



The Lookout

March 2021

Cross Culture

We began this Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, a day marked as remembrance of our mortality; 'from dust you came and to dust you shall return.' The pivoting moment in scripture when Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem to make his way down the path to the cross. As Lutheran Christians, we have adopted this as a major theme in our heritage, something Luther himself called the *theologia crucis*, a Theology of the Cross. Even Lutheran theologians (Moltmann) over the years have said 'it was never much loved.' Why? Because it calls the church to a life quite different from the one pursued by Established Christianity.

Simply put, the theology of the cross is a refusal of the theology of glory. The theology of glory calls good evil and evil good. It sees triumphalism as its core, mainly to give greater weight to our own opinions. The theology of glory would dismiss the prophets and Jesus' own call to discipleship, that we must lose our life in order to gain eternal life. The theology of the cross then must call a thing what it actually is. "A theology of glory offers certitude as the expense of reality." (Douglas John Hall)

So why travel this road with Jesus as part of our Lenten journey? A visiting professor, Douglas John Hall, during my time in seminary, called this the great refusal. "It is the refusal to accept easy and obvious answers to difficult questions." The cross seeks deeper discipleship. The cross and our understanding of it, challenges us to see the pain and suffering of the world around us. The redemption of the world comes at a cost, mainly the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

There are no easy answers to the pain and suffering of our lives and our society. The cross gives us a lens by which to ask hard questions about Covid 19, racial injustice, divided politics, unbalanced wages, mask wearing policies, and everything else. Embracing the journey of Christ to the cross helps us experience the empty tomb in greater reality as a fulfillment of God's yeses to all our noes.

Making our way by traveling,
~ Pastor Andy



Distribution of Ashes

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 Fettters
262-337-3755

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Sharing Our Bounty

{cup of comfort}
this is where the healing begins

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

The sun is shining more and the days are getting longer. We are grateful for that. **The Cup of Comfort Ministry** is anxious to see you as we attempt to resume our gatherings in March. 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 will continue 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, March 11th, 2021
10:00 am**

Watch the email Blast for any changes. 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



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.

Baptism

Addison Lynn Bortmess on Sunday, February 21, 2021

Funeral

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

- ♦ Ina Fenske - Died on December 30, 2020 (Wife of James Fenske) No memorial services were held.



Men's Breakfast

The St. Marks men's breakfast group **will not meet until further notice**. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Nekich, tnekich@att.net or Larry Nines, lnines@wi.rr.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are 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 until it is safe. 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.

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Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!

We will no longer be mailing our monthly newsletter. This is a great way to save the church postage. If you know anyone that would like to continue receiving it, we can email the Lookout each month. 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: stmarkslookout@gmail.com. Thank you!

Printed black and white copies will be available in each of our Blessings boxes at the end of the preceding month!

Maundy Thursday Worship Service on April 1st at 6:30 pm on Facebook Live

Good Friday Worship Service on April 2nd at Noon on Facebook Live

Easter Worship Service on April 4th at 9:30 am on Facebook Live

Drive Up Communion on Easter Sunday at 1:00-1:30 pm in the parking lot



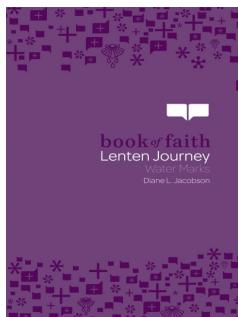
Lenten opportunities

Lent is a season of reflection of our life with God as we journey with Jesus to the cross. You are invited to participate in some upcoming Lenten practices.

- ◆ Midweek Taize worship on Facebook Live Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Daily midday Water Marks devotions with Pastor Andy on Facebook Live at noon.

"Water marks our natural lives from our mother's wombs to our daily bathing and the quenching of our thirst. Water marks our sacramental lives in God as we die and rise with Christ in our baptisms. And so it is with Scripture: from the first chapter of the Bible to the last, God's Word is water marked."

If you wish to purchase the Water Marks resource you can find it here (<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781451402629/Book-of-Faith-Lenten-Journey-Water-Marks>).



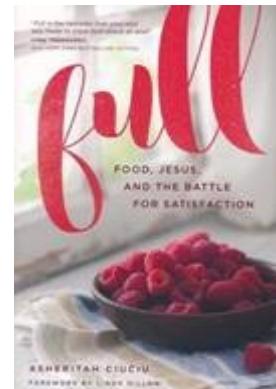
Weekly Email Blast

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, March 1st
at 3:30-5:00 pm**

Ready for a conversation to encourage you in your journey toward weight loss and healthy living? The Weight Loss Conversation is reading a book that shapes our thinking and strengthens our faith in the midst of weight loss challenges.



There is no homework. We read the book together in the Conversation. **Copies of the book are available FREE of charge (while supplies last). You can have a copy even if you don't want to or can't participate in the monthly Weight Loss Conversation. Contact Marcia for a copy while supplies last.**

Marcia Marquardt and Jennine Szwarkiewicz will lead the conversation.

Zoom meeting ID number: 845 593 9948
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8455939948?pwd=Y3hiWFpU1pvMFhWOVpSUDVpc2JIQT09>

Contact Marcia for the password for this meeting.

Mark your calendar for more Conversations on April 5th, May 3rd, and June 7th.

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Curiosity Corner:

Why did the language in the Lord's prayer change?

Do you remember playing 'telephone' as a kid. One person says a phrase like 'St. Mark's is an Awesome church' and then it is repeated down the line and after about 14 people have reiterated that phrase it ends up being 'St. Mark's is something, purple monkey dishwasher.' Sometimes the translations we use from the original written scriptures come out this way. In 1611, the bible was translated into English for the first time. Prior to that, Martin Luther took advantage of the printing press and the Reformation of 1517 to translate the holy scriptures into German in 1518. These translations were often translated from the Latin Vulgate in 404 CE, 79 years following Constantine's conversion to Christianity and its adoption as the official religion of the Roman empire. This was a translation of the original Hebrew and Koine Greek of the Old and New Testaments. And when it comes to the Lord's Prayer found in the Gospel's, Jesus most likely spoke this in Aramaic.

Tracing all of this back is to recognize that each instance was the language of the people, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, German, and English. The use of different versions of the Lord's prayer help us to really come to understand what it is we are praying and putting it in language of the people.

To explore questions and topics that our community is curious about. Simply send in your curiosity questions to the office email (welcome2stmarks.com) and we will post them in the Lookout and email blast with answers from our leadership.



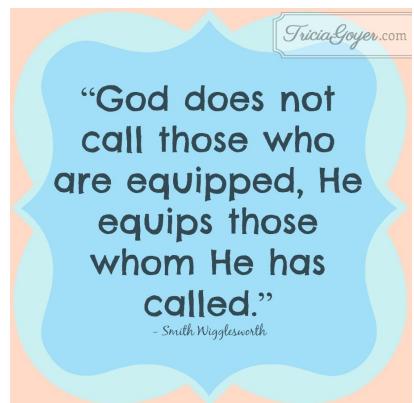
Opportunity Knocks

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 2:11-13

God does not call the equipped, God always equips the called.

So here is fair warning for this year, I will be reaching out to you. Yes, you! It is part of my own calling to 'equip the saints for ministry.' I want to explore what God might be calling you to do in the world. Yes, you! What gifts has God blessed you with? Where does your heart yearn? What need does the world have that stirs in you?

God does not call the equipped, God always equips the called.



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.



For Those Who Don't Have Access to Facebook

We'd like to stay in touch! We recognize that you are not able to view the services if you do not have access to Facebook. Call Pastor, Marcia, or the church office to let us know who you are. We want to stay in touch with you!



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From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

*I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry.
Psalm 40:1*

Dear St Mark's Family and Friends,

What's on your mind? What weighs on your heart today?

I've been trying this simple prayer practice lately as I release my problems to God. This is something the author, Asheritah Ciuciuc, described as an ancient practice of prayer. By using the position of the palms of my hands, I demonstrate the release of my concerns and reliance on God.



I start with palms down and fists clenched as I describe my problem to God. Then I open my hands and keep my palms down as I release this concern to God—as if I was dropping the problem into the hands of God. Lastly, I turn my palms up to receive all that I need from God—as if God is pouring into my hands all that I need. My prayer might look something like this. Would you join me in prayer right now?

Palms Down and Fists Clenched: God, you want me to turn to you and trust in you as I face problems. You see the concern that weighs on my heart and how I feel inside about it. (Pause right now to describe your concern and feelings to God.)

Palms Down and Open: God, I release this problem to you. This is greater than I can solve, and I need your help. Nothing is impossible for you.

Palms Up: God, you give me all I need. Help me receive your love, peace of mind and heart, wisdom, strength, patience, and direction for this problem. Help me trust you. Keep me open to you. Amen.

I'm finding this practice helpful—a physical reminder of what God is doing inside of me as I'm honest with him and trust him through prayer. May God draw all of us close to him as we pray and continue our Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb.

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.

*****We will not have Bible Study during Holy Week: March 31st and April 1st.*****

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

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St. Mark's Quilters

St. Mark's Quilters continue to work on cutting, sewing, and tying quilts at home. Hopefully, we will be together soon to put all the parts together. Several quilts have been donated to Shut-ins and members who are experiencing health concerns.



We have many finished quilts ready to go to a new home. 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 Vickie at 262-549-4825 or (cell) 414-333-4331 and be sure to leave a message. Thank you all for your support of our mission.

Cathy Hernandez and Vickie Friedeck



Sunday School

is 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@cmhlaw.com or 262-510-8849 with any questions or concerns.

PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE

Our church 'home' continues to be maintained and cared for, even though we are not able to be 'living' in our home. And like most of our homes, occasionally there are issues with the mechanicals in them.

Unfortunately, we have had two major issues in December/January.

First, the heat went out twice, and the water pump bearing assembly had to be replaced that supplies water to the two boilers (in the room near the Gathering room). That was a cost of \$4100.

Second, the older boiler (1997) in that room began leaking from a rusted heat exchanger. It can not be repaired and so the boiler was disabled to prevent a failure that might have resulted in major water damage.

The newer boiler (2010) in that room is able to handle our heating needs temporarily thru this season. We will need to replace the dead boiler by this fall.

The Property team is getting bids and will soon meet to review the bids and make a recommendation to Council.



On a positive note, several cost saving measures have been put in place:

Our garbage/recycling pick-up has been put on HOLD since October and we have not had to pay those fees for five months. (If you are at church, please remember to take all garbage home with you.)

We Energies – we changed our service from "Time of Use" to 'Standard Rate' resulting in a small cost savings LED bulbs were used to replace older bulbs in several hallways.

Two leaking bubblers were removed and capped in Christian Corner hallways by Bob J.

A new sump pump was donated and installed by Larry S. in the Custodial office area.

The two Boiler Rooms & Custodial Office have been cleaned out and items no longer useable or needed were recycled and donated to various sites by Property team members.

The old Choir Room closet was also cleaned out and organized.

The quarterly Elevator inspection was done – 1/29/21, and the annual Fire Extinguisher inspection was done – 2/9/21.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Fenner
Property Chair

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Frank Remfrey, church council president:

The Wisconsin Council of Churches has stated that the best thing churches can do while waiting to return to in-person worshipping is to promote the vaccines that are slowly becoming available to many of us. In addition, we should help spread correct, science-based information about the vaccines and help debunk the myths that are spreading primarily through social media.

Below are several links to articles that debunk some of the myths concerning the COVID vaccines. Please read them carefully and make sure you are informed if and when you are in a conversation about these issues. Recently my barber informed me that she will not get the vaccine because she heard that discarded fetuses are used in the vaccine manufacturing and testing process. The first link below addresses the moral ethics of the vaccines and does a good job of making it clear that my barber is spreading false information.

<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2020/11/72753/>

The next link is a general summary from the Mayo Clinic that discusses a number of false claims about the vaccines:

<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/featured-topic/covid-19-vaccine-myths-debunked>



Help Wanted: We are still seeking members to join the Finance Team (no accounting experiencing needed) and the Nominating Team.

PPP Loan: It's now official: St. Mark's PPP loan for \$38,800 has been 100% forgiven. We are not eligible to apply for the next round of PPP loans because our 2020 receipts compared to 2019 have not decreased below the required threshold.

Pledge Data: Besides receiving your personal statements each quarter, we will begin sharing data on pledge fulfillments for the congregation. Basically, we plan to give the "big picture" on how pledging as a whole is progressing, not detailing individual data that would result in privacy concerns. It will be a very brief statement on the progress the congregation is making toward fulfilling pledges. Treasurer Rod Brandenburg will be calculating the data in an effort to increase transparency of St. Mark's finances. Watch for information in weekly email blasts and the Lookout.

Thank you for your support of St. Mark's and best wishes.



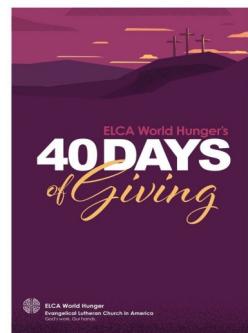
Three Good Uses for Money

There are only three good uses for money - **spending, saving, and giving**. You should develop good habits by doing all three. The kid in us likes the spending part of this equation because it is so much fun. The grown-up part of us likes investing and saving because that is what can prepare you for retirement and make you financially independent. The most mature part of you will meet the kid inside when you give. Giving is the most fun you will ever have with money. One thing all healthy (financially, mentally, and spiritually) persons have in common is a love of giving. A lack of giving means you are holding on too tight. **Give more and enjoy the ride!**

Lenten Special Offering to Address World Hunger

The number of hungry people around the world has risen this past year as we have faced the pandemic. Around the world, 688 million people face hunger. This Lent, you are invited to support people facing hunger and poverty through a donation to ELCA World Hunger. You can make a significant impact on someone's life with a gift of \$2 per day during Lent. A gift of \$125 can fund a microloan to start a woman's business and a steady source of income for her family. A gift of \$250 can provide a share of a clean water project that helps as many as 500 families access safe water.

Find more information and make a donation at www.elca.org/40days. Or mail a check to the church office (424 Hyde Park Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53188). Make your check payable to St Mark's Lutheran Church with "**ELCA World Hunger**" on the memo line.



View videos that share the inspiring stories of our donations at work at <https://vimeo.com/channels/elcaworldhunger>.

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A Brief Summary on Vaccines

Here is a brief review of how vaccines work and assist in decreasing illness and spread of the virus.

Germs and viruses invade our bodies, attack, and multiply causing illness.

Our immune system has a white blood cell system that during an active infection creates **antibodies** that attack the virus and infected cells, fighting the infection. This process can take days to weeks to create and be effective.

After an active infection these immune system **antibodies** remain in our system and will remember these viral cells and protects us as these **antibodies** have the instructions to attack the pieces of virus and infected cells in the future. They are trained to recognize the virus, like a blueprint.

A vaccine helps our body develop immunity, by creating these specific **antibodies** to the virus, in this case the Covid-19 virus, without us having to get the illness.

Vaccines are made from harmless pieces of virus protein unique to that virus. Our body makes copies of this protein which stimulates the production of the virus specific **antibodies**. This process takes weeks after receiving the injection.

If ever infected in the future, these memory **antibodies** recognize and fight the virus. The more people vaccinated leads to less people becoming ill and passing the virus to others.

If getting the 2 shot vaccine, the first shot starts building protection, the second gets to the most protection the vaccine has to offer and helps the vaccine last longer.

From the time of the first shot, full effectiveness takes about 28-30 days, so after vaccinated everyone should wait the 28-30 days before thinking about engaging in activities. Vaccines are not perfect, we should continue the CDC guidelines of masking, washing/sanitizing hands and distancing ourselves from those not in our home even after vaccinated.

Blessings and wellness, Laura Goralski



Drive-Up Communion

Communion will be available in the parking lot on **Sunday, March 7th at 1:00–1:30 pm** and **Wednesday, March 10th 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. (No canned goods during winter, please).

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