

# The Lookout

March-April 2024



## The Wondrous Cross

"When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride"

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, vs. 1

I have always read the words of this hymn as noting any cross as wondrous. At St. Mark's, I have found a cross that is wondrous in and of itself. When I sit in the front row of the pews and look up at the cross above the altar, I see a four-sided cross with the rugged metal inserts. I have never seen a four-sided cross before, and yet it fits so well in this sanctuary because the pews surround the altar and the cross on three sides. It is truly a cross that inspires wonder and deeper thought and contemplation.

Lutherans are not ashamed of the cross. We don't hide it or pretend it isn't part of our faith.

And pondering the meaning of the cross is a central purpose of Lent. Jesus died upon the cross. This very thought should cause us to shudder every time we think about it. The cross was an instrument of torture used by the Roman Empire which ruled the Judea where Jesus lived.

The cross means suffering.

The cross means blood spilled out.

The cross means a publicly humiliating death.

The empty cross, for us, tells us that Jesus is risen from the dead.

We go on this Lenten journey every year. We go through this time of looking at the cross with wonder, and pondering what it means for our lives, so when we get to Good Friday with Jesus on the cross, and then to celebrating his resurrection from the dead on Easter, we understand the triumph over suffering and death in a more personal way.

What does the cross mean for us? It means that the value of our lives is found, not in what we can gather or gain on our own, but in the cross, where Jesus gave his life for us.

God's Blessing,  
Pastor Sara Gillespie  
Interim Pastor



### **St. Mark's Church**

424 Hyde Park Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-547-8213

### **Worship Services**

In Person and Live Streaming  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

### **Office Hours**

Please make an appointment  
[welcome2stmarks@gmail.com](mailto:welcome2stmarks@gmail.com)

### **Contact Info**

**Pastor Sara Gillespie**  
**Interim Pastor**

[sara.gillespie88@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gillespie88@gmail.com)  
**920-214-3132**

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**Discipleship Coordinator**  
[marcia1@wi.rr.com](mailto:marcia1@wi.rr.com)  
262-784-2062

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**Council President**  
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## March-April

Are you thinking about **SPRING CLEANING?** How about donating cleaning supplies to the Food Pantry: sponges, soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent, scouring powder, bathroom sprays, etc. And food staples are always appreciated for those who continually need that help.

**THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU !**



**FOODPantry**  
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

## SENIOR + CONNECTION



Join us on March 12, 2024 at 11:30 am for

### A Touch of the Irish

**(don't forget to wear your green!)**

And there will be

a Lenten creation for your home

Lunch will be provided.

\$5.00 per person at the door

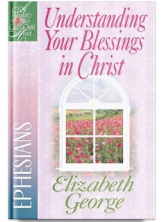
**\*\*\*\*All Are Welcome \*\*\*\***

Up coming dates for more fun!  
April 9th and May 21st



## Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **March 20th and April 17th** in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm. We are reading **Understanding Your Blessings in Christ** by Elizabeth George. All women are invited to join us. All St. Mark's Ladies are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall for dessert and conversation followed by a discussion in our book.



## Our 2024 Leaders

### Council:

President—Susan Cyr

Vice President—Deb Gerner

Treasurer—Dave Groenewold

Secretary—Laura Goralski

Gather Representatives—Mary Ann Sindelar & Lou Hernandez

Grow Representative—Tammi Boehm

Go Representative—Gene Geiger

**Nominating Team:** Chris Christensen, Frank Remfrey, & Sandy Solberg

**Mutual Ministry:** Sue Remfrey (leader), Kevin Goralski, & Jeannie Stickles



Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you.  
1 Peter 5:7

Through scripture, music, inspirational thoughts and sharing we pray together for His balm for our hearts. YOU are welcome to join this group of caring friends for support and comfort for whatever is heavy on your heart. We meet the second Thursday of each month in the upstairs lounge. Everyone is welcome

**Our Next Gatherings are at 10:00 am**  
**Thursday, March 14th**  
**Thursday, April 11th**

Anne Link 414-379-4619  
**\*ALL ARE WELCOME\***





Please join us at  
**Midweek Lenten Worship**  
**Wednesdays**  
**Noon-12:30 pm.**  
**February 21st-March 20th**  
  
**We'll explore the pathway**  
**to God's peace**  
**through the Lord's Prayer.**



### **Opportunities to Beautify St. Mark's During Lent**

1. Our Ecco palm fronds for Palm Sunday are provided by a donation. Thank you.
2. Live potted Palm plants for Sanctuary - \$20
3. Easter Flowers - envelopes in Narthex at Flower Sign Up: Lilies - \$22.50, Begonias - \$31, Mums - \$21, Azaleas - \$43, Hydrangeas - \$45, Kalanchoe - \$26

#### **DEADLINE TO ORDER - MARCH 10, 2024**

Donations may be In Memory of Someone/In Honor of Someone/ or because you love St Marks.

Flowers may be picked up following the Easter service on Sunday, March 31st.

Any questions, contact Barb Helling 414-378-8435.

## **HOLY WEEK**



**Holy Week Worship In-Person  
AND Online at Facebook and YouTube**

**Maundy Thursday Worship on  
March 28th at 6:30 pm**

**Good Friday Worship on  
March 29th at Noon**

**Easter Sunday on March 31st at 9:30 am**



### **Funerals**

The comfort of Jesus is shared with our members and their families who have lost loved ones:

Longtime St. Mark's member Robert (Bob) Solberg, died on February 14, 2024. Funeral was held on February 23, 2024 at St. Mark's Church, Waukesha.

Former Member, John Albrecht died on February 23, 2024. Private service was held at RiverGlen Church in Waukesha.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month during worship. Children will be excused for the class after the "Children's Time with the Pastor" within worship. Contact Suzanne Lorenz for more information (sfl3993@gmail.com or 262-510-8849).



### **Our Little Library**

Please place gently used books in our Little Library located near the sidewalk at the lower entrance. If the box is full, place the books in the coat rack area of the fellowship hall. Jennine Szwalkiewicz will keep the Little Library stocked. Children's books are preferred. Thanks for sharing God's love with our neighbors.



## Property Team Update – February

**HVAC** - First Choice Heating serviced all three boilers on January 5. All three were in good shape. The oldest boiler's auto-fill, and temperature control module, weren't working, but both were repairable.  
**The blower motor** in the front entry heater is not working again. There is some heat coming thru the radiator, but no blowing. Parts are no longer available. First Choice is looking into other available options.

**Front door lock** has been replaced. Thank you, Larry S.

**All fire extinguishers** passed inspection on February 8.

**WIFI and Internet issues** required a Spectrum tech to come out on February 13th. A new modem, new connectors, and a power signal adjustment were required to fix the problem.

**Floor drain** in the old boiler room was clogged, and a plumber was hired to clear it on February 20.

The annual pre-Easter **Window Washing** of the Sanctuary windows and Fellowship Hall windows by EZ Cleaning will take place on March 27th.

**Thanks to: Larry S.** for donating a gently used dehumidifier for the lower-level back room (old bathroom). (A new dehumidifier was part of our 2024 budget plans), and for repairing and donating the front door lock.

**Bob J.** for removing a large branch that came down in the storm.

**Chris F.** for cleaning and organizing the lower-level back hall (Christmas decoration area), and the Nursery/Family Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Fenner  
Property Chair

### Serving at the Hope Center

St. Mark's will serve a meal at the Hope Center on Wednesday, March 13th at 5:00-7:00 pm. Would you like to help? We need 5-7 people to serve the meal, help clean up, and provide milk and dessert. Hope Center provides the meal and guidance. It's a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with people you don't know. Contact Deacon Marcia for more information.



### Thank You from the Christmas Clearing Council

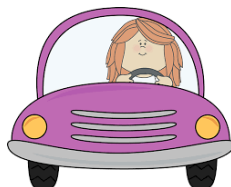
On behalf of Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council, we would like to thank you for the gifts you gave to our toy shop this December. The mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, games, puzzles, toys of all kinds, books, and beautiful quilts were given to 700 children. As the parents, guardians, or foster parents picked out gifts for their children, they had tears in their eyes. The toy shop helped children of ages 0-11. Teen gift cards were given to 509 children from ages 12-18. Sponsored children through the office of CCC totaled 2855. The total number of children helped was 4692 and all had a very merry Christmas. Thank you for caring and sharing your gifts.  
Mary Jo Christensen



Christmas Clearing Council  
of Waukesha County

### A Ride to Worship

Need a ride to Sunday Worship? Could you pick someone up and bring them to Worship? We recognize a growing need for transportation to Worship. Contact Marcia if you can help or have a need.



Installation of 2024 Council



Affirmation of Faith-Judi Henry and Dan Nimmo.  
Instruction of Faith-Abigail Cortichiato, Kaylee Stern,  
and Emily Stern.

## From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

*Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.  
No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us,  
and his love is brought to full expression in us. 1 John 4:11-12*

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

I remember sitting in the hospital room with our young adult son years ago. He was recovering from emergency surgery due to a ruptured spleen. I remember not being able to pray. It was a strange feeling for someone who likes to talk to God. I wasn't mad at God, but I think I was so overwhelmed by the situation that I couldn't form the words that I wanted to say to God.

That's when the calls and texts started to come in. I couldn't pray, but I discovered that God was moving others to pray for us. What a beautiful gift to be wrapped in the prayers of others!

That's what we are doing during Lent this year. We are wrapping others in our prayers each day. God has been moving us to choose different groups (like people you know who have cancer or people you know of who are global, state, and community leaders) and to pray for them. Each day a Scripture is given to help shape our prayers. These prayer prompts are posted daily on Facebook during Lent and are listed in the bulletin and email blast.

I've already been touched by this experience as I continue to lift up different people to God throughout my day. I invite you to join me in this Lenten journey.

*God, you love to hear us pray. Move our hearts as we pray  
for others during Lent so that we might bless them. Amen.*

In God's Love and Grace,  
Marcia



### **Bible Study on Wednesdays AND Thursdays March and April**

Discover the peace and presence of God in his Word! All are welcome! No Bible experience needed. We study the worship Scriptures for the coming Sunday and apply it to our lives.

The study meets on Wednesdays at 3:45-5:15 pm on Zoom and Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am on Zoom AND In-Person in the fellowship hall. **Please note that there is NO Bible Study on March 27 & 28 (Holy Week) and April 10 & 11 (Marcia is on vacation).**

Zoom meeting ID number:  
817 7030 6574  
Contact Marcia for the passcode.

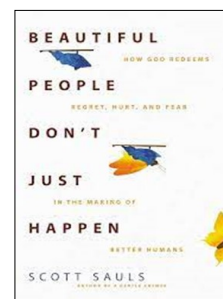
### **Conversation about Beautiful People Don't Just Happen**

**Mondays, March 4th and  
April 1st  
at 3:30-5:00 pm on Zoom**

Gather with other women to read and discuss the book, ***Beautiful People Don't Just Happen*** by Scott Sauls. The book explores how God redeems hurts, regrets, and fears in the making of better humans. Everyone is welcome as we read, learn, grow, and apply our faith to our challenges and opportunities. Contact Marcia for a FREE copy of the book while supplies last. There is no homework. We read the book together in the Conversation. Marcia Marquardt leads the discussion.

Contact Marcia for more information.

Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Contact Marcia for the passcode.





## Mortgage Summary

St. Mark's mortgage matured in mid-January and we now have a renewed 3-year business loan from the Waukesha State Bank with an amortization length of 13.5 years. We did some shopping around for the lowest possible interest rate and the 6.94% rate was the best we could find. Hopefully in 3 years we will enjoy lower interest rates.

Below are some facts about the new mortgage:

**Loan Amount:** \$155,039.20

**Interest Rate:** 6.94% (Former rate: 3.47%)

**Term:** 3 years (02-15-2024 to 01-15-2027)

**Monthly Payment:** \$1,485.41 (Former monthly payment: \$1,192.21)

**February 2024 Interest Payment:** \$927

**February, 2024 Principal Payment:** \$559

**Mortgage Amortization Length:** 13.5 years

## A note from our treasurer:

St. Mark's recently renewed our mortgage with Waukesha State Bank. The terms proposed were for 5 years at a 7.97% rate. As most of you may know interest rates have gone up considerably in the last few years. Our previous rate was 3.47%. After several negotiations with WSB, Frank Remfrey was able to get the rate reduced to 6.94% for three years. The loan amount is \$155,040. The monthly payment will increase \$293 per month. This will add \$3,516 in expenses to our budget that was approved in December.

**Dave Groenewold**  
Treasurer



If you have questions about St. Mark's mortgage, feel free to contact Frank at: fremfrey@yahoo.com.

**Frank Remfrey, Financial Secretary**

## Listening Session from February 4th

## Our Next Listening Session is March 3rd

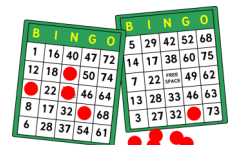
Thanks to all who participated in our first MET Listening Session! Here are some of your responses:

**1. What is happening at St. Mark's that you are really excited about?** Mission Moments, Sunday Service and Technology, Communion every Sunday, Confirmation, Church is more than what happens in the building on Sunday - things are happening all week and in many locations, Positive energy and enthusiasm, Joining SOPHIA, Offerings and connections with local charities, Praying for each other, Everyone can be a leader, Hope for new direction with a new pastor, New members recognized

**2. How have we changed in the last 5 years?** Positive Changes—More ways to connect, Zoom/EBlast/FaceBook Live, Restore and Renew project gave a needed facelift and added technology, Increased community outreach, Sunday School - a positive experience for our kids, Bible Studies, Lots of people joining groups and committees, Participating in community outreach, quilt donations, meals served, Coffee Hour fellowship, Generosity to the community, concern for others, prayers, Staying together during tough times, Many volunteers for leadership positions, Welcoming diversity, Negative Changes—No choirs, Lower attendance (trend in all churches)

**3. What do you see as our community? How is St. Mark's connected to the community?** Supporting Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, Visiting those in nursing homes or unable to leave their homes, GO Team reaches out to many community organizations, City of Waukesha is very diverse - holds many opportunities, Support of synod "Outreach for Hope", Living out our faith by going out into the community, We should do more to advertise, more signage to let people know our service schedule, advertisement for holiday services in the Freeman, We should get more info from community organizations so we can offer help, Change is hard but healthy.

Additional responses can be emailed to: [metstmarks@gmail.com](mailto:metstmarks@gmail.com). We are looking forward to hearing your ideas about St. Mark's mission and our connection to the community. **Our team** is Pastor Sara Gillespie, Brian Trautman (Chair), Karen Handford, Kelly Colgrove, Cathy Hernandez, Frank Remfrey, Mary Johnson, & Lisa Salb (Tower Hill Neighborhood Association).



Great time enjoyed by all in February at **Senior Connection** for the pancake and sausage lunch. There were 30 who enjoyed lunch and exciting Bingo games. Thanks to our chefs, Terry Inman, MaryJo Christensen and Bob and Mary Johnson.

A Big Thank you to MaryJo, for the delicious gift bags of fudge.

## Our Lenten Journey

Lent invites us to slow down for 40 days to reflect, turn to God, and pray. The season prepares us to observe and appreciate the gift of Jesus' death and resurrection for us. You are invited to these opportunities to draw near to God during this season:

**Midweek Lenten Prayer Services are on Wednesdays (February 21st-March 20th) at Noon** in-person and live stream on Facebook and YouTube. Our theme for these services will explore the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and help us experience peace through the pathway of prayer. Deacon Marcia and the "Still Waters Run Deep" discipleship huddle will lead these services.

**A Special Lenten Offering for ELCA World Hunger.** More than 820 million people—that's about 11 percent of people in our world today—are hungry. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. We hope to gather \$715 to purchase a family farm (a cow, two pigs, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training) that creates a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. Maybe we can contribute enough to purchase two or three farms. Checks may be made payable to St Mark's Lutheran Church with "Lenten special offering" on the memo line. More than 85 percent of our contributions will directly support the program; less than 15 percent is used for administration and fundraising by ELCA World Hunger.



**Something New!** Daily Prayer Prompts. Take 60 seconds a day to pray for someone else. We'll be praying for someone different each day (like people you know who are experiencing depression and anxiety, people who care for those with dementia and Alzheimer's, or people who care for the earth). We'll provide a new prayer prompt each day on Facebook and in the email blast and bulletin announcements as we lift up others to God.

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## Looking for a Way to Serve Others?

We have a few opportunities and invite you to pray about it. Contact Marcia Marquardt for more information.

**Communion Visitor** who brings care, conversation, devotional, and Communion about **once a month** to someone who can't come to worship in-person. This ministry is a beautiful way to connect with a person who might be isolated and offer God's love. Marcia will guide and train you.

**Office Helper** who prints the bulletin, posts it on our website, and checks the answering machine **once a month**. It will likely take you about 2-3 hours to do this work. Debbie Wagner will remain our principal volunteer in the church office this year, but we are hoping to add two helpers to assist her. This important ministry equips us to worship God by printing and posting the bulletin. Debbie will guide and train you.

**Food Pantry Delivery Person** who delivers the donated food to Salvation Army and Waukesha Food Pantry when needed (**usually about once a month**) and invites donations to this ministry in the Lookout newsletter. Our food donations are located in the basket near the elevator on the main level. This loving ministry helps St. Mark's go into the community to feed hungry people. Mavis McGrath will guide and train you.

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## St. Mark's Quilters

Last month, the Quilters were blessed with a donation of several rolls of batting from Chris and Vonda Bicket. They knew that St. Mark's Quilters would make good use of the extra batting. This is a wonderful gift because batting is a large expense when making the quilts.

Seventeen quilts were recently donated to children and expectant mothers who are patients at the Community Smiles Dental Clinic. Several quilts were donated to Three Pillars in Dousman for their annual fundraiser for Their Memory Care Initiative. Large and small quilts were donated to Summit Woods for a fundraiser to help Habitat for Humanity in their efforts to build a new neighborhood of affordable homes in Waukesha.

We have several beautiful Easter quilts available if anyone knows of someone who is struggling during this Lenten season. Contact any of the quilters or stop by to visit us on a Monday morning.

There is always an open invitation for anyone to visit the quilters and learn more about our work. No sewing experience required. Meetings take place on Mondays starting at 8:30 am. If anyone knows of a need anywhere in the community, please let us know. We can make arrangements for a quilt pick up or delivery. Please contact the church office at 262-547-8213 and be sure to leave a message.



Anna Miller created this quilt with help from the quilting team. It will be to be donated for a charity auction.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez

## Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!

The Lookout is a **BIMONTHLY (every other month) Newsletter**. You can receive the newsletter by email or pick up a black/white version at the welcome desk in church or in the Blessings/Little Library Boxes outside the church. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send your name and email address to: [stmarkslookout@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslookout@gmail.com).

Thank you! If you have questions, contact Rene Bjerke at the above email address.



## PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a Prayer Chain request? Others will pray for you! Please Contact **Lana DeCoto** at: [lrdecoto@gmail.com](mailto:lrdecoto@gmail.com).

## Weekly Email Blast

Stay current with Happenings at St. Mark's by receiving the weekly email blast. Contact Marcia Marquardt ([marcia1@wi.rr.com](mailto:marcia1@wi.rr.com)) to get signed up.



## Reach Out and Say Hello

We need care and concern in a time of social distancing. Pick up the phone and call someone to say hello. Think about the people who normally sit in the pews around you and give them a call. Think about those who live alone or in assisted living and give them a call. Contact Marcia if you need a phone number.



## Weekly Communion Offered

**Holy Communion** will be offered at the altar every Sunday for those who are worshiping in-person; with at your seat communion provided upon request. Those at home with Live Streaming may use their own elements of bread/cracker and fruit of the vine.

## The Blessings Box

**Please NO Canned Goods or FRESH Foods** in the Blessings Box. Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors by placing dry goods in the Blessings Box located near the sidewalk at the main entrance. Please **DO NOT** place canned foods that might be damaged by heat in the summer and freezing temperatures in the winter. Please **DO NOT** place fresh foods in or near the Blessings Box. Fresh food spoils quickly and attracts critters.

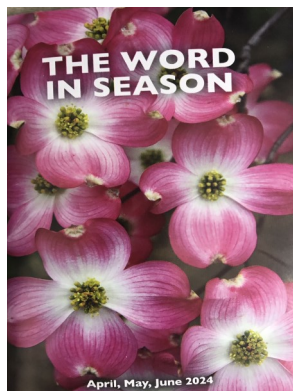


## Reducing Waste at Coffee Hour

The Council invites you to take a small step to reduce waste by bringing your own coffee cup with lid for filling at Coffee Hour each Sunday. Disposable cups will always be available. **Please do not bring coffee or tea into the sanctuary to keep the carpeting clean and stain-free.**



## Devotional Booklets Available For April-June 2024



Looking for a way to connect with God daily? Try **The Word in Season** devotional booklets. They are a **FREE** quarterly resource that provides a brief Scripture reading, message and prayer for each day. Their small size makes it easy to place in a pocket or purse. They are available at the entry stations and in the Blessing Box and Little Library at the church.

## Zoom Meeting Numbers

We will be using the church's Zoom account for online meetings and small group gatherings in the future. Here are the numbers:

**Faith Formation Gatherings, including Bible Study**  
Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Password: 945456

### Church Meetings

Zoom: 823 2326 4353 Password: 830997

