



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

Contact Info

Pastor Sara Gillespie

Interim Pastor

sara.gillespie88@gmail.com
920-214-3132

Deacon Marcia Marquardt,
Discipleship Coordinator

marcia1@wi.rr.com
262-784-2062

Gene Geiger

Council President

ggeiger2@gmail.com

Susan Cyr

Council Vice-President

susan.cyr13@gmail.com

Lookout Editor

Rene Bjerke

stmarkslookout@gmail.com

Website

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The Lookout

January-February 2024

Christmas is over. . .

We've sung our favorite Christmas carols, and perhaps tucked them away until next year.

Or, we could see this as Christmas is just beginning, because the birth of Jesus is just the beginning.

In Christmas, we find joy, peace and hope in the birth of Jesus, who is called Emmanuel which means "God with us."

JOY
to the world

Joy at Christmas calls to mind the carol, Joy to the World, with its words:

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room . . ."

We find joy in the coming of Jesus' birth. We continue to find joy, as we prepare room for Jesus in our hearts and are then

amazed at what he can do in our lives.

We find that joy lives alongside sorrow. We can have joy at the most difficult times.

Peace at Christmas calls to mind the carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem, which starts out with that image of a small town lying in stillness, of meek souls receiving the dear Christ who enters in. We might find a peaceful moment as we sing this carol.

We continue to find the peace of Christ as we go about doing his work on earth, even in the midst of conflict.

Hope at Christmas time is found throughout so many of our lessons and hymns. Hope by its very nature takes us into what is to come. The hope we find in this promise of God fulfilled, strengthens our hope and belief that the promise Jesus gives us to be with us always will also be fulfilled.

Happy New Year, and may the gifts of Christmas live on in you all year.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Sara Gillespie

Interim Pastor





The Food Pantry

January-February

With cold weather, what is better than **SOUP** and **CRACKERS**. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated, and we **Thank You**.



FOODPantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY



SENIOR + CONNECTION

Tuesday, February 6th at 11:30 am



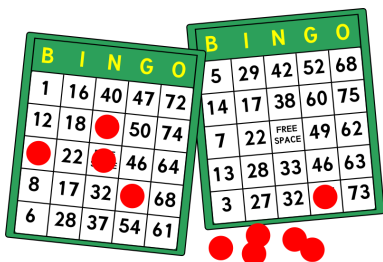
Pancake lunch

Followed by Bingo!!!!

\$5.00 per person will be accepted that day

To cover the cost of lunch and.....

Amazing Bingo Prizes!!!



All are Welcome

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Diaper Drive. We collected 2755 diapers thanks to all of you who donated. Juno house and The Women's Center were thrilled with all the diapers. You are a loving, caring congregation.

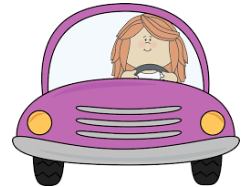


Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, January 17th and Wednesday, February 21st at 1:00 pm**. All St. Mark's Ladies are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall for dessert and conversation followed by a discussion in our book.

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.



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

If you are in need of support and comfort for what is happening in your life, join this group for a morning. We offer comfort, God's word, music, inspiration and sharing. **YOU** will be welcomed and encouraged.

Great cookies too!

We gather the second Thursday of each month in the upstairs lounge and would be happy to see you.

Our Next Gatherings are at 10:00 am
Thursday, January 11th
Thursday, February 8th

Anne Link 414-379-4619
ALL ARE WELCOME





Sunday, December 3rd

Thanks to Our Newly Elected Leaders

We give thanks to God for these new leaders:

Council: Deb Gerner, Laura Goralski, Lou Hernandez, and Mary Ann Sindelar

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

Synod Assembly Representatives: Sue Cyr and Cathy Hernandez

CALL PROCESS PROGRESS!

Our Ministry Exploration Team (MET) has been formed. Thank you to all of the following people who said yes!

Kelly Colgrove, Karen Handford, Cathy Hernandez, Mary Johnson, Frank Remfrey, Lisa Salb and Brian Trautman.

Lisa Salb is in charge of the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association and fills the position of community member for the MET.

Lent Begins February 14th

Ash Wednesday Worship on
February 14th at 6:30 pm

Midweek Lenten Worship on Wednesdays
February 21-March 20 at Noon-12:30 pm.

We'll explore the pathway to God's peace
through the Lord's Prayer.



**November Senior Connection
had a gathering of 22
participants who came
together and enjoyed a BBQ
lunch. Their focus topic was
Thanks + Giving.**



Sunday School

Sunday School are 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.





Blue Christmas was held on December 5th with 35 that came for the beautiful service with candlelight and prayer, then enjoyed coffee, cookies and fellowship afterwards.



Baptisms

September 24, 2023-Christina Christensen was baptized at the Women's Retreat.

October 1, 2023-Finleigh Hoeft, (child of Brian and Allie Hoeft, grandchild of Jeff and Debbie Hoeft, great-grandchild of Carl and Cleo Smith) was baptized into the Kingdom of God.

Funerals

Barbara 'JoAnn' Payne, died on December 6, 2023.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, 11:00-11:45 am at St. Mark's.

Property Team Update – December

The elevator emergency phone is working again.

Otis and Spectrum worked together to resolve the issue. The elevator had its annual inspection and passed.

The broken front door lock and handle have been replaced. Many thanks to Larry S. for repairing it.

The blower motor in the front entry heater is not working again. It will probably have to be replaced.

Thanks to:

Frank R. & **Bob J.** – for picking up ten bags of Power Melt salt for the winter season.

Bob J. – for fertilizing the lawns.

Larry S. – for repairing the lock and handle assembly on the front entry door.

Chris F. – for donating and putting up an Exit sign in the Sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Fenner
Property Chair

DWELLING in the word

*Where the Spirit does not open
the Scripture,
the Scripture is not understood
even though it is read.
Martin Luther*

There is a difference between approaching God's Word through informational reading and formational reading. Dwelling in the word is the practice of reading scripture together, dwelling on not only the words but also prayer and reflection of what it is that God may be saying to us.

We dwell in God's Word to gain new insights and understandings — not seeing only what we heard or read about a particular text or what we think we know about it. We read and listen to the text aware of God's presence, open to be formed or transformed.

Meetings are on Fridays for anyone interested in joining at any time from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Please contact Betty Groenewold or Marcia Marquardt with questions.

From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Dear St Mark's Family and Friends,

Happy New Year! We have an important year ahead of us as a church. We look forward to calling a new pastor some time in 2024. There are many unknowns right now and much good work ahead, but we know that God will be with us and guide us each step of this journey.

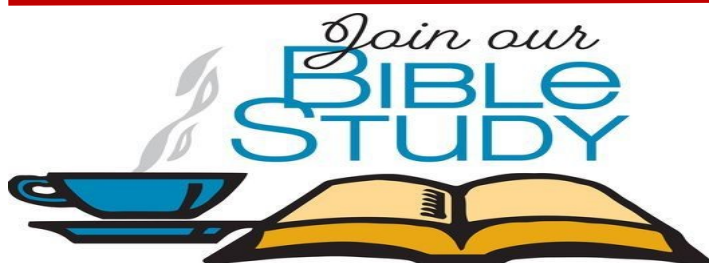
I've been sensing God's call to me to pray for Pastor Sara, our MET (Ministry Exploration Team), our Council, our future Call Committee, and our future pastor. And I wanted to invite you to do the same. Sometimes it helps me to have a Scripture to frame my prayers. I'm starting to pray this Scripture over these people who will invest much in our future as a church:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6

Would you pray with me right now?

God, you have been doing something wonderful in and through St Mark's. There are a lot of uncertainties as we face 2024 together. The one thing that is certain is that you will be there for us. Thank you for choosing each person to lead and serve in this important time. Help each leader to get to know you better through this process and to learn to trust you more. Give them wisdom to not rely on themselves, but to seek your will in each step that is taken. We pray that you would be shaping and filling our future pastor with that same trust and wisdom as you prepare them to join us here. Through it all, help us all to know, love, and trust you more deeply. Amen.

In God's Love and Grace,
Marcia



Bible Study on Wednesdays AND Thursdays January and February

Start the new year with renewed strength and peace through God's message to you in God's 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.

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

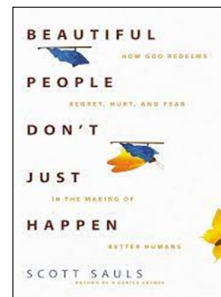
Conversation about Beautiful People Don't Just Happen

**Mondays, January 8th and
February 5th
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.



St. Mark's 3rd Quarter Financial Summary

Income/Expenses (as of Nov. 30)

As of Nov. 30, Total of Envelopes, QCD's, Misc. & Loose Offerings: \$210,800 (YTD Budget: \$256,667). (This represents a shortfall in giving of -\$45,867 as of Nov. 30) Thankfully, our expenses are below the budgeted amounts for this time period. We are experiencing a deficit of -\$12,177 after combining the income and expense figures as of Nov. 30.



2024 Budget

The 2024 budget was approved at the Annual Meeting on Dec. 3rd. A link to the Approved budget is available on the website, welcome2stmarks.com and in the weekly email blast.

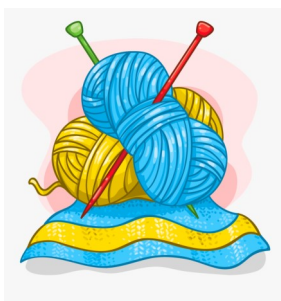
The 2024 Budget includes an increase in spending for a part-time office administrator and a decrease in expected income, resulting in an anticipated deficit of -\$22,473. Most of the various ministries will have similar budget amounts as in 2023.

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

Frank Remfrey, Treasurer

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Looking for a way to keep your hands busy and your heart warm this winter? Come join the prayer shawl group. You don't know how to knit or crochet but have a desire to learn? We will teach you. Bring a bag lunch on the 2nd Monday of the month at 12:30 pm for fun conversation before the start of the meeting. Finished prayer shawls are available for gifting.



If there are any questions, please contact Anna Miller at 262-544-5721 or Mary Jo Christensen at 414-405-4075 mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com.

2024 Offering Envelopes

We will use the same offering envelopes in 2024 that we have used in 2023. These envelopes (WITHOUT member numbers or dates) allow the church to save some money and help us keep our giving records more accurate. Pick up a new supply at the card tables in the church lobby. **It's important that you write your name on the envelope if you want us to keep record of your giving.** Contact the church office (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) if you would like envelopes mailed to you. Thank you for investing in God's mission and ministry in and through St. Mark's.



Scholarships

The Pastor James and Nadine Wilch Scholarship Fund is **Grateful** for all the donations and contributions over the past 39 years. We are excited to announce some exciting CHANGES. The applicant pool is being **Extended**. Each year up to \$5000 will be available. The committee will determine the number and amount of each scholarship.



Beginning 2024

Applicants

- ALL members of St. Mark's who are graduating from high school this current year.
- ALL members who have graduated from high school at any date and are seeking additional education.
- ALL former recipients of the Pastor James and Nadine Wilch Scholarship in the past 39 years who may not now be members of St. Mark's.
- Any recipient may receive up to 4 scholarships from the Wilch Scholarship Fund.

Monies available for:

- Post-secondary education i.e. college, vocational school, graduate and postgraduate degree.
- Professional and continuing education credits or any additional training for job improvement.

Applications

- Available January 1st and due March 15th
- Available by request at: wilchscholarshipfund@gmail.com.
- Applications may be filled out online

Spread the word about this exciting news.

If you know of anyone who has received a scholarship in the past, please let them know of these opportunities.

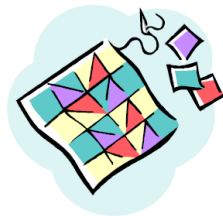
We look forward to sending out applications and awarding scholarships in 2024.

Thank you to all who have donated to the scholarship and served on this committee.

Lynn Delzer, Tarah Gerner, Sara Cortichiato, Kelly Colgrove, Lisa Garber

St. Mark's Quilters

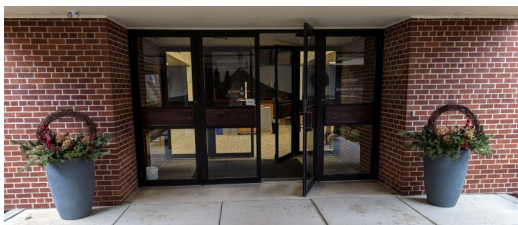
The Quilters would like to thank all those who helped distribute quilts during the holiday season. Jennine and Larry were able to tour the Fisher House in November. St. Mark's quilts will be in the rooms where veterans or their families stay during their treatment at the Zablocki Veteran's Medical Center. Bob and Mary Johnson delivered quilts to the Whitestone Warriors, a Waukesha based organization that serves food to the hungry and assists people who are experiencing homelessness. Mary let us know that they were very grateful to deliver such beautiful new quilts to those they serve. In December, Mary Jo delivered quilts to the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council. The Christmas gift distribution served nearly 800 children. The organizers wanted every child to receive a blanket or sleeping bag this year. They were coming up short but St. Mark's donated extra quilts to help them reach their goal.



We have quilts available to donate and can make arrangements for pick-up or delivery. Please contact one of the quilters or call the church office at 262-547-8213 and be sure to leave a message.

There is always an open invitation for anyone to visit the quilters and learn more about our work. No sewing experience required. Come whenever you can and stay for as long as you want. Meetings take place on Mondays starting at 8:30 am. Please check the church calendar for dates.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez



Donations for
Christmas
Clearing Council



Music by
Rachel Charles and Ingrid Tihtcheva



**Christmas
Season at
St. Mark's**

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.

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.

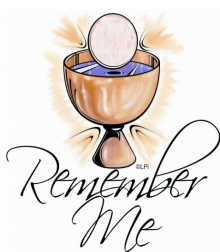
Weekly Email Blast

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.



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.

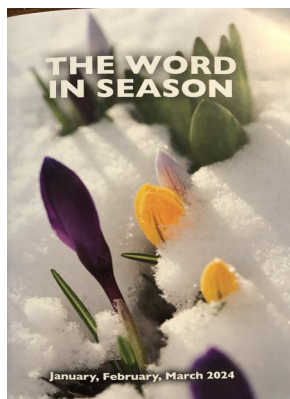


Reducing Waste at Coffee Hour

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 January-March 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

