

The Lookout

May 2021



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 Fetters
262-337-3755

Deacon Marcia Marquardt, Discipleship Coordinator

262-784-2062

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fremfrey@yahoo.com

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The Power of invitation

The Monday following Easter, I had the privilege to give four residents at an assisted living home Holy Communion, all members of St. Mark's. As I always do, I grabbed an extra communion kit, five all together. As I arrived, I checked in to ask what room we might be gathered in. A staff member led us to this wonderful family gathering room. Barb, a member of another congregation introduced herself to me. I told her God must have been thinking of her as I brought five communion kits, the extra one being for her. Barb was invited by one of our four members to experience Holy Communion. Then, two more women were invited, they in turn invited three others in the exercise group across the hall. The staff member, helping organize all these women, then found another woman and ushered her into this now crowded room. Maybe she was the one who invited that last woman.

WOW! There is power in invitation. The prophet Isaiah says, the word of the Lord never returns empty. "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." Isaiah 55:11

So, there in a room upstairs, huddled together, I read them the Resurrection story from Luke (Luke 24:1-49) that included the road to Emmaus as Jesus appeared to the disciples and broke bread to them and their hearts burned within them when Jesus interpreted the scriptures to them. In that room, the resurrection story was not only read and heard; it was lived out! All by the power of invitation.

In the days following the resurrection, the followers of Jesus met regularly, studied scripture, shared meals, and met the needs of their community, (Acts 2:42-48) and the Lord added unto them each day. That is how the power of invitation works. It is to have the audacity to believe that God will use us to send out the Good News to those who need to hear it and experience it.

The absolute joy of these women to hear God's word and to share in the Lord's supper was palpable and energizing. It was hearing this familiar story again for the first time. That is the power of invitation in sharing the absolute compelling story of Jesus that fills our lives that it might be something others find intriguing and desirable.

The power of invitation resides in all of us, a gift of the Holy Spirit. The power is there but it takes a risk to invite others into that relationship. Who needs to hear these powerful stories? Who needs to experience new life? Who are you inviting to hear God's word and share in the Lord's supper? Whoever it might be, know that the Lord is preparing you and them for this moment.

~ Pastor Andy



We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213) and leave a message.



{ cup of comfort }
this is where the healing begins

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

Cup of Comfort Fellowship is anxious to meet again in April. 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, May 13th, 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

SENIOR + CONNECTION

This pandemic has certainly changed our lives socially, emotionally, and spiritually. The difficulty with spending time with family and friends has taken a heavy toll and I hope and pray for an end soon. With church services opening up, even with limited attendance, I have hope that **Senior Connection** will be able to resume after the summer months - planning for October. We will probably have to make changes to our usual way of meeting; lunches (if allowed) may have to be brought in to follow CDC guidelines. This may result in sign ups and a charge for lunch instead of free will offerings or brown bag lunches. I will try to keep all costs to a minimum so we can enjoy our time together.

As we continue through the summer months, I will be contacting some of you for suggestions and opinions for the upcoming Senior Connection gatherings. Please know, I miss you all and can't wait to see you again.

God's Peace
Rockie Matson



May

The Salvation Army will be serving lunches to hundreds of children every day this summer. They will be needing **ALOT of peanut butter and jelly!** Can we fill our tub at the front door of church and keep it filled all summer? And let's not forget our Food Pantry, - their needs continue.

THANK YOU in advance.



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.

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

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.

We are planning events in hopes that we will be able to gather together in person as a community. Please check for current and updated information on all events and activities through the church's Facebook page (St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church), website (welcome2stmarks.com), and office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) or phone (262-547-8213) and leave a message.

Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!



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 at stmarkslookout@gmail.com.

Funeral

Memorial Service for David Hughes was performed on April 17th.



Return of Open Office Hours

Starting in May, Pastor Andy will host open office hours each Wednesday from 10-11:30 am in the church courtyard.

Please drop by to say hello, ask any pressing questions, or simply say "hi".



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.



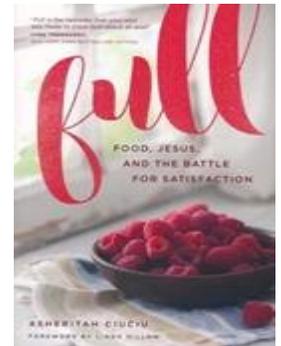
"The Church is _____"

This summer, we will explore what it means to be a church, rooted in the tenets of community, the way of Jesus, and our baptismal promises. Series will begin on May 30th.

Conversations about Weight Loss

Monday, May 3rd
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 (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 will lead the conversation.
Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Pass: 945456

Mark your calendar for more Conversations on June 7th, July 12th, August 2nd, and September 13th.

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!



New 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



Stepping into In-Person Worship

Welcome Back! Making Reservations for In-Person Worship

Your Church Council has determined that the COVID-19 cases in Waukesha County have fallen to levels at which we are safe to invite people back into the sanctuary. We are actively planning and preparing for progressive, gradual return to in-person worship. We are asking for your sincere understanding as we navigate this plan keeping everyone's safety as our highest priority. In all situations, we want to err on the side of love for our neighbor and know that change will be inevitable. Patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as we strive to make the most appropriate decisions for the people of God in our church at this time.

It is felt at this time that the progressive, gradual re-entry begins with a small number. A maximum of 50 people will be seated in the sanctuary.

Safety protocols will be maintained including masking, social distancing, controlled entry, and controlled exit. Masked singing will be allowed. Keeping safety a priority, there may be a few other modifications to the service such as length of the service.

Going forward and to accommodate social distancing, you must make a reservation in the week prior by calling the church office between the previous Sunday at 11:00 am through Tuesday at 9:00 am for every Sunday that you wish to worship in person. When you call, leave your name, phone number, the number of people attending in your party, and their names. Reservations are first come, first served. You will receive a call confirming your reservation. Seating will be assigned on Tuesday. You will need to call for each Sunday that you wish to attend. This reservation system and in-person guidelines will be further evaluated by the Council at their April meeting.

We are excited to reunite with everyone to renew our commitment to St Mark's mission to gather, grow, and go out to serve our community once again.

In Christ's Service,
St Mark's Church Council



Guidelines for In-Person Worship

Attending **in-person worship** at St. Mark's confirms your agreement to our duty as Christians to do what is best for each other including supporting the safety and health of those sharing worship with you. To continue having safe return to in-person worship please follow these safety protocols:

1. Do not attend if you or anyone in your home are currently or recently ill, have symptoms (cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, fatigue congestion, sore throat, body aches, diarrhea.)
2. Please do not attend if you have travelled outside of Wisconsin in the last 10-14 days.
3. Use the Sunday school entrance, to the right of the main entrance. You may be dropped off at the courtyard.
4. Once entering the side courtyard doors, please maintain 6 feet social distance.
5. In the hall, you may pick up your personal communion to keep with you and a card for prayers to be completed in the pew, and after completed, raise the card for the usher.
6. Remain seated once in church. Please keep personal belongings with you at all times.
7. Only the restrooms by the church office will available, one family unit in the restroom at a time.
8. Wear a mask at all times even while singing, avoid lowering your mask.
9. Once hand sanitizer is utilized and 6 foot social distancing can be assured you and or your family group will be invited into the sanctuary. Staggered/assigned seating has been prepared and the usher will seat you.
10. The offering plate is in the Narthex, your offering can be placed before you are seated or as you exit. Please do not leave your seat during service to place your offering.
11. Communion is done as a group after Pastor completes the Words of Institution. You can open the wafer part in advance.
12. The ushers will dismiss by sections and rows, please remain seated until directed. Practice social distancing as you exit.
13. Please assist us in recycling. As you exit, place your bulletin and any other loose paper in the recycling bin and dispose of your communion cup in the black baskets.
14. Exit church and converse outside in the courtyard or parking lot with physical distance.

Respectfully, at this time we will not have fellowship hour at in-person gatherings.

God has been with us and working in our midst during this pandemic. Knowing this, we turn to him now asking to give us vision, compassion, grace, and faith to guide us.



From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. Hebrews 12:15



Dear St Mark's Family and Friends,

Have you ever pulled a plant out to look at its roots? Some years ago our neighbor's tree fell over during a storm. It was an amazing sight to see this huge tree lying on the ground with its roots exposed. Beneath that large tree, hidden from sight, was an equally large root system.

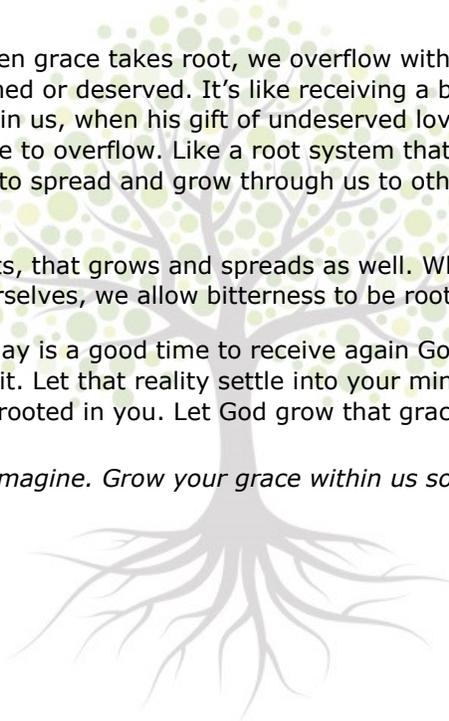
What has taken root in your heart? When grace takes root, we overflow with grace toward ourselves and others. Grace is receiving a gift that is not earned or deserved. It's like receiving a birthday present, but it's not your birthday. When God's grace takes root in us, when his gift of undeserved love and forgiveness grows deeply in us, we have the opportunity to allow that grace to overflow. Like a root system that spreads underneath the ground, God's grace rooted in us has the opportunity to spread and grow through us to others—even those who haven't earned it or deserve it.

When bitterness takes root in our hearts, that grows and spreads as well. When we hold on to resentments or grudges; when we refuse to forgive ourselves, we allow bitterness to be rooted in our hearts.

What has taken root in your heart? Today is a good time to receive again God's love and grace for you—even though you and I haven't earned it or deserve it. Let that reality settle into your mind and heart. You are loved and forgiven just as you are. Allow that grace to be rooted in you. Let God grow that grace in you to spread to others.

God, your love is greater than we can imagine. Grow your grace within us so that we can spread your grace to others. Amen.

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.

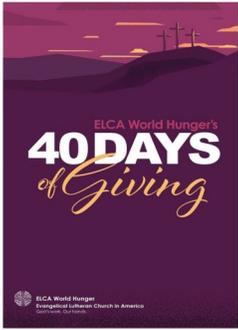
*** NEW Zoom meeting ID number for both studies:
817 7030 6574 Passcode: 945456***



Save the Date! Women's Retreat Coming This Fall!

Are you looking for true joy? Ready for a contentment that is greater than whatever comes your way? Mark your calendar for the Women's Retreat, **Blessed Beyond Measure**, October 29th-31st. Marcia Marquardt will lead the retreat. More information to follow in the months to come!





Lenten Special Offering to Address World Hunger

Thank you for together contributing \$2120 to help those who are hungry around the world! Our contributions went to

support people facing hunger and poverty through donations from ELCA World Hunger to start businesses for steady income and provide access to safe clean water.



St. Mark's Quilters

Several of St. Mark's Quilters have been meeting and following safety guidelines to work on cutting, sewing, and tying quilts. Other quilters continue working at home.



We have many finished quilts ready to go to a new home. If anyone knows of a need in the community, please let us know. We can make arrangements for a quilt pick up or delivery. 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

Property Team Update

HVAC – Boiler Replacement - Council agreed with the Property Team's recommendation at their March 18th meeting, for a new boiler at a total cost of \$10,354.42. On March 25th, Council held a special meeting to officially approve and sign the quote from First Choice for the new boiler. This signed quote will provide a place holder with First Choice until we are ready to install and fund the new boiler. First Choice will order the new boiler and piping needed and hold it until fall for us. (They will not request a deposit, or charge us any of the price increases that are expected!) Payment will be due upon installation.

Waste Management's (formerly Advanced Disposal) contract renewed in April. Our pick-up is still on **HOLD** until May 9th and will be re-evaluated at that time.

Clean-up of boiler rooms and custodial office is complete. Final disposal of all items happened with the removal of three TV's and one AC unit to the city's electronics recycling on April 3rd! Thanks, Frank!

Quarterly Fire Inspection – on April 13th. PASSED – No Violations!

Annual Elevator Inspection – completed March 24, 2021 by Wisconsin Elevator Inspections

Thanks to Bob Johnson for completely refinishing the bench at the lower entrance, and for putting a systemic drench on the area under the magnolia tree. This should prevent the scale that attracted bees last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Fenner
Property Chair



Weekly Communion Offered

Holy Communion will be offered every Sunday for those who are worshipping in-person and for those worshipping at home through Facebook Live. Those at home may use their own elements of bread/cracker and fruit of the vine.

Whole Wheat Communion Bread

Here is the communion bread recipe if you would like to bake your own communion bread for in home use.

5 cups White Whole Wheat Flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking powder
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1/2 cup honey or molasses (I use 1/4 cup of each)
1 3/4 cup cold water



Mix dry ingredients together. Cut in oil with a fork. Stir honey/molasses into water and add to dough. Stir until just blended, dough will be sticky. Divide into 4 parts. Place on parchment paper on cookie sheet. Place oil on hand and pat flat in a circle shape about 1/4 inch thick. Bake 14 minutes at 350 degrees. When completely cool separate loaves with a piece of wax paper in between and place in plastic bag.

Best made the day of use. No preservatives so these have to be refrigerated or frozen until used. If you have questions, call Mary Jo Christensen 414-405-4075

Frank Remfrey, church council president:

Thoughts about Living Generously: Sharing Encouragement, Money and Time



Several years ago, I remember watching a Brewer's game on TV and the announcers spent some time with a guest discussing prostate cancer. The message was to urge the men watching the broadcast to have their PSA levels monitored and get regular exams of the prostate. My initial reaction was that a Brewer's broadcast was an unusual time to hear information about prostate cancer. Likewise, the last thing you thought you'd read about in St. Mark's **Lookout** is prostate cancer. I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

My journey with cancer will not likely be as challenging as some of you have experienced, but cancer is cancer. I hope to use my experience as a means of motivating and educating others about the need for regular prostate checkups and PSA monitoring. My doctors have been concerned about my PSA levels for 4-5 years but it wasn't until recently that a biopsy confirmed I have prostate cancer. Thanks to closely monitoring my prostate, my cancer is likely to be low risk and my prospects for a full recovery are very good. I have received encouragement and prayers from many of you and appreciate those gestures tremendously. Since giving encouragement is part of the concept of generosity, I know that I'll be in good company at St. Mark's. Besides encouragement, I have seen many examples of the more common forms of generosity: time and money.

St. Mark's culture of generosity with money was evident recently during the Lenten season by the contributions to the ELCA World Hunger Drive. Also, we have received approximately \$2000 toward the replacement of the boiler and other capital expenses, even though we haven't begun a giving campaign (stand by, we're working on it). Also, giving for the 1st quarter exceeded 100% of the amount pledged. St. Mark's Legacy Fund has approximately \$1,000 available for non-budgeted, non-capital needs (suggestions welcome!).

Generosity also comes in the form of time, which many of you have given throughout the years. Most recently, Bob Johnson refinished the bench at the lower East entrance. Bob also capped the drinking fountains in the west wing of the church. In the past several months, there have been numerous contributions of time by the members of the Property Team as they cleaned storage areas and discarded numerous items that have been unused for many years.

St. Mark's culture of generosity is real. Some of you have t-shirts from the last mission trip adorned with the phrase "Live Generously." We are blessed to have many examples of members of St. Mark's living generously as they share encouragement, money and time.

Live Generously

Developing and Maintaining a Giving Strategy

A well planned, intentional giving strategy can make all the difference in your stewardship growth. Goals include giving with kingdom impact, leaving a meaningful legacy, cultivating unity in your family, and maximizing what you give. Some signs that you may need a new or updated giving strategy include:

Giving feels more like a financial transaction. Are you missing a sense of excitement and purpose in your giving? A giving strategy can rekindle the joy of generosity.

Your family often disagrees about money. Having a strategy can help you grow closer through a shared vision for your wealth. Everyone becomes a part of the journey.

Giving can feel scattered, ineffective or overwhelming. A giving strategy helps you define the issues you care about and discover new causes.

You feel like you could be missing opportunities to give more. Are you making the most of what God has given you to use and share? Are you maximizing your giving with both cash and non-cash assets and turning tax dollars into giving dollars?



We would love to put you in touch with Cynthia Halverson, regional gift planner for the ELCA foundation (resides in Pewaukee) to discuss further a giving strategy for you. Please contact Pastor Andy or Deacon Marcia for more information or you may reach out to Cindy directly at cynthia.halverson@elca.org or 414 544-2008



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers

Would you like to commemorate a special occasion or just want to see fresh flowers on the altar? We can make that

happen. You can provide your own or we can order for you. Once we are again meeting in church, we will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Contact Barb Helling (414-378-8435) to make arrangements.



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.

St. Marks Legacy Fund Needs Your Support

Think of someone in your life you want to honor or remember with a gift to St. Marks. The St. Marks Legacy Fund was created for just this purpose. This fund was established as a repository for special gifts to be utilized for funding new or expanded church ministries not covered by budgeted funds for current expenses.

Since its inception in 2020, about \$8000 has passed through this account being invested in substantial improvements to our outdoor gardens. Currently there is a little over \$1000 waiting for your gift to be received so that other requests for our growing ministries can be approved and fulfilled.

Please consider making a gift today. Pray about also including St. Marks and this fund specifically for an end of life gift from your estate. Also consider what the next use of this fund's assets might be and prepare a grant proposal. Any questions please contact the church office.



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@cmhllaw.com or

262-510-8849 with any questions or concerns.

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 welcome2stmarks@gmail.com or via phone at **262-547-8213**.



Curiosity Corner:

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.