

The Lookout

November 2020

Citizens of Heaven

We are heading into a highly contested political election. The fact is that our nation is divided. There is a misnomer about the church speaking on politics. Some would say that the church should not talk politics. Others offer that the church should proudly support political candidates and issues. Politics root word is polis, to do with the city or state. What we have misunderstood is that political and partisan are two different things altogether. Someone said it well when they offered this; "If the church is not political it is irrelevant to the world God so loves. But if the church is partisan it becomes a tool of the empire". Even Martin Luther discussed participating in the world and in heavenly matter in his "two kingdoms theory", an article for another day.

Jesus and the very first Christians did not live in a democracy. They lived under empire. This made their faith and the writing of their faith a very different context. It also made their faith a priority over and against the cities and states they lived.

So, Saint Paul writes to the Christians in Phillipi:

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

- *Philippians 3:20-21*



Paul's words still remain true to this day. Our citizenship is in heaven. Our baptismal identity remains a child of God. Every Christian on earth should recognize our passports make us tourists in the places we reside because our citizenship is in heaven. Regardless of how this election turns out or doesn't, let us remember that our citizenship is in heaven and that is where our hope comes.

— Pastor Andy

St. Mark's Church

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

Worship Services

Live on Facebook
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday and Thursday:
Please make an appointment
with Pastor Andy
welcome2stmarks@gmail.com

Contact Info

Pastor Andy Fetters
262-337-3755

**Deacon Marcia Marquardt,
Discipleship Coordinator**

262-784-2062

**Frank Remfrey
Council President**

262-542-0176
fremfrey@yahoo.com

Jon Schrantz, Council VP

262-617-9848
jonschrantz@gmail.com

Lookout Editor

Rene Bjerke
stmarkslookout@gmail.com

Website

welcome2stmarks.com

We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).



November



FOOD Pantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

Our donations to the Food Pantry and the Salvation Army have been lagging. At this time of the year there is a great need. Can we serve our attitudes of gratitude with donations? The blue tub is outside the front door of St Mark's to receive your gifts. Remember that whenever you are in the neighborhood you can stop by and help fill the tub.

Most Commonly Needed Food Items: Canned fruits, especially popular - pineapple and mandarin Oranges, Whole grain Cereals, Boxed meal kits, Ready to eat soups with Meat, Canned pasta with meat, Shelf stable milk alternatives, Such as Soy or Almond Milk, canned tuna, chicken, Ham, and 100% Fruit Juice.

Thank You for helping!



SENIOR + CONNECTION

About 8 months ago, our world was turned upside down. Our country shut down, streets were empty, events were cancelled, and we all wondered what would happen next. I sat down and wrote out and mailed about 50 cards to friends asking them to stay strong, safe and healthy. We hoped this would be a short inconvenience and things would return to normal soon. Here we are, months later, missing our friends, our in person church services, our daily routines. As we work our way through this pandemic, I pray you are all well. I miss our Senior Connection events, the fun, the food and fellowship. Be assured, when the time is right and it is safe to meet again, we will be greeting you with smiles, hugs and maybe even a few tears. Questions? Contact Rockie Matson 262-549-9192



"Fear not, for I am with you." Matthew 28

During these days of isolation and fear please consider attending this group of fellow Christians for support and comfort. Through music, scripture, sharing, prayer and listening we offer God's gifts of balm for your heart and peace for your mind.

We are blessed to be able to meet in the fellowship hall of St. Mark's. We meet the second Thursday of each month. To keep everyone safe we are required to wear masks, bring our own beverage, and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer is always available. Please enter the church at the lower entrance.

**Our Next Gathering is:
Thursday, November 12th, 2020
10:00 am**

If you have any questions or concerns about attending one of our gatherings, please call me, I would be happy to share with you. Anne Link 414-379-4619

ALL ARE WELCOME

Prayer Shawl Ministry

I am so glad to hear everyone is keeping busy making Prayer Shawls. If you are in need of yarn, please call me and I can meet you at church for curbside pick up. There will be no events at church for the rest of this year so we will just have to be patient and keep knitting and crocheting at home. **Thanks for all you are doing!**



If there are any questions, please contact Mary Jo Christensen at 414-405-4075
mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com.



Men's Breakfast

The St. Marks men's breakfast group will meet on the second Saturday of each month. Our next time is **Saturday, November 14th at 8 a.m.** We will meet at the Spring City Restaurant, 2820 N. Grandview Blvd. Watch for updates. We look forward to your participation in our conversations and study of being better men. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Nekich, tnekich@att.net or Larry Nines, lnines@wi.rr.com.

We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).

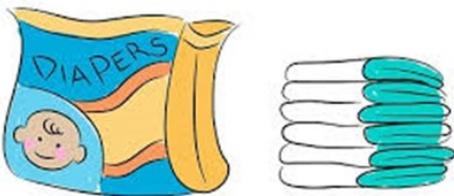


Ruth Circle

With no meetings at this time, it was decided that we could still celebrate Christmas by having a **Drive for Diapers** on Wednesday, December 16th (our regular meeting date), between 1-2 pm. We will be at the front door of the church for you to drive in and donate diapers for the Women's Center and Hebron House. More detailed information will be in the December Lookout.

We miss our gatherings and pray for you all to remain healthy and safe.

Call Karen Handford at 262-565-3770 or Mavis McGrath at 262-968-3160 if you have any questions or concerns.



Online Giving Available!

Are you interested in the convenience of online giving for your church contributions? It's easier than ever to begin! Contributions can be taken directly from your bank account or credit card on an ongoing or individual basis.

Please contact the office for details at **welcome2stmarks@gmail.com** or via phone at **262-547-8213**.

Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!

A great way to save the church postage is to have **The Lookout** newsletter e-mailed to you monthly!

Our members who receive the newsletter electronically love the fact that they can easily view it on their computer, zoom in for easy reading and save a tree (or two)!

If you would like to be added to the email list, please send your name and email address to: **lookout@welcome2stmarks.com**.

Weekly Email Blast

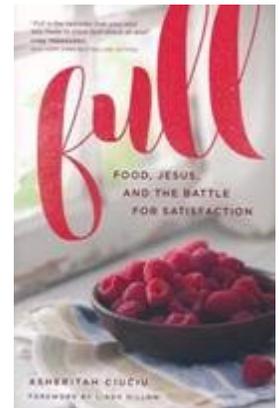
Stay current with Happenings at St Mark's by receiving the weekly email blast. Contact Marcia Marquardt (marcia1@wi.rr.com) to get signed up.



Conversations about Weight Loss

Monday, November 2nd at 3:30-5:00 pm

The Weight Loss Conversation is reading a new book that shapes our thinking and strengthens our faith as we journey toward healthy living. Author Asheritah Ciucu shares honestly about her own battles with food and reveals the path to freedom. In her book **Full: Food, Jesus, and the Battle for Satisfaction**,



we'll discover the joy of living free from food fixation so we can experience deeper satisfaction in Christ, gain a renewed sense of purpose, and even enjoy good food (without regret). With a stronger relationship with Christ, we can have a healthier relationship with food. There is no homework. We read the book together in the Conversation.

Copies of the book are available FREE of charge. You can have a copy even if you don't want to or can't participate in the monthly Weight Loss Conversation.

Marcia Marquardt and Jennine Szwalkiewicz will lead the conversation.

NEW time (3:30pm) and Zoom meeting ID number:

845 593 9948 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8455939948pwd=Y3hiWFpU1pvMFhWpSUDVpc2JlQT09> Contact Marcia for the password for this meeting.

Mark your calendar for more Conversations on December 7th and January 4th.



We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).



**Livestream Blue Christmas Service
A Time of Remembrance, Reflection, and
Renewal on Tuesday, December 8th
at 11:00 am on Facebook Live**

The Holidays are a wonderful time of year filled with much anticipation and excitement for many of us. But all the hustle and bustle can make the Holiday feel meaningless. Also, the outward joy of the season can make the pain of loss more difficult and the darkness of depression felt more deeply.

Our Blue Christmas Service will be livestreamed on Facebook Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00 am.

The service will help us remember the true meaning of Advent and Christmas, and help us draw close to God quietly for the comfort and care that we need. The service also will be recorded and available on our website and Facebook page after December 8th.

Pray about inviting someone to join us for the Blue Christmas Service.

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 Pastor or Marcia if you need a phone number.



**Healing Hearts of Waukesha County
FALL VIRTUAL
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS
September 21st-December 17th
Groups are Monday evenings-children
Wednesday evenings-adults
6:00-7:00 pm**



Families that are grieving a loss due to death, divorce, abandonment, incarceration or other life-altering events are welcome to join this facilitated support group held virtually.

To register, contact Healing Hearts at 262-751-0874 or info.hhwc@gmail.com
www.healingheartsofwaukeshaco.org



Operation Christmas

For many years, we have decorated a mitten tree and gathered gifts for the needy children of Waukesha County. Due to Covid-19 in 2020, we will not be able to hold our annual toy shop for Waukesha Christmas Council. No mittens, hats or warm scarves or

wonderful toys will be collected. If you have already gathered some, please put them in our blessing box or save for next year.

Instead, please consider the following:

- 1. Sponsor children, this is the best way to further our mission.
- 2. Donate gift cards, these will be given to families who would have come to the toy shop
- 3. Donating cash.

We expect even more families will require help in 2020. Thank you for caring and sharing the magic of Christmas.

Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council

<http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org>

For questions, please contact Mary Jo Christensen at mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com

Something New!

Watch for a Story Time for families and followers of Jesus of all ages. These short videos will illustrate the Scripture reading for the next Sunday. Great to share as a family and pass on to friends! Check out more information in the weekly email blast.

We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).

From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

*Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me. Psalm 23:4*

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

I'm a grandma now! Our daughter and son-in-law had a little boy on September 1st. Terry and I are excited to welcome little Quinn to our family. It's been fun to watch Quinn grow and develop. On our last visit, his parents discovered that Quinn seemed fascinated by light. Carrying him to the sunlight through a window or to the light fixtures that hang over the kitchen table would quiet him when he was fussy. Quinn was drawn to the light.

As we move into this season when we experience more darkness, we are drawn to the light. And as we move through dark experiences—whether it's something personal or something in our world, God invites us to draw close to his light. The psalmist reminds us that God is always close beside us even in the darkest valley. Our good Shepherd offers his protection and comfort. A shepherd's rod was a protective club. The staff was a hooked stick that guided the sheep. The shepherd even used the staff to offer a tender touch to his sheep. Today God invites us to trust that he is on duty to protect and guide even when things seem the darkest.

Quinn naturally turns his head to the light and quiets himself. Our heavenly Father invites us to do the same and turn to God's light for the comfort and assurance that we need.

God, you are our good Shepherd. You see what feels dark and murky to us today. Help us not be afraid and to remember that you are here for us every step on this journey. Amen.

In His Service,
Marcia



Wednesdays and Thursdays

Ready for the power of peace in your heart and life?

Come to Bible Study on Wednesdays at 3:45-5:15 pm and Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am. We meditate on God's Word as a way to connect to God in these uncertain times. We study the Scripture that we read in the

following Sunday's worship. Marcia Marquardt offers background information to help us understand the text. Then she leads a discussion to apply the principles to daily life. Some people share; some are quiet. Some come every week; some come when they can. **There is NO Bible Study on November 25th & 26th.**

Please note the Zoom meeting ID number for both studies: 551 505 314. Contact Marcia for the passwords for these meetings.

A "Reverse Parade" was held on October 11th at Waukesha North High School parking lot. Participants were able to make a circle and drive past to wave at each other. What fun everyone had! Gene Geiger had the "parade wave" down pat.



We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).

St. Mark's Quilters

In September, St. Mark's Quilters donated four beautiful "heart themed" quilts to Healing Hearts of Waukesha County.



A few of the quilters were able to work at church last week to do several steps in the quilting process that cannot be done at home. Other quilters continue to cut squares, design, sew and tie at home. St. Mark's Quilters will continue working on our mission to share warmth with those in need in our community and in the world. We have quilts available to give away during the holidays. If a need is found anywhere in the community, please let us know. Any questions, call Vickie at 262-549-4825 or (cell) 414-333-4331 and be sure to leave a message.

Cathy Hernandez and Vickie Friedeck



Whole Wheat Communion Bread

Here is the communion bread recipe if you would like to bake your own communion bread for in home use. For those who are unable to bake, Mary Jo will bake a few small loaves for the November 1st & 4th communion distribution. It will be in a plastic bag, ready to freeze at home and to then thaw out for December.

5 cups White Whole Wheat Flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking powder
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1/2 cup honey or molasses (I use 1/4 cup of each)
1 3/4 cup cold water



Mix dry ingredients together. Cut in oil with a fork. Stir honey/molasses into water and add to dough. Stir until just blended, dough will be sticky. Divide into 4 parts. Place on parchment paper on cookie sheet. Place oil on hand and pat flat in a circle shape about 1/4 inch thick. Bake 14 minutes at 350 degrees. When completely cool separate loaves with a piece of wax paper in between and place in plastic bag.

Best made the day of use. No preservatives so these have to be refrigerated or frozen until used. If you have questions, call Mary Jo Christensen 414-405-4075



Calling all musicians!

We are looking to have pre-recorded videos of singers and instrumentalists submitted to play during worship services. If you are interested in providing special music for worship services, please contact Jennifer at pianogirl_22@yahoo.com.



Sunday School

will be virtual this year and will include a bi-weekly email to families.

The email will have an activity and lesson for families to do together; some social media sharing; and maybe even a community

service project. Contact Suzanne Lorenz at sfl@cmhllaw.com or 262-510-8849 with any questions or concerns.

We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213).

Frank Remfrey, church council president:

I am writing this article shortly after concluding our October 15th Council meeting during which we discussed a number of issues and events that will be coming up in December.

The first concerns how St. Mark's will be worshipping during the Advent season, Christmas Eve and Christmas. In order to provide adequate time to stage virtual services with guest musicians and to ensure the safety of our worship leaders, the Council voted to continue livestreaming services throughout the Christmas season and the remainder of 2020. The public health crisis continues to persist and we do not feel that it is safe to resume in-person worship at this time. We appreciate the efforts of our Worship and Music Team as they work with Pastor Andy, Marcia and Jennifer to devise safe, meaningful services during the Christmas season. One of my fellow Council members said that not having in-person worshipping at Christmas is a form of grieving and may resemble a "Blue Christmas." We recognize the loss that many of you feel with this decision and hope that you will still be able to find joy and peace in the Christmas season even though we will not be gathering in-person.



The other "December matter" we discussed concerns the Annual Congregational Meeting that is scheduled for December 6th. The Annual Meeting is when we elect new members to the Council and to the Nominating Team, as well as approve the budget for next year. In addition, we have a number of changes proposed for St. Mark's Constitution that need to be approved by the Congregation. Many of these changes in the Constitution are minor vocabulary changes that the Synod has recommended. One rather significant edit to the Constitution concerns the use of "remote meetings" to conduct an Annual Congregational Meeting. At the October 15th meeting, the Council adopted an emergency bylaw that allows us to stage the Annual Meeting via a Facebook livestream broadcast. We will stage the Annual Meeting by presenting information and exchanging questions and answers via the comments. As far as voting is concerned, we may consider sending a ballot to each household seeking a vote to approve the budget, vote for the new Council and Nominating Team members and approve the changes to the Constitution. We would make certain that all of these items would be available for your inspection leading up to the Annual Meeting. In addition, we will make copies of the Annual Report available online or on paper.

We will stage a livestream broadcast informational meeting about the proposed budget and Constitutional changes on November 22nd after the service. You will be invited to ask questions in the comment section of the Facebook livestream broadcast. The same format will be used after the service on December 6th when we conduct the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your patience during this challenging time. We hope to make the best of a difficult situation and appreciate your support!



This Changes Everything—Our 2021 Commitments

Our response continues to grow! Thank you to the 68 households (at the time of this writing) who returned their 2021 Commitment Cards so far. Your generosity combines together for over \$167,000 investment in God's work and ministry through St. Mark's next year.

If you haven't made a commitment toward this 2021 mission, you can still help us reach the goal of 110 Commitment Cards received. A group of anonymous members will donate an additional \$3000 if we receive 110 Commitment Cards. Whether you are a first-time or regular giver, your commitment helps us reach that goal. Contact the church office, Pastor, or Marcia to receive a Commitment Card. You may mail your commitment card to the church office at 424 Hyde Park Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53188. **Thank you!**

Thanks for Donating Blood!

Our October 6th Blood Drive was attended by 27 donors. Of that number, 21 were cleared for donations. This helps up to 63 patients through the division of blood into its separate components.
Thanks to all who participated!



Help Wanted

If you would like to help out with some administrative tasks from time to time, please contact Pastor Andy.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
424 Hyde Park Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waukesha, WI
PERMIT NO. 643

Drive-Up Communion

Communion will be available in the parking lot on Sunday, November 1st at 1:00-2:00 pm and Wednesday, November 4th at 6:00-6:30 pm. Following CDC regulations of masks and gloves, we will have distribution of individual pre-measured communion cup/wafer.



Remember the Blessing Box



Thanks for supplying our Blessings Box with food and supplies. It's an opportunity for us to share the love of God with our neighbors in need.

Place item donations directly into the Blessings Box located near the sidewalk at the courtyard entrance to help others.