Sunday, March 10th Fourth Sunday in Lent



Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, Cantors and 8:30 am song leaders, Fourth Sunday in Lent



St. Marks Choir, Fourth Sunday in Lent



Communion Distribution Team, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

March Worship Highlights



Meg Fielding, Synodical Lay Preacher, candidate, Fourth Sunday in Lent



Lowell Engelhard, lector, Fourth Sunday in Lent



Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors, Sunday, March 17th



Temple Talk, Rodney Tucker, Executive Director, Samaritan House, Fourth Sunday in Lent



Philip Brindise, Charlotte Symphony French Horn, Fifth Sunday of Lent



St. Mark's Choir, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

March Worship Highlights



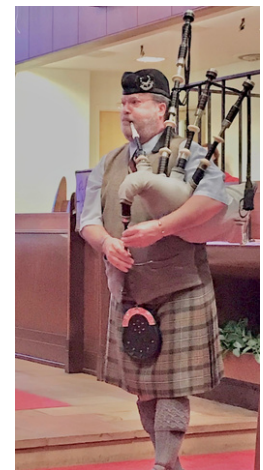
St. Mark's Choir, communion anthem, Palm/Passion Sunday



Robel Mamo, Community Leadership Academy/Community Kitchen Temple Talk, Palm/Passion Sunday



Communion Distribution Team, Palm/Passion Sunday



Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper, added the glorious sounds of the bagpipes to worship on Passion/Palm Sunday.

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

March Worship Highlights



St. Mark's Handbells, Palm/Passion Sunday



Nick Matherly, Delenn Rumbolo,
8:30 Worship Song Leaders,
Palm/Passion Sunday

Funeral Service for Rev. Dr. Michael Frye



Pastor Michael Frye was interim pastor at St. Mark's from April 2017 to January 2019. Pastor Frye entered into eternal glory on Friday, March 15, 2024, sharing in the inheritance of the saints in light. His funeral was held at Living Saviour Lutheran Church on March 21st. We give thanks to God for Pastor Frye's faithful service to Jesus Christ and his church!



Pastor Frye served as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC for sixteen years. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Lutheran Chapel Church, Gastonia, NC; Christ Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX; mission developer and pastor at Living Saviour Lutheran Church, Charlotte; and, as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Salisbury where he began his ordained ministry in 1973. Pastor Sarah Ilderton, Pastor Phil Tonnessen, and Pastor Tim McKenzie led the funeral service, and John Simon represented St. Mark's as a communion assistant.

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"God Loved the World" ELW 323

This anonymous German hymn text, based primarily on John 3:16, is perfectly paired with the English psalm tune ROCKINGHAM OLD. This hymn text first appeared in a large collection of hymns (1,313 total) published in 1778. August Crull (1854-1923) made the first English translation, published in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (Baltimore, 1889). August Crull was born in Germany, but spent most of his life in the United States. He began his studies at Concordia College, and was a graduate of Concordia Seminary. Edward Miller (1731-1807) included the tune ROCKINGHAM OLD in his collection *Psalms of David for the Use of Parish Churches* (London, 1790). In addition to being a publisher, organist, and writer, he was an accomplished flutist, and apparently played flute for the great George Frideric Handel.

"Life High the Cross" ELW 660

was first published in 1916, and included eleven stanzas! Evangelical Lutheran Worship only includes five stanzas, with a rousing refrain. Stanley Osborne writes of this hymn: "The hymn has no room for weak resignation. It summons the mightiest and leaves them gazing upon a Love that gave its life to achieve life." American hymnologist Austin Lovelace says: "It is related to 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'For All the Saints' ELW 422 in its symbolism of marching in the ranks of soldiers of the crucified. It is the crucified Christ and his cross which we follow, and his love we proclaim to the world." The tune CRUCIFER was written by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) for this hymn text. CRUCIFER means "cross-bearer."

"Seed That in Earth Is Dying" ELW 330

was written in 1978 by Svein Ellingsen (b.1929), a leading hymn writer in Norway. Ellingsen had a major influence in the Nordic hymn renaissance of the 1960's, especially in his endeavors toward writing that reflects "the new simplicity". Many of his texts are used equally as hymns, devotional readings, and prayers. Paul Westermeyer, author of the *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* says of Ellingsen's writing: "Although he has written hymns for a great variety of subjects, the theme that runs through all of them is the gladness found in one's faith, even in times of great distress". German born composer Harold Herresthal (b.1944) wrote the music for this hymn. He is organist at a church in Oslo and a professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music. The tune SAKORN SOM DOR I JORDEN gets its name from the Norwegian text.

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW 335

This gospel hymn by American hymn writer Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) was first published in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School* (New York, 1869). Even though she was blind by the time she was six weeks old, her lack of sight seemed to help her focus more fully on the spiritual aspects of life. This hymn gives us great insight into the power of the cross, especially from someone who was sightless: "Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me." Fanny pictures in her mind's eye the vision of Christ dying on the cross. The symbol of light is found in stanza two, with stanza four concluding with the commitment to watch and wait, hope and trust, forever. William H. Doane (1832-1915) wrote the tune NEAR THE CROSS and was a frequent collaborator with Fanny in providing tunes for her texts.

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ELW 344

has established its place as the traditional Palm Sunday processional hymn. It is based on the accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem found in Matthew 21, and Luke 19, as well as portions of Psalms 24 and 118. This hymn was written by Bishop Theodulph of Orleans (c.760-821), a leading French theologian and poet of his time. We believe he may have written this hymn while imprisoned in the year 818, falsely accused for conspiring against King Louis the Pious. This is one of our oldest Latin hymns, and in original form included thirty-eight two line stanzas plus the refrain! John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated eight stanzas from Latin into English, first published in 1851. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* prints his first five stanzas plus refrain. Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), a German pastor, cantor and teacher, wrote the tune VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN ("Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee") that we associate with this hymn.

"What Wondrous Love Is This" ELW 666

This anonymous folk hymn is from nineteenth-century America and is paired with the Southern Harmony (1835) tune WONDROUS LOVE. Each stanza presents a single thought, which is underscored by repetition. God's love is so great that he would give up his crown for a sinner's soul.

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW 338

Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869) is the author of this Lenten hymn. She was a member of the Free Church of Scotland and devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick in her community. She was nicknamed "Sunbeam" to reflect her sunny personality and philanthropic work among the disadvantaged. This hymn was written shortly before her death and is a meditation on the cross and its importance in the faith of the believer. The numerous scriptural allusions are indicative of the poet's thorough knowledge of the Bible. The tune ST. CHRISTOPHER was composed for Clephane's hymn by Frederick Charles Maker (1844-1927) an organist and conductor in Bristol, England. Clephane's hymns were popularized in the United States by Ira Sankey, who collected gospel hymns and was the musical assistant of the American evangelist Dwight Moody (1837-1899).

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson April Serving Schedule

Crucifer/Acolyte

4/7 C/A: Needed
4/14 C/A: Brady Ferner
4/21 C/A: Needed
4/28 C/A: Needed

Sound System

4/7 Neil Dixon
4/14 Bob Chernet
4/21 Kevin Feezor
4/28 Alan Harms

Tabulators

4/7 Janice Miller
Dianne Thomas
4/14 Dawn Schwartz
Meg Fielding
4/21 Joe Barrett
Karen Feezor
4/28 Joe Barrett
Doug Milheim
Charles Lakeman

Ushers

Team C: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley

Prayer Assistants

4/7 Melissa Smith
4/14 Lisa Barnette
4/21 Youth
4/28 Michael Thompson

Lectors

4/7 Kay Finlon
4/14 Charles Lakeman
4/21 Michael Lakeman
4/28 Larry Lippert

Communion Helpers

4/7 Kay Finlon
4/14 Catherine Metze
4/21 Karen Covington
4/28 Sandy Rach

Video Streaming

4/7 A. J. Pridgen
4/14 Ron Wenzel
4/21 Ron Wenzel
4/28 Joe Barrett

Greeters

4/7 Patrick & Rebecca Huang
Dale & Mary Lou Hopp
4/14 Jay Jacob
Millie Cansler
4/21 Eileen Dunlap
Charles & Susan Lakeman
4/28 Neil & Charlotte Dixon
Ted Seman, David Thomason

Communion Assistants

4/7 Barbara Baker, Rebecca Huang
Charles & Susan Lakeman
Michael Lakeman
4/14 Janice Miller, A. J. Pridgen
Chris Stevenson, Nick Wartner
Betsy Wenzel
4/21 Lisa Barnett, Flora Chance
Jay Jacob, Gretchen Payne
Kimberly Zimmerman
4/28 Barbara Baker, John Simon
Charles & Susan Lakeman
Michael Lakeman

April Birthdays

4/4 Linda Wyatt
4/6 William Jacob
4/8 Chris Parrish
4/8 Lou Feola
4/10 Alan Harms
4/11 Clayton Wall
4/12 Ken Hazen
4/14 John Brumbaugh
4/15 Nancy Deal

4/16 Drew Basinger
4/16 Betty Kendrick
4/16 Meg Johnson
4/16 Jennifer Dagenhart
4/16 Sandy Rach
4/20 Ann Connor
4/21 Mary Timm
4/23 Layton Campbell
4/23 Shelley Ferner

4/24 Emily Ritchie
4/25 Riley Smith
4/27 Timothy McKenzie
4/28 Catherine Metze
4/29 Hannah Bonetti
4/29 Jim Stone
4/30 Sophie Schwartz
4/30 Ainsley Stevenson
4/30 Ingrid Keiris