



The Lookout

Summer, 2020

Reclaiming Adiaphora

During the reformation, the word adiaphora was used to convey a sense of non-essential practices and ideas of faith. As Luther and other reformers attempted to provide boundaries concerning what was and was not essential for salvation. Adiaphora helped shape the reformation in its theology (how we talk about God) and its faith practices. One of the results of adopting adiaphora was pairing down the sacraments from seven in the Roman Catholic church to two sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion in the newly formed Lutheran church. In the Formula of Concord, the early guiding documents of the Lutheran Church, Adiaphora was defined "something neither commanded nor forbidden in the Word of God." The danger for the second generation of Lutherans became improper usage of the term to gain preferred practices and dismiss others.

Paul said it this way to the Corinthians; "You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is good for you. You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others" (1 Cor. 10:23-24).

Reclaiming adiaphora might be helpful for us as a congregation moving throughout this Covid-19 pandemic. To be sure, we will not be the same. Paul shares this wisdom, "But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed" (1 Cor. 15:51). On May 16th, our congregation held a visioning meeting to help share what we are learning about being church and what we might need to change or practice differently going forward. This practice might help us reclaim what is essential for worship, the practice of the sacraments, proclaiming God's word and helping connect people to God and one another. We do this out of being concerned for the good of others.

In a document shared by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, a statistic of singing shares a six times above normal aerosol spread of germs than normal speech. This seems to imply a prolonged date for any congregational singing. That breaks my heart! How can we be church if we cannot sing together? Yet, I am reminded that our songs reflect the choirs of heaven, so we might need to rely on their singing for us and listen to their voices.

Reclaiming adiaphora might help us to focus on our mission to announce and demonstrate the kingdom of God in new ways. That mission is more important than ever. I am reminded of Jesus' promise to his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The promise of God's presence is comforting as we continue in this mission with a clarity of purpose. We do this together.

As the author of Hebrews stated for the early church, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The response to living in Covid-19, times have become a marathon and not a sprint. We are running this race with perseverance and great faithfulness. I am grateful to serve as your pastor. I am grateful for our leadership and their prayerful considerations of how we love our neighbor. We will continue to be the church out in the world. With God's grace we are living into what it means to be sent. — Pastor Andy

St. Mark's Church

424 Hyde Park Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-547-8213

Worship Services

Wednesday 1st & 3rd 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday:
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Administrative Assistant
Ruth Bruckbauer
info@welcome2stmarks.com

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June-July-August

Trusting that our children will be returning to school, let's help them have breakfast before leaving home: **cereal, fruit cups, fruit snacks**, plus any and all other items you would like to donate. The food pantry and salvation army really appreciate all that we give them.

**THANK YOU FOR THE LOVE
YOU SHOW TO OTHERS.**



FOOD Pantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY



SENIOR + CONNECTION

In anticipation of being able to meet as a group again, I have started plans for some upcoming programs.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Jim Adams, an aerospace engineer who worked on the Gemini and Apollo space missions, was kind enough to reschedule his appearance to talk about his experience at NASA.

Later, David Stearns will be presenting his new book about cars and sharing his stories and more regarding cars of the past and present.

Upcoming programs: a presentation on weather predicting and forecasting, perhaps a return of Laughter Yoga, Educational speakers, Veterans Day salutes and more.

Lunches are always included as we share fun and fellowship. Until we meet again - stay safe & healthy.

Questions? Contact Rockie Matson
262-549-9192



You are invited to Ruth Circle

If we can be back together safely, we will gather on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. We will be discussing pages 151-160 in our book Moments of Grace for a Women's Heart. Call Karen Handford at 262-565-3770 or Mavis McGrath at 262-968-3160 if you have any questions or to RSVP. Hope to see you then. All women are welcome!



Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and God of Comfort.
2 Corinthians 1:3

Whatever your cares and concerns might be, you are invited to join this group of fellow Christians to receive God's gift of balm for your heart and peace for your mind. We do this with scripture, prayer, music, sharing, and plenty of coffee and cookies.

Consider spending an hour with this group to share or just listen. You will be welcome!

CUP OF COMFORT CAFÉ
THURSDAY, September 10th, 2020

10:00 a.m.
UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

Questions? Call: Anne Link
414-379-4619



Men's Breakfast



There will be a men's breakfast on **Saturday, September 12th**. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and education. See you then. If you have any questions please contact Tim Nekich or Larry

Nines. All men are invited and welcome to join us for food and fellowship.

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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 our church administrator, **Ruth Bruckbauer**, for details. She will send an email to you explaining the process and it will include a link to take advantage of this convenient giving program, if interested. Ruth can be reached at email: **welcome2stmarks@gmail.com** or via phone at **262-547-8213**.

Get THE LOOKOUT via Email Today!

A great way to save the church postage is to have **The Lookout** newsletter e-mailed to you monthly!

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: **lookout@welcome2stmarks.com**.



Would you like a visit?

Or do you know someone who would like to be visited, receive a card, or have communion brought to them? We are updating our list of people and would like to make sure we have included everyone. Please call Ruth

in the church office at 262-547-8213, or email at **welcome2stmarks@gmail.com**.

Recycle your used eyeglasses and hearing aids



St Mark's continues to participate in the recycling program for eyeglasses and hearing aids conducted by the Lions International. Please bring your donation to church and deposit in the gray bin located in the back of the church.

Weekly Email Blast

Stay current with Happenings at St Mark's by receiving the weekly email blast. **Contact Ruth Bruckbauer**, our office administrator, **welcome2stmarks@gmail.com** to get signed up.



OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Join pastor via Zoom on Wednesdays:

Copy this link <https://zoom.us/j/5767094273> on Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 am and 6:00-7:00 pm. Zoom is a video conferencing app that helps keep us connected during this time. Bring your own coffee and stay in your PJ's if you want.

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 the church office if you need a phone number.



Paycheck Protection

On April 6th, St. Mark's applied for and received a **Paycheck Protection Program loan** for a total of \$38,800 to help us ensure we help pay our employees, maintain leases, offset utilities and mortgages.

We accomplished this through our partnership with Waukesha State Bank. We are grateful for the agility of our leadership from Personnel, Finance, and Council to take this swift action.

Any questions, please contact Frank Remfrey, our council president.

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St. Mark's Quilters Need Your Help!!

Although we have not been able to meet as a group, quilting continues in our homes. In the summer, quilters usually meet every other Monday until October, when we will resume meeting every week until June. We gather from 8:00 a.m. until about noon. Help is always needed and anyone is welcome to take part in this quilt ministry. All are welcome to come and attendance every week is not required. No sewing or quilting experience is needed. There are many different tasks to try: designing, cutting, sewing and tying.

Join us in creating quilts to give to various charities, shelters and individuals in our area. And of course, the fellowship is priceless! Come when you can and leave when you must.

If a need is found anywhere in the community, please let us know. Any questions, call Vickie at 262-549-4825 or (cell) 414-333-4331 and be sure to leave a message.



Lookout Mailing

Thank you to the following volunteers: Mary Jo Christensen, and Rene Bjerke.

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

- ◆ Esther Hanke passed away on April 20, 2020. A celebration of life will be held this summer.

Memorials

In Memory of Esther Hanke: Robert and Mary Johnson, Karen Handford.

In Memory of Willough Badger: Karen Handford

In Memory of Francis Hoops, Barb Geiger's mother: Deb Gerner



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will continue to knit and crochet from home this summer. If you love to knit or crochet, or just want to learn? Come join the prayer shawl ministry group on **Monday, September 14th** (due to Labor Day.) We meet once a month on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. If there are any questions, please contact Mary Jo Christensen at mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com or Anna Miller.



Worship Bags for Young Families

Our Children's Worship Bags include "Lift the Flap" books, felt boards, magnetic paper dolls, and reusable sticker sheets. Pick up a bag for your child from the two stands that are located at the back of the worship space. Each bag's contents are different. You might like to try a new one each time you bring your child to worship.



Celebration of Hope

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Milwaukee Marriott West,
W231 N1600 Corporate Ct., Waukesha

Tickets \$60 per person ~ Table of 10 \$600
Cash bar: 5:00 – 8:30 pm
Dinner & Program: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy dinner, silent auction, raffle and balloon pop
MENU: Mixed Baby Field Greens, Chicken Saltimbocca, Asparagus, Fingerling Potatoes, Classic Creme Brulee, Alternative Entree: Vegan Vegetable Ravioli

Please reply to Sue Remfrey 262-542-4377, or at <http://www.healingheartsofwaukeshaco.org>.

There is also a sign up sheet at the table in the narthex, should you want to participate in this fun event!



Sunday School

During our Sunday service each week, children are encouraged to listen and participate in a special message. Then join us for a creative, interactive, faith building class for adults and children of all ages. Contact Suzanne Lorenz at sfl@cmhlaw.com or 262-510-8849 with any questions or concerns.

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From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:16a

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

Sometimes my kids used to write on their hands. Why? They found the palm of their hands to be a handy (no pun intended!) way to remember something.

God uses a beautiful image to help us see how much we are treasured by him. He says that he's written our names on his palms. Can you picture this? God, with a ballpoint pen in hand, is writing your name on his palm. Why? Because he wants you to know that he won't forget you. No matter how busy he is and how much he has on his mind, God is remembering you. No matter how crazy our world gets and how many problems are consuming us, God is remembering you. God thinks you are very special.

Maybe today you could take a pen and write God's name on your palm. Let it remind you that he's still here for you, that he won't leave or forsake you, and that you can still count on him.

God, you remember and treasure each one of us. Help us rest in your presence. Help us trust you and your love for us each step of our journeys. Amen.

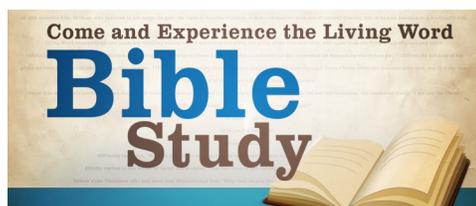
In His Service,

Marcia



Women's Retreat Rescheduled to October 23rd-25th "Blessed Beyond Measure"

How do you measure yourself? What ingredients blend together to make the contentment and peace you have been craving for? Come away to explore God's recipe for a Blessed Life Beyond Measure! Come to the Women's Retreat on October 23rd-25th at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy. You will meet women from various communities and churches. Deacon Marcia Marquardt will lead the retreat. Contact Marcia for a registration form.

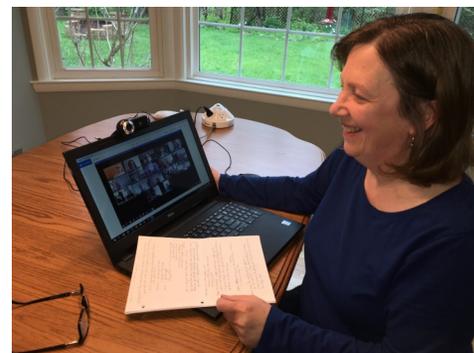


Wednesdays and Thursdays

Come to Bible Study this summer on Wednesdays at 3:45-5:15 pm and Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am. We want to use God's Word as a powerful resource in uncertain times. Here is the Zoom video conference meeting ID number for both studies: 551 505 314. Contact Marcia for the passwords for these meetings.

What makes Bible Study through Zoom video conferencing so special?

- We continue to have rich and meaningful discussions around God's Word to apply principles for living and gain new strength through God.
- We continue to understand the Bible more clearly through the teaching and prepare for Sunday worship.
- We have included people far and near in the study group—even as far as Anchorage, Alaska! Every week someone new comes to Bible Study through Zoom. People invite friends and relatives who may not have a video conference study group at their churches or have never tried Bible Study before. New people enrich the discussion and sharing.
- We continue to create an environment where all are welcome. No Bible experience is needed. Some share and discuss. Some are quiet. Some come every week. Some come once or when they can. All are welcome.



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SAVE THE DATE

The 2020 Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride will be held on Saturday, September 12th.

There are three ride locations this year: the Waukesha County ride will again be held at St. Bruno's Parish in Dousman, WI; the Ozaukee County ride will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Grafton, WI and the Racine/Kenosha County, which will be held at UW Parkside Student Center in Kenosha, WI.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020 FAMILY

BIKE RIDE IS NOW OPEN!

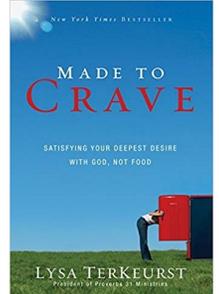
All ages & experience are welcome.

Register at: <http://ofhbikeride.com>.

Conversations about Weight Loss

Monday, June 1st at 1:00 pm

Ready for support and encouragement in your journey toward healthy living? Join the Conversation about Weight Loss on the first Monday of the month at 1:00-2:30 pm. We will discuss the struggles and victories as we work toward healthy living, and connect deeply with God for the strength, care, and support that are needed. We will use concepts from the book, *Made to Crave* by Lysa TerKeurst in June. We will be starting a new book in July or August. Contact Marcia for more details. It's a great time to join this conversation as we start a new book.



Marcia Marquardt and Jennine Szwalkiewicz will lead the conversation. The Zoom video conference meeting ID number is 739 152 256. Contact Marcia for the password.



Mark your calendar for more Conversations on July 6th & August 3rd at 1:00 pm.

2020 2021 Vision

On May 16th, twenty to thirty saints gathered online to devote ourselves to the task of envisioning what we are learning during this time and what we might do differently coming through this pandemic.

Here are a few highlights:

- God is inviting us to slow down
- More time with family and calling/video chatting people
- Hard not to hug people we love

- Great to have online worship but it is not the same
- There is no new normal
- We are embracing change
- Next steps might include house viewing parties, using different parts of our building to accommodate physical distancing, or two worship services spread out.
- Procedure for people entering the building, self diagnosis, temperature testing, hand sanitizer, wearing masks.
- Loving one another takes different forms, including understanding others choices.
- We have a lot of gifts being offered.
- We laugh a lot together!

So church, there is more envisioning coming as we continue to listen to God's voice for wisdom and discernment, and we continue to pray what our next steps might be moving forward. I am grateful for the energy that was shared during "our visioning" session and thankful for the people who were able to participate.

Without a vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

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Miscellaneous items from Frank Remfrey, church council president:

As the final Lookout of the season gets ready to hit the presses, I have a few items to share with you. I think I'll begin by talking about a drinking fountain at church that is currently shut off because it needs a repair. The fountain is a white ceramic model located a bit lower than most adults would prefer because originally it was likely installed for children since it is located near the classrooms at the west end of the upper hallway adjacent to the lavatories.

This fountain is a metaphor for what lies ahead for us as we face the uncertainties of the next months or years with our public health crisis. You may have read the reports that public drinking fountains may not be made available in the future as they are considered a source of spreading disease such as the Covid-19 virus. Now that we are faced with a repair of this fountain, it may be prudent to consider removing it entirely. Besides restricting access to our drinking fountains, we have many other practices we may have to consider changing here at St. Mark's as we move forward. Examples: greetings, communion, collections, use of bulletins and yes, even singing.

Someone recently made the comment that we may want to avoid using the phrase "the new normal" because no one knows what that might be. In addition, there may not be a "normal" for quite some time. One thing is certain, however, our church family here at St. Mark's will adapt and move forward and confront each challenge with thoughtfulness, calm and humility.

That's enough depressing stuff for now. Below are a few random items for you to ponder.

CASTING: This may be a fairly new use of a word that has been in our lexicon for many years. If you happen to own a newer TV, you may be able to "cast" the livestream services from St. Mark's wirelessly to your TV via Facebook. Your TV needs to have an app such as Chromecast. Here's how it works: You need to change the input or source on your TV to the casting app and then the rest is easy. When you have the Facebook livestream broadcast of our service under way, simply touch the screen of your Phone or tablet so that an icon appears in the upper right corner. When you select the icon, the broadcast, including audio, will appear on your TV. Your device can remain in your hands to make comments while you view the service on the big screen. If your device has the proper port, you can connect it to your TV with an HDMI cable.

Another option is to contact your grandchildren and have one of them set you up with casting or an HDMI connection.

PAINTING: We have a new group forming at St. Mark's called the "Holy Rollers." If you can help with some exterior painting of the church, we have many areas that are close to the ground that need some touching up this summer. Contact me if you can help.

CUTTING GRASS ON THE HILL: We are seeking volunteers to cut the hill in the rear of the church property during the months of August and September. It is a bit challenging but takes about 20 minutes. Our lawn mower is self-propelled with an electric start. Our custodians will appreciate the assistance.

That's all I have for now. Have a blessed summer. I look forward to seeing all of you "up close and personal" when it will be safe to do so.



In the Waukesha Area

The Mission Trip Planning Team has decided to postpone the trip to Summer 2021 because of the COVID-19 concerns. Watch for more information next Spring.

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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
424 Hyde Park Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Waukesha, WI
PERMIT NO. 643

Are you connected?

Did you know that St. Mark's has many ways of getting God's Word out to the world? There is the monthly newsletter, *The Lookout*; a weekly email; our website; and our Facebook page on which Pastor Andy streams each week a two-minute video talk on Sunday's lesson, *plus* the Sunday Worship service is streamed! Check these out and sign up, or contact Ruth in the church office for help, at 262-547-8213 or email at welcome2smarks@gmail.com.



Summer Issue of the Lookout

This newsletter covers all of the summer months, June, July, and August. Enjoy all of the events and activities taking part at St. Mark's this summer! The next newsletter will be for **SEPTEMBER**.