



The Lookout

June - July 2022

Where do we go from here?

My father and I once had a conversation about church change. Things in my home congregation were changing; musicians, some liturgy pieces, and whatever else it may or may not have been. I had been away from my home congregation for sometime and pastoring for several years when this conversation happened. At one point, my father uttered the phrase, "and I like change." I smiled and replied "Dad, you like change you agree with."

The truth is that we have experienced change at an innumerable rate, to the degree that I blurted out my father's phrase "and I like change." God certainly smiled and shouted "Andy, you like change you agree with."

I remember that exchange with my father fondly. What my father was attempting to express was a sense that things seemingly appeared to be shifting beneath his feet and he didn't know how to respond. It feels this way, again or maybe just continuing, after two years of attempting to figure out, where do we go from here? My honest answer is, "I don't know." My comfort comes from watching Jesus retreat in these situations. When things got out of control, when direction seemed less clear, and when the mission became too much; Jesus retreated to silence, prayer, and fasting. He broke away from the crowds and the disciples alike. It was Jesus' way of connecting with the power source (Abba) during a power outage. We see this rhythm play out in his time in ministry (Luke 4:1-2, 14-15, Mark 6:30-32, Matthew 14:1-13, Luke 6:12-13, Luke 22:39-44, Luke 5:16). We often forget that Jesus didn't start his public ministry until he was thirty years old, AND that ministry only lasted three years. That is a 10 to 1 ratio.

So dear church, here is my invitation to you this summer; take a break from the norm and retreat to silence, prayer, and fasting. Silence is more the practice of active listening than no noise. It is listening to what God might be saying and who God might be using to speak to you. Prayer is inviting God to listen to our greatest concerns and joys and allowing God to speak to them. Fasting is the act of throwing off what might become an obstacle to intimacy with God; food, drink, work, etc. The purpose of this invitation is for us all to find time for God in the normal rhythms of life with the intentionality of plugging into the source of power (Abba) amid a power outage.

In the experience of unprecedented changes in our world and within the church, may we return to the Lord and find our path forward.

"Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies." Malachi 3:7

~ Pastor Andy

If you listen carefully,
the silence is *beautiful*..

—via (ThinkPositive.com)

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

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

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SENIOR + CONNECTION

FLAG DAY

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

11:30 a.m. Fellowship hall

Join us to celebrate our **FLAG** and our country!

Patriotic Songs

Learn about the story of the coin on a gravestone.
Lunch will be served.

It will be necessary to register for this event so the right amount of food is purchased. Registration will take place after church services on June 5th and 12th.

Cost is \$5.00 per person

(Payable at time of registration. Cash preferred.)

Questions: Call Anne Link at
414-379-4619



FOOD Pantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

June and July

During the summer months, the Salvation Army serves several hundred lunches every week for children. That translates into a lot of peanut butter and jelly! We can keep their shelves stocked with those items along with cereal. They really appreciate all that we do for them. **THANK YOU** for thinking of our children in Waukesha.



Senior Connection Hymn Sing and Fellowship from April



{ *cup of comfort* }
this is where the healing begins

Our Next Gatherings are:

Thursday, June 9th & July 14th

We meet in the upstairs lounge at 10:00 am
We would be pleased to see you and share our
coffee and cookies with you.

A prayer we share at the end of each session:
May God gift you:

With balm for your heart, peace for your mind,
Strength for each challenge, courage to hope,
Grace for each day and faith to trust in
God's loving ways.

If your heart is in need of comfort, please join us for
prayer, music, scripture, sharing and cookies!
We would welcome you! Anne Link
414-379-4619

Please Join Us!



Altar Flower Chart

Would you like to place flowers to beautify the sanctuary for worship on a particular Sunday? A sign-up sheet has been placed in the church lobby. You have the choice of bringing your own flowers (BYO) or having the church purchase them for you. This is your opportunity to beautify the sanctuary, remember a loved one, or give thanks for your blessings. Please sign up at least 3 weeks in advance if you would like the church to purchase them for you. Envelopes are provided for your payment and can be placed in the offering plate. Contact Barb Helling (414-378-8435) with any questions.



Welcome Back to In-Person Worship

You are invited to worship in-person at St Mark's and online through Live Streaming on Sundays at 9:30 am. We have Welcome Team members at each entrance to assist with seating, Bulletins and Prayer Request cards. The lower entry is open and available with elevator access. This provides easier entry for those that park in the handicapped spots.

Masks are optional while we practice social distancing in the church building. Thank you for your patience and understanding. God is with us and working in our midst during this time. We turn to him asking to give us compassion, grace, and faith to continue guiding us.



Summer Sermon Series

Voices from the Margin - Rediscovering the witnesses of the gospel message with lesser known characters of the Bible. This series is intended to lift up voices in the Bible that may not otherwise be heard. They are voices that are marginalized by gender, social norms, oppression, and sometimes authors and editors. Their voices still proclaim the gospel message of a loving God.

June 5th Staff Anniversaries Celebration

You are invited to celebrate our staff anniversaries with us on Sunday, June 5th. We will have a blessing in worship and a gathering in the courtyard after worship with a Wisconsin-style lunch. All are welcome! All the food will be provided.

Please RSVP at signing the sheet at the Welcome Center in the church lobby or with this online link here: [June 5th Celebration Lunch](#)

Let's show our love and appreciation by writing notes or using the comment section during the livestream. A basket is located at the Welcome Center for the notes. The Mutual Ministry team will distribute the notes. Thanks to custodians John Gennerman and Stan Indemuehle, musician Jennifer Manvilla, Deacon Marcia Marquardt, and Pastor Andy Fetters for all the ways that they lead and care for us.



Invitation to families

Over the summer Pastor Andy will be reaching out to families with children to discover possible opportunities for faith formation in the fall. Brainstorming is encouraged by all.



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. Please place donation items directly into the Blessings Box located near the sidewalk at the courtyard entrance or in the box near the church entrance.

Thank you!



Office Volunteers Needed

Could you offer one or two hours on Mondays or Tuesdays to help in the church office? Contact Pastor Andy for more information.



Lenten Special Offering: Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement



Thank you to all who contributed to our Lenten special offering for Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Refugee Resettlement. **We received \$2450!** We are blessed to be a blessing!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Looking for an activity to keep your hands busy and your hearts warm? Prayer Shawl Ministry will not be meeting during the summer but yarn is available to continue working. Please contact Mary Jo for yarn.

Many shawls are available to wrap a loved one in prayer.

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

PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE

Parking Lot – Is scheduled for crack-filling, sealing and re-striping on Thursday, June 2nd – Saturday, June 4th. **The parking lot will be unavailable** during this time. It will be available Sunday, June 5th. (This work is weather dependent)

A Sign that was damaged during winter plowing is being replaced by the snow contractor.

Garbage – Waste Management Contract has been cancelled. Services have not been used in over a year. Many thanks to John G. for continuing to dispose of recycling and garbage.

Many thanks to:

Larry S. for servicing the lawnmower and removing the roof de-icing cables.

Mary & Bob J. for cleaning out gardening beds, fertilizing the lawns and planting pachysandra around the tree.

Mark W. for spraying the parking lot hill with weed killer.

Mark W. & Christine F. for raking lawns, picking up trash on parking lot hill and sweeping up leaves in the parking lot.

Donna & Terry I. for helping set up the 'Spring Cleaning 'sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Fenner
Property Chair



From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

What are your plans for the summer? Will you be working on a project or going on an adventure? Will you be exploring something new or finding rest in a happy place? Will you be continuing responsibilities with family and work? Will you be addressing a health issue? Will you be gathering with family and friends?

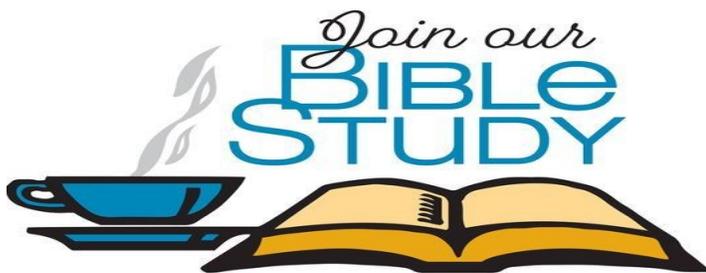
As you make your plans of what you will DO, I'm encouraging all of us to prayerfully plan what we will SAY this summer. The Apostle Paul gives us these guidelines for our conversations: Always fill them with grace and season them with salt.

Grace is a gift of love and forgiveness to the undeserved. Salt enhances flavor and can even bring out sweetness in food. Too much salt can ruin the taste of the food. What would our conversations this summer sound like if we planned for grace to flow to the undeserved through us? What would our conversations sound like if we planned for our words to enhance others? How would we use quietness and listening to bring out the best in others? What would conversations of confrontation be like if we had grace and bringing out the best in mind? How would we share information? How would we deal with conflict or worries? How would we work to resolve problems as we rely on God to work words of grace and helpfulness in and through us? Paul says that when we ground our words in God's grace, we are on the way to having conversations where our responses are right for them.

I'm going to put my salt shaker in a visible spot in my home this summer as a gentle reminder to lean into God to help me use my words for grace and bringing out the best in others. How will you inspire grace and helpfulness in your conversations?

God, fill and transform us so that we can use our conversations this summer to offer grace and bring out the best in others. Amen.

In God's Love and Grace,
Marcia



Summer Bible Study on Thursdays on Zoom AND In-Person

Summer is a great time to invest in getting to know God better. Try Bible Study! All are welcome! We study the worship scriptures for the coming Sunday and apply it to our lives.

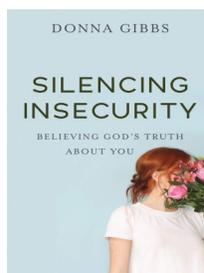
Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am on Zoom AND In-Person in the fellowship hall. **Please note that the Wednesday Bible Study will not be meeting during the summer.**

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

Conversation about Silencing Insecurity Mondays, June 6th and July 11th at 3:30-5:00 pm

Beginning June 6th, women will gather to read and discuss the book, *Silencing Insecurity* by Donna Gibbs each month. The book offers practical help to expose the vulnerabilities and lies that produce insecurities. Using God's perspective, we will discover a new way to think of ourselves.

Books are available free of charge while supply lasts. 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.

Mark your calendar for more Conversations on August 1st and September 12th.

St. Mark's Quilters

The quilters will be meeting every other Monday starting after Memorial Day for the summer 8:30 am—Noon. Please check the calendar for meeting dates.

This month many quilts were donated to local organizations. 28 adult quilts and 8 children's quilts went out to local shelters. *Bethany Recovery Center* in Oconomowoc received 17 adult quilts and 8 children's quilts. *Bethany Recovery Center* is a residential center for women recovering from addiction and provides family services. The *Aspen Center* is operated by Lutheran Social Services as a residential treatment center for men and women. 14 men's and 14 women's quilts were delivered to them. Some "horse themed" material that was donated was used to make 5 quilts and 4 lap robes for clients at *LifeStriders*. *LifeStriders* provides counseling and therapeutic horseback riding programs for people with Alzheimers, children and adults with special needs, sex trafficking victims, and veterans. Nine quilts were donated to *Family Promise* to help homeless families.

We have quilts available to give away. 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.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez



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.



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.



Save the Date for Women's Retreat: A Break for Busy Bees

What's all the buzz about? You are invited to a Women's Retreat on September 30th-October 2nd at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. Our theme will be "A Break for Busy Bees." We'll explore a REST from striving as we embrace our status as God's **BEE-loved** and our value as ones who will always **BEE-Loved** by him. And we'll see how this kind of REST leads us to BEE Love to the world around us from a deeper resource than ourselves. Sounds sweet as honey! Marcia Marquardt will lead the retreat. Contact Marcia for more information.



April 2022 Financial Information for St. Mark's

Total Income: \$26,890

Total Expenses: \$25,052

Net Income: \$1,838

January-April, 2022: Net Income: \$19,445

A few facts about QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions): St. Mark's began documenting QCD's in 2020 when we received \$10,934 in QCD contributions for the year. In 2021, the QCD's totaled \$19,650. As of April 30, we have received \$30,150. For more information about QCD's, contact your financial advisor.

Frank Remfrey, Treasurer

SPRING CLEANING SALE

The Property Team has been doing some 'Spring Cleaning' and has some items that they would like to offer to the congregation to purchase.

These items include:

- 72 Metal Folding Chairs - \$ 2.00 each (max 6 per person to start with)
- 3 Very Heavy 8' Tables - \$25.00 each
- 4 Metal Candle Holders - 2 - 30" = \$20.00 each, 2 - 24" = \$15.00 each
- 2 Wrought Iron Candelabra (value = \$250.00 each) - Bids close June 5th, 11:00 am
- 1 Metal Office Desk - Bids close June 5th, 11:00 am
- MISC. items

Items will be available **to view and purchase on Sunday, May 29th, and Sunday, June 5th**, in the lower level Gathering Room.

Questions? Contact: Christine Fenner, Property Chair, 262-548-9090, clf912@sbcglobal.net



To all the members of St. Marks,

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the custodial work for the church. There were many St. Mark's mysteries that with the help of the people of the congregation we were able to solve. A special thanks goes to Bob S. for getting me started in the right way.

Thanks for the cards and well wishes on my retirement.

Stan

THANK YOU!



Sunday School met during worship on the first and third Sundays of the school year. **Thank you to Suzanne Lorenz** for teaching St. Mark's children about the love of Jesus.



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will not be meeting during the summer. We will resume in September. Be watching for details and consider joining this fun group!

Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!

The Lookout is now 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.



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.

Faith Fermenters

St. Mark's faith fermenters will be hosting a summer get together to celebrate the gift of life and brew a fermented beverage in memorial of our dear brother George, who died this past winter. Stay tuned for more details.



PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a Prayer Chain request? Others will pray for you! Contact **Lana DeCoto** at: lrdecoto@gmail.com Thank you to Sharon Collins for her service these past years.

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 Pass: 945456
Church Meetings
Zoom: 823 2326 4353 Pass: 830997



New Devotional Booklets Available For July-September



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 Blessings Box and Little Library at the church.

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: welcometostmarks@gmail.com or by phone at **262-547-8213**.

