



The Lookout

May-June 2024

Spring and Summer Activities

May will soon be here . . . and with it, the busiest time of the year. All of our usual activities, plus all of the extra "end of year" things: concerts, banquets, graduations, celebrations. Maybe time for an extra medical procedure with the coming warm weather, or transitioning to a summer residence, even if just part time. And the garden is just starting!

How do we deal with having so much to do?

How many of us try to pack "one more thing" into our schedules, short-changing ourselves on sleep, recreation and prayer. All the things that feed us and give us new life.

Does it seem that this is just a 21st century problem? Well, it turns out that Jesus knows a few things about being busy, and having too much to do, and having too many people depending on him. And he deals with it by taking that time away from the demands of the world.

The Gospel of Mark tells us:

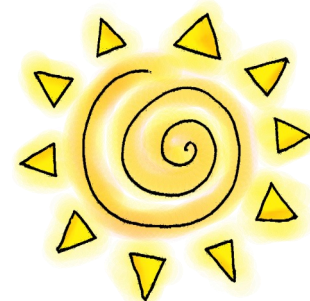
"That evening, at sunset [all the people of Galilee] brought to [Jesus] all those who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. . . In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him "Everyone is searching for you." (Mark 1:32-37)

What does Jesus do when he gets too busy, when he gets overwhelmed by the needs of the crowds?

Jesus spends time in prayer. He carves out a little piece of time when no one will be looking for him, and prays. The prayers don't make the demands of life go away, they just give him the strength to deal with them all.

Jesus returns from prayer refreshed and renewed, and refocused on his purpose in coming to live among us. Jesus says to his disciples, "Let us go to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." (Mark 1:38)

God's Blessings in this busy, beautiful time of the year,
Pastor Sara Gillespie
Interim Pastor



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

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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!**



Funeral

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

Timothy Gregory, son of Linda Gregory and grandson of Lorraine Gregory died on February 21, 2024. Funeral was held on March 9, 2024 at St. Mark's Church, Waukesha.

Frank Lockerby, husband of Cindi, died on April 16, 2024. Funeral was held on April 24, 2024 at St. Mark's Church, Waukesha.

SENIOR + CONNECTION

Tuesday, May 21st 11:30 am

Potluck Picnic

(Hopefully On the Courtyard)

We'll Cook the Burgers

and

You Bring the Sides!!!

Followed By:

An Old Fashioned Sing-A-Long

Watch The Wednesday Blast for Updates.

****All Are Welcome****



Ruth Circle

We will meet on Wednesday, May 15th at Didi's restaurant in Engleside at noon. This will be our last meeting until September. Let Mavis McGrath know if you are coming. Hope to see you there. Enjoy your summer and ladies, please consider joining us in September.

Our 2024 Leaders

Council:

President—Susan Cyr

Vice President—Deb Gerner

Treasurer—Dave Groenewold

Secretary—Laura Goralski

Gather Representatives—Mary Ann Sindelar & Lou Hernandez

Grow Representative—Tammi Boehm

Go Representative—Gene Geiger

Nominating Team: Chris Christensen, Frank

Remfrey, & Sandy Solberg

Mutual Ministry: Sue Remfrey (leader), Kevin Goralski, & Jeannie Stickle



Important dates:

April 28th, following worship—Our MET team will present the Ministry Site Profile and answer questions.

May 5th, following worship—Town Hall meeting with our synod representatives, Rev. Kristin Nielsen and Rev. Afi Dobbins-Mays to discuss and answer questions about the next steps in the process.



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

Through scripture, music, inspirational thoughts and sharing we pray together for **His balm** for our hearts. **YOU** are welcome to join this group of caring friends for support and comfort for whatever is heavy on your heart. We meet the second Thursday of each month in the upstairs lounge. Everyone is welcome!

**Our Next Gatherings are at 10:00 am
Thursday, May 9th**

Thursday, June 13th

Anne Link 414-379-4619

ALL ARE WELCOME



Visiting Someone Who Can't Come to Worship In-Person

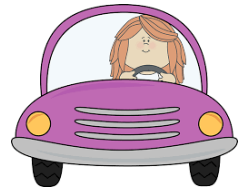
Do you enjoy conversation? Would you like to get to know someone new? Becoming a Communion Visitor brings a smile to someone who might be feeling isolated and gives you the opportunity to share and receive God's love. Marcia will guide and train you on how to do a monthly visit like this and how to share Communion. This ministry is a beautiful way to connect more deeply with another person. Contact Marcia for more information.

Linden Heights Monthly Devotion and Communion

Join a team as they share a Devotion and Communion with residents at Linden Heights Assisted Living. Your presence adds to the warmth and love experienced by these residents as you share in the conversation. Our Devotion and Communion time is the last Monday of the month at 2:30-3:00 pm. Contact Marcia for more information.

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.

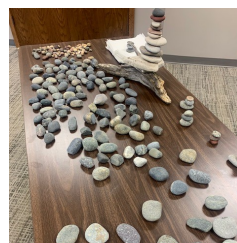


Church Keys

If you have a key for the building, and no longer use it, please return it to the office. We need keys for new volunteers. Thank you, Debbie Wagner



There were 28 that attended the Lenten/St. Patrick's Day lunch. Thank you to Linda Stark for donating the pork roasts for our pulled pork sandwiches. We learned about the meaning of rock cairns and each of us made one to take home. We also had some St. Patrick's Day fun and prizes. Do you know how old Leprechauns are?



What would we do without our helpers?



Sunday School

Sunday School is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for May and then will resume in September. 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).



Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers are always welcome in the Sanctuary or on the Altar. You may bring your own or make a \$40 contribution to St. Marks and we will order them for you. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Helling 414-378-8435.



Property Team Update – April

New WIFI and Internet issues required a Spectrum tech to come out again on March 6. The router was not connecting and a new one was installed.

The outdoor sign has been modified. The Wednesday service time was covered with a removable sign that says: 'All Are Welcome'. (Cost for this removable piece is \$220.00)

Bob Johnson power-washed the brick and cement before the new sign was put up on March 13th.

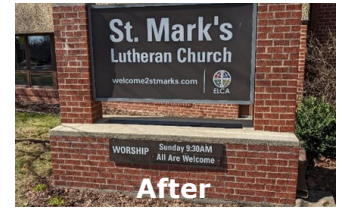
The annual pre-Easter **Window Washing** of the Sanctuary windows and Fellowship Hall windows by EZ Cleaning was done on March 27th.

City Fire Inspector came on March 29th. We need a (free) Certificate of Occupancy on display in the building. Chris will order. (4-9-24 – Certificate arrived – It will be put on the bulletin board in Marcia's office). An Exit sign with lights is needed over the exit door in the Sanctuary.

The quarterly **Elevator Inspection** was done on March 29th – no issues.

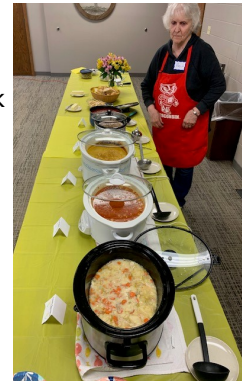
Thanks to: Bob J.–for power-washing the brick and cement on the outdoor sign before the new sign was put back up. And for fertilizing the lawns. **Bob & Mary J.**–for cleaning, vacuuming, & snow-blowing during the week that John was on vacation. **Larry S.**–for fixing the handicap door switch (needed new batteries). **Larry & Chris**–for re-setting all outdoor light timers due to Daylight Savings time. **Chris F.**–for updating the Property notebook with new Spectrum info and new vendor info, and for donating and installing two new metal towel holders in the kitchen.

Christine Fenner, Property Chair



Senior Connection in April, 25 members and friends enjoyed sampling 5 different soups made by the team. Then brownies and ice cream sundaes for dessert. We had 2 guest speakers.

Jillian Smith, from the UW Extension, explained the Strong Bodies strengthening class she'll be leading at St Mark's starting this month. Look for info in the narthex. Lisa Salb, President of the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, talked about the history of the area that St. Mark's is part of. She told of the activities, projects, and plans they are involved in. She brought maps and photos of what this area looked like long ago.



From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. Psalm 8:1

Dear St Mark's Family and Friends,



On April 8th, I was sitting in a lawn chair on my cousin's farm in Southern Illinois. There was a gathering of about 30 friends and family and we were all decked out with special sunglasses looking up. Why up? It was the day of the solar eclipse and my cousin's farm was on the path of "totality." What an incredible and beautiful sight to see this unusual covering of the sun with the moon! The sunshine dimmed. The temperature dropped. The wind picked up. The animals quieted. And we were filled with awe.



Earlier that day we had gathered for a potluck meal together. My cousin began our meal with a prayer from the heart thanking God for the sun, the moon, and all of God's creation. I was grateful that my cousin was able to connect us to God as we experienced the beauty and wonder of creation that day.

As we move into the summer months, many of us will step outside into nature and experience the beauty of God's creation. Whether it's growing a garden, taking a hike in the woods, or boating on the lake, we have an opportunity to see and hear nature around us. Our hearts have the opportunity to quiet and pause. It's a wonderful way to connect with God and appreciate his majesty. Maybe you will even have the opportunity to share the God-connection with family and friends as my cousin did when he prayed. Let's use our experiences of nature to draw us closer to God this Summer.

God, your glory fills the earth. Open our eyes to see your work around us. Open our hearts to connect with you more deeply. Amen.

In God's Love and Grace,
Marcia



Bible Study on Wednesdays AND Thursdays May and June

Discover the peace and presence of God in his 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. **Please note that the Wednesday Study will take the summer off (June-August) and return again September 4.**

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

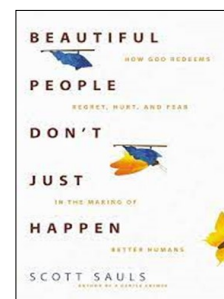
Conversation about Beautiful People Don't Just Happen

**Mondays, May 9th and
June 3rd
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.



First Quarter of 2024 Features Budget Surplus

Thanks to the generous giving of St. Mark's members, 2024 is off to an excellent start. The first quarter (January, February and March) resulted in a Lenten Offering of over \$3,040 (\$3760 as of this writing). St. Mark's will finance over 5 farms through the ELCA World Hunger initiative.

At the end of March, the Year-to-Date net income was \$728 (after subtracting \$1,485 in principal payments, \$3,040 for the Lenten Offering and \$892 for the Easter Flowers). The 2024 approved budget called for a deficit of -\$5,618 at this point.

We are grateful for the excellent financial start for 2024. Using ideas from Charles L. Lane's *Ask, Pray, Tell*, we hope that your relationship with Jesus Christ will continue to grow through the use of your time, talents and finances.

Frank Remfrey, Financial Secretary



A Special Lenten Offering for ELCA World Hunger THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We received \$3760 for our Lenten special offering to benefit ELCA World Hunger. That's enough to buy more than 5 farms for families around the world. God is using us to help communities in need for generations to come with farm animals, equipment, and training! Thank you to all who contributed!



Our Lenten Prayer journey was a result of 30 different members leading prayer prompts for 46 different circumstances in our community and families. Each day during lent a scripture was offered to help listeners frame their prayers. It was a wonderful collective effort to offer the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work through each of us.

To those who recorded a prompt... Thank you. For those who may have missed any of them, it is not too late to catch up by going to our Facebook page.

To those who choose to save the list.... please copy or cut out the quick reference of scripture choices below.

Lenten Prayer Experiences

Praying for someone you know of who:

1. Is a caregiver for someone who suffers from dementia or Alzheimer's (Psalm 61:2)
2. Takes cares of the land and the sea and all creatures that sustain us (Genesis 1:26)
3. Is feeling hopeless (Psalm 34:18, Ephesians 3:20)
4. Is experiencing depression or anxiety (Isaiah 41:10)
5. Teaches (Micah 6:8)
6. Is suffering (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
7. Is a wounded veteran (Matthew 11:28-30)
8. Has cancer (Isaiah 43:1-2)
9. Works retail (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)
10. Is experiencing dementia and their families (Psalm 57:16)
11. Is grieving (Psalm 34:18)
12. Is a young person with emotional needs like depression and anxiety (Joshua 1:9)
13. Gives freely of themselves to others (Matthew 6:1-4)
14. Has chronic pain (Matthew 4:24)
15. Has a baby born with birth defects (Jeremiah 5:1)
16. Is affluent (Matthew 6:21)
17. Is elderly (Deuteronomy 31:8, Psalm 74:26)
18. Is experiencing loss due to death (John 16:22)
19. Is a child who needs direction (Proverbs 22:6)
20. Is a local, state, or global leader (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

21. Is a member of the LGBTQ community (Isaiah 43:1)
22. Has stepped away from their faith in God (Romans 8:38-39)
23. Is a health care worker (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Philippians 4:13)
24. Is making a decision for the future (Jeremiah 29:11)
25. Is serving in the military (Philippians 4:6-7)
26. Is seeking to use their gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
27. Is a non-profit that helps people who are struggling with homelessness (Matthew 5:35-40)
28. Is a child with autism or special needs and their families (Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 4:13, 1 Peter 5:7, Luke 1:37)
29. Is a caregiver (Hebrews 6:10)
30. Is waiting for an organ transplant (Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 33:22)
31. Keeps our communities clean and safe (1 Peter 4:10-11)
32. Is afraid (Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 23:4)
33. Has occupational stress (Matthew 11:28-30)
34. Is weary, discouraged, or needing hope (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
35. Prepares meals for others (Psalm 145:15-16, Matthew 25:37 & 40)
36. Has trouble with sleep (Psalm 4:8)
37. Is incarcerated (Acts 16:25-26)
38. Is a child or adult with special needs (Isaiah 41:10, 1 John 3:1)
39. Is getting married (1 Corinthians 13:4, 7, & 13)
40. Has an addiction (1 Peter 5:7, Hebrews 4:16)
41. Is a busy family (Matthew 11:28-29)
42. Is a road construction worker (Jeremiah 31:21, Colossians 3:23)
43. Teaches (Matthew 19:14, Romans 15:1-3)
44. Is part of the farming community (Deuteronomy 28:12)
45. Is sick (Isaiah 41:13)
46. Is a spiritual leader (Colossians 3:12-15)



Neighborhood Block Party on Sunday, September 15th

"The Secret Garden" Women's Retreat on October 4-6 at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL

Inasmuch Day of Serving on Saturday, November 2nd

St. Mark's Quilters

St. Mark's Quilters shared nine Easter Quilts with members who were in need of comfort during the Lenten season. They also shared a dozen quilts with the residents of Aspen Center Treatment Center. Ten lap quilts were donated to Tricia's Troops Cancer Connection. This month quilt baskets were donated to several community groups that were holding fundraisers: SOPHIA Breakfast and Auction, Community Smiles Dental Gala and Eras Senior Network (Senior Volunteers) Benefit Auction.

If anyone has material to donate, please leave a message at the church office or stop in at Fellowship Hall on Monday morning 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 (every other Monday) so be sure to check out the Wednesday Email Blast or the Sunday Bulletin for quilting dates.

There is always an open invitation for anyone to visit the quilters and learn more about our work. No sewing experience required. 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 the church office at 262-547-8213 and be sure to leave a message.

Vickie Friedeck and
Cathy Hernandez



Fox River Earth Day Walk

We had a great turn out for the Fox River Walk on April 21st to celebrate Earth Day. We had 17 people! We gathered to discuss fun facts about Earth Day and tips for being more environmentally friendly. It was a perfect day to appreciate nature and explore the Fox River. Here are a few tips you can do to help your community and your planet. Grow local plants in your yard. Use technology such as a programmable thermostat to reduce energy usage. Shop at farmer's markets to reduce transportation emissions. Lastly, planning ahead can reduce convenience waste.

Fun Facts:

Where does most of the planet's breathable oxygen come from? About 50-80% of our oxygen comes from the ocean!
A single tree produces enough oxygen during its entire life to supply how many people for only one year? One tree will produce enough oxygen for only 4 people!

Thank you to Jeremy Bjerke for organizing this event. If you are interested in more information about sustainability, contact Jeremy at jerbjer@gmail.com.



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.

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.**

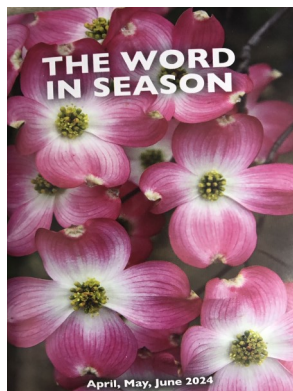


Weekly Email Blast

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.



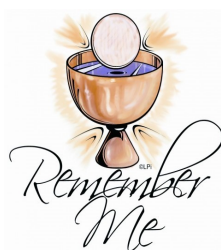
Devotional Booklets Available For April-June 2024



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.

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.

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

