

# The Lookout

May-June 2023



## **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.gillespie06@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gillespie06@gmail.com)  
920-214-3132

**Deacon Marcia Marquardt,**  
**Discipleship Coordinator**

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

**Gene Geiger**  
**Council President**

[ggeiger2@gmail.com](mailto:ggeiger2@gmail.com)

**Susan Cyr**  
**Council Vice-President**

[susan.cyr13@gmail.com](mailto:susan.cyr13@gmail.com)

## **Lookout Editor**

Rene Bjerke  
[stmarkslookout@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslookout@gmail.com)

## **Website**

[welcome2stmarks.com](http://welcome2stmarks.com)

## **Cheerfulness in Serving**

Thank you for the warm welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. I found everyone unfailingly cheerful, warm and concerned that I feel comfortable here.

St. Mark's is a vital, life-filled, spirit-filled church.

I am blessed to be your pastor for this season in the life of St. Mark's. A season of transition, while you are in discernment to prepare you to call a new pastor for a settled call. The synod refers to me as a "Pastor Accompanying a Congregation in Transition" (a PACT). I find this title very accurate. We are on the journey from what was to what will be together.

I have served congregations as a settled pastor, and I have served seven congregations as a transition pastor.

What sets St. Mark's apart is your cheerfulness in serving and your focus on discipleship. So many of you have welcomed me with warmth and concern for my comfort. When I am in this church, I see people who are happy to help and participate. Everyone, from those who quilt, take care of the altar, those who run the A/V for services, those who plan events, serve on Council, do so with smiles and faces of working with purpose.

I attended a Dwelling in the Word group, and I was fed. I prepared for and attended a Stewardship meeting focusing on Ask, Thank, Tell by Charles Lane. He lifts up a change in how we view ourselves in relation to the church. We are not merely members; we are disciples of Christ who have chosen to come together in one body.

The words of the Apostle Paul come to mind:

"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. . . and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

*(1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12-13)*

Living in God's Grace,  
Pastor Sara Gillespie





**FOOD Pantry**  
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

**May/June**

Every summer The Salvation Army serves lunch to hundreds of children - that's a lot of **PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY!!** Let's fill our basket to overflowing to help them feed the children of Waukesha this summer. **THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE!**



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

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, May 11th**  
**Thursday, June 8th**

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



**Ruth Circle**

We will have our Spring Luncheon on **May 17th** at noon at Didi's restaurant in The Ingleside Hotel. Mark your calendar and call Mavis McGrath at 262-968-3160 to let her know so she can make reservations. We will not meet during the summer. We will meet again in September. **All women are welcome!** We meet in Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

*For 75*  *years*

Join us on **Sunday, April 30th** to celebrate with a special 9:30 am – Worship Service with Bishop Paul Erickson and Pastor Sara Gillespie. The church will have historical photos and memorabilia for viewing throughout the church during the celebration. There will be a slide show and interviews documenting the last 75 years of St. Mark's Church. We invite all members and friends, past and present, to commemorate God's faithfulness with us. Come and share with others your memories of what St. Mark's means to you.

**SENIOR + CONNECTION**

**Tuesday May 23rd, 2023 11:30 am**

**Join The Gang For A Pot-luck Lunch**

**Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share**

**Beverages Will Be Provided**

**And then.....**



**A Fun "Tone Up" For the Summer!!!!**  
**It would be great to see you!**

Any Questions: Call Anne Link 414-379-4619



**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

I am looking out the bay windows of my home as I pen this report. Looking at what I hope will be the last snow of this winter season. Are you also looking forward to the warmer weather ahead and the promise of life rejuvenated? When the trees leaf out and things begin to grow again. God's gift of nature sure is a wonderful thing to watch and enjoy.

My mind can't help but compare this season of nature with the current season that St. Mark's is facing. If we walk with our Lord every step through this call process, relying on His love for His church, this too will be a beautiful season of change. I have to give a huge THANK YOU GOD for giving Pastor Sara Gillespie the call to help us with this walk.

The changes for each of us over the coming year may be stressful for some but please remember that we are God's Church and He's got this. Also remember that both the Council and Mutual Ministry always have open doors and are here to serve the congregation.

Your servant in Christ,  
Gene D Geiger  
Council President

### **A Message from Interim Pastor Sara Gillespie**

I am Pastor Sara Gillespie, and I will be walking with you on your journey to discover who you are now, and where God is calling you to go.

I come to you from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, where I have done 8 interims, some as staff, some solo, some in rural areas, and some in larger suburban churches. I have also had several "settled calls" in similarly diverse settings. If there is one thing that I have learned over the years, it is that everyone has a story. I am interested in hearing yours.

My story, briefly, is that I grew up in Minnesota and Arizona in a faithful church-going family. I went to Luther College. Finding that Lutheran theology and faith practices really spoke to my heart, I joined the Lutheran church and headed to seminary. When asked about "hobbies" or "interests" I always say that everything I love to do: read, sing, drink coffee and visit, I get to do as a pastor! In addition to church related things, I have been known to play a hand or two of Bridge, Euchre or 500.

I live on the east side of Madison and my commute is just under an hour. Days and times in the office are still being figured out, but Marcia and I are committed to having one of us available to you at all times.

Monday is my Sabbath Day. You can contact me any time **Tuesday-Sunday** by email, phone, or text.

With you on the journey.  
Pastor Sara Gillespie



*Palm Sunday and  
Easter morning*





**Senior Connection in March-** Deb Gerner shared a devotion. There were 31 of us that enjoyed a pancake and sausage lunch. Thanks to the chefs, Terry Inman, Mary Jo Christensen and Mary and Bob Johnson. We each made a wreath with a cross hanging for Easter. It was a great gathering.



**Save the Date for Women's Retreat**

Get ready to have a refreshing weekend with God at the Women's Retreat on September 22-24 at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. Watch for more details this summer.

**Summer-long Favorite Hymn Sing**

Pastor Sara will be preaching on people's favorite hymns as a summer sermon series. This will only succeed if you share your favorite hymn! Look for forms to fill out at the Welcome Desk.



**Dwell In The Word Small Groups**

*Dwell In The Word* small groups will help you connect God's Word to your heart and life. *Dwelling In The Word* is an ancient way of reading Scriptures that helps us develop a willingness to be shaped and transformed by Scriptures as we reflect and share. Small groups will gather for 30 minutes. You can attend once, a few times, or every time. No Bible experience necessary.

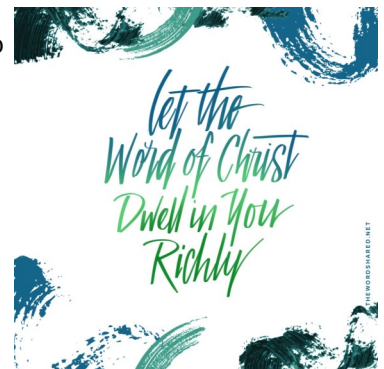
Choose a time that works for you:

**Wednesdays, May 3, 10, & 17 at 6:00pm on Zoom** with Susan Cyr (susan.cyr13@gmail.com, 414-254-7466), or

**Fridays, May 5, 12, & 19 at 1:00pm in person** with Betty Groenewold (bjgroenewold@gmail.com, 414-418-6086) in fellowship hall.

**Sign up by contacting the small group leader or just come!**

Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Contact Marcia for this password





## From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

*Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.  
Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.  
Psalm 103:1-2*

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

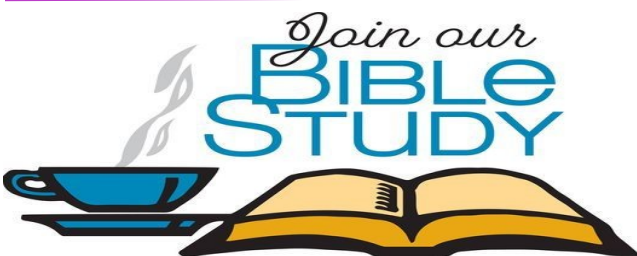
It was the early months of the Pandemic when my husband and I decided to try a new route for our evening walk. We were still adjusting to the isolation and challenge of this season—wondering what the future had in store. A new route seemed like a pleasant change. That's when I spotted her. A girl, about 10 or 11 years old, hanging out on her driveway near her home. When she spotted us, she called out a cheery "hello" from a safe distance, offered a big wave, and gifted us with her friendly smile. What a nice surprise in a time of uncertainty! When we walked again the next evening, there she was creating a ray of sunshine in a dreary season. I started looking for her whenever we walked on her street. I started looking for the gift of her smile and cheery "hello." At first, she was a pleasant surprise. Now I looked for that gift with hope and anticipation.

Sometimes God surprises us by showing up in our lives in big or small ways. It might be in the beauty of nature or an answer to prayer. It might be a conflict resolved or an insight received. Like my walk around my neighborhood, I'm learning to be more alert—to be watchful and hopeful anticipating his presence, power, and love. It's easy to be distracted or discouraged and miss noticing what God is doing. We might feel alone or frustrated. But God invites us to remember what he has done in the past and then move forward keeping an eye out for what he is doing today, tomorrow, and in the time to come. Just like I kept my eye open for the cheery girl in my neighborhood, God invites us to be on the lookout for him as we walk along in this journey of life.

I wonder what you are facing right now in your personal life. We continue forward as a congregation in this time of transition. We are grateful for God's gift of Pastor Sara's leadership in this time. Through it all, God is there—offering himself to us every step of our journey inviting us to watch and stay alert for his presence and work among us.

*God, keep our eyes and hearts open to see you among, within, and around us. Amen.*

In God's Love and Grace,  
Marcia



## Bible Study on Wednesdays AND Thursdays

All are welcome! No Bible experience needed. We study the worship Scriptures for the coming Sunday and apply it to our lives.

In May, the Wednesday study will meet on May 3, 10, & 17. After that, they will take a break for the summer.

**Please note that there is NO Wednesday Bible Study during the summer.** Thursday Bible Study continues throughout the summer. The Thursday study will meet May 4, 11, & 18. Please note that there is **NO Thursday study on May 25.** Thursday study will meet every week in June.

The study meets on Wednesdays at 3:45-5:15 pm on Zoom and on 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 Silencing Insecurity

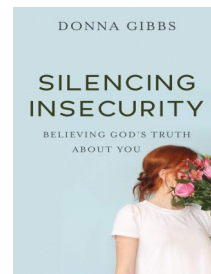
**Mondays, May 1st and June 5th at 3:30-5:00 pm**

Gather with other women 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.

**The next Conversations are on July 10th and August 7th.**

Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Contact Marcia for the passcode.



## Special Lenten Offering

The Stewardship Committee wishes to **THANK YOU** for your compassionate and generous giving toward our 2023 Special Lenten Offering. More than \$2,000 was given and will be divided evenly between the Donna Lexa Art Center, Tricia's Troops Cancer Connection, and Community Smiles. If you have the opportunity to continue supporting these organizations with your dollars or time volunteering, you can contact Andrea Thomas 262-521-2292 (Donna Lexa Art Center), Candy Strong 262-303-4034 (Tricia's Troops) and Renee Ramirez 262-953-4699 (Community Smiles). Thank you again for your support. God is working through each of us to help those struggling in our community.

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are available for you to pick up on a card table or at the welcome center in the church lobby. These envelopes are different from previous years. They do not come in boxes. They will not have dates or household numbers on each envelope. Pick up as many envelopes as you wish. They will be bundled in groups of 12, as well as a stack of individual envelopes. **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.



## Financial Summary for First Quarter (Jan. Feb, March) of 2023

The first 3 months of 2023 ended with St. Mark's having a total income of \$67,070.52 year-to-date. The current budget calls for \$70,000.03 at this point. Our expenses as of March 31st total \$39,071, far below our budgeted amount of \$70,826 for the first quarter. The expenses will rise back to a more normal rate now that we have Pastor Sara on board as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Sara will be compensated at the same rate listed in the 2023 budget for Pastor salary and benefits.

The net income for the first quarter is \$27,999 compared to the budgeted amount \$53.53. The net income does not reflect the approximate \$733 per month in principal payments on the mortgage.

The Income/Expense Report is posted each month on the bulletin board located in the north end of Fellowship Hall. If you have questions about St. Mark's finances, feel free to contact Frank at fremfrey@yahoo.com.

**Frank Remfrey, Treasurer**



## Property Team Update for April

- **The three Boilers** had their annual tune-ups on March 1st. The newest boiler (2018) had a faulty pump that was replaced at no charge. The oldest boiler (1983) has a slight knocking noise. It was adjusted, but it could indicate future problems.
- **Carpets** were cleaned in the pastoral office, in Marcia's office, in the secretarial office, and in the Chapel. All the upholstered furniture in the pastoral office was cleaned, too, and it looks like new!
- **A desk** for the pastoral office was donated by Anne & Al Link. Thanks to Bob & Mary Johnson, and Jeremy Bjerke for getting it to church.
- The **Fire Inspection** was done on March 23 - NO Violations.
- **Windows** in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were professionally cleaned prior to Easter.
- Members of the Property Team have solicited multiple quotes for the **removal of a damaged tree and debris** below the parking lot, that were the result of a storm last fall. A vendor has been selected and they will remove the tree and debris within the month.
- **Thanks to the gardeners & others** (Sharon C., Mary & Bob J., Mary Jo C., Angela Z., Sue & Ann, Donna & Terry I.) for raking leaves out of the beds and adding new mulch, and for cleaning up the grounds around the church and parking lot. Thank you to Bob J. for refinishing the outdoor bench near the lower entrance.
- The **wooden cross** from over the original 1952 church altar has been hung in the Chapel in preparation for our 75th Anniversary celebration.



Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Fenner  
Property Chair



## St. Mark's Quilters

St. Mark's Quilters have been sharing their gifts with many organizations in our community. Last month quilts were delivered to Homeless Veterans Initiative and Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. Two of the organizations featured in our Lenten Special Offering also received quilts. We donated lap quilts to *Tricia's Troops*. They make Chemo Care Packages to share much-needed comfort and relief to individuals beginning chemotherapy treatment. We also shared 10 children's quilts with the *Community Smiles Dental Clinic* for their Expectant Mother's Program. Twelve men and women's quilts were delivered to the *Aspen Center* and twelve women and children's quilts went to *Bethany Recovery Center* in Oconomowoc. Quilt gift baskets were made to help raise funds for Healing Hearts, Community Dental Smiles Clinic and a local fundraiser for a single mom who is fighting Cancer.



Stop in at Fellowship Hall on Monday mornings and see how we create our quilts. You might decide to stay to help us out or you can sew at home, on your own machine, at your own pace. At the end of May, we will start our Summer Schedule so be sure to check out when we will be quilting before stopping in.

**\*No quilting on Monday, May 1st.**

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.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know that participating in hobbies can lower your stress levels and promote a sense of relaxation? Consider joining the Prayer Shawl group. You don't know how to knit or crochet but would like to learn? We can teach you!

**Come and join us.** Our group gathers on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm.

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](mailto:mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com).



## Join Us for the Event that Shapes Our Interim Time

Pastor Sara will lead a Historical Timeline Event on **Sunday, May 7th at 10:30-11:30 am** that will inform and shape the next stages of our interim time together. Everyone is invited to participate: members, long time and new. Ages 7-97! See how your story intersects with St. Mark's story. See the stories of others in the congregation.

## Baptism

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

We welcomed Paige and Olivia Olson into the body of Christ, with husband/father Kyle and his mom, Lori.



## St Mark's Dartball

Our team had a great time this year. Out of 11 teams in our church league, we placed 6th. We had been holding down last place for many years. Conrad Giese is our rookie of the year, with a .315 average. He is our MVP for the 2022-2023 season. Great shooting Conrad. Thanks to all our players for great shooting this season and getting us out of last place.

Bob Johnson, Captain



## 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.

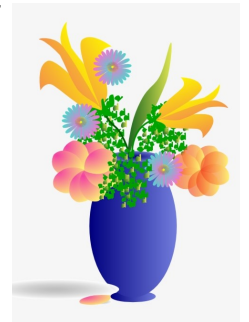
## The Blessings Box

Because of cold temperatures, please **DO NOT** place canned goods in the outdoor Blessings Box. Dry goods like cereal, rice and macaroni are fine throughout the season. Canned goods are still welcome in the basket by the elevator on the main level. These items are taken to the Salvation Army and Waukesha Food Pantry. Thanks for sharing with the community.

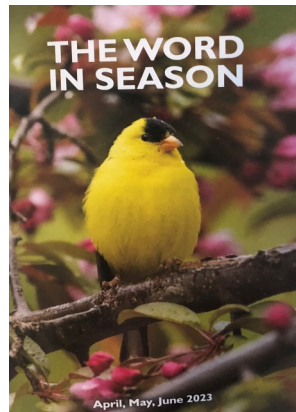


## Sanctuary Flowers

After the nice response to our Easter Garden, it would be lovely to continue seeing flowers in the Sanctuary this spring and summer. You can bring your own (from florist, from your garden, from the farmers market) or you can have St. Marks order them for you (enclose \$40 in envelope and place in offering plate). Sign Up Chart and envelopes are in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Barb Helling 414-378-8435.



## Devotional Booklets Available For April-June 2023



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

