



The Lookout

Special Summer Edition 2021

Why Yay God?

One of my favorite things about the community of St. Mark's is the adaptation of the phrase "Yay God!" It is something I heard a friend say in New York and began using myself. Anytime I or someone I know celebrated something, either hugely significant or even modestly ordinary, I responded by saying Yay God. I recently brewed a beer for our Bishop, Paul Erickson, as a thank you to him and the Bishop's staff for their leadership during the pandemic. He messaged me to say thanks. I replied, "Yay God!" Bishop said, "I was going to say Yay Andy, but okay." I said that God always gets the credit! To which he replied, "Amen."

Yay
God!

That is the point. "Yay God!" allows us to see God at work through people, events, and even ourselves. In the story of Jonah, the writer is emphatic at the end of the book that Jonah did nothing

Yay!
God

to raise up the plant that gave him shade from the sun, yet he feels sorry for the plant when it dies but does not feel sorry for the Ninevites that God saves from destruction. (Jonah 4:10-11). As Paul argues salvation with the Galatians, he does not wait to tell them, "To God be the glory forever and ever! Amen." (Galatians 1:5)

"Yay God!" is not just to give God the credit but to announce to the world our witness to God's actions in the world. It is the praise report from the prayer requests. When we witness a healing take place, we say, "Yay God!" When we see new life in the birth of a child, we say, "Yay God!" When anniversaries, birthdays, and graduations take place, we say, "Yay God!" When we overcome difficulties or tragedy, we say, "Yay God!"

YAY!
God

We are not only encouraged to witness what God is doing in the world but that we might live out the Yay God! in our own lives. Paul said it this way "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

My own "Yay God!" this summer is to celebrate that we have been in this relationship of pastor and people for nine years. Through the ups and the downs, through sacrifice and abundance, through tragedy and triumph, God has led us to be in communion together to witness to the world that God is still working. Our work continues through us that we might say, "Yay God!"

~ Pastor Andy

YAY!
God

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

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{ cup of comfort }

this is where the healing begins

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

The Cup of Comfort Ministry welcomes **YOU** to join us as we gather to raise our spirits and support one another as we share what is on our hearts. 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 Summer Gatherings are at 10:00 a.m.:
Thursdays, June 10th,
July 8th, and August 12th

We will be in contact with the church council as we ease our covid restrictions.

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



FOOD Pantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

June, July, August

The Salvation Army will be serving lunches to hundreds of children every day this summer. They will be needing **A LOT of peanut butter and jelly!**



And hopefully children will be off to school in September. They need to start their day with breakfast, so let's fill our basket with **CEREAL and FRUIT CUPS**. The Salvation Army and Waukesha Food Pantry will be very happy to fill up their shelves with our donations.



On behalf of these charities,
THANK YOU

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 or in the box near the church entrance.

New Ideas for Blessings Box

People from our church and neighborhood have been giving and receiving food from the Blessings Box. If you have helped make our Blessings Box fruitful, you are invited to brainstorm about new ideas for making it more successful. We are considering applying for a grant to help this project. For more information, contact Pastor Andy or Marcia.

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





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 the above email address.

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.



Return of Open Office Hours

During the summer, 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".



SUMMER
OFFICE HOURS

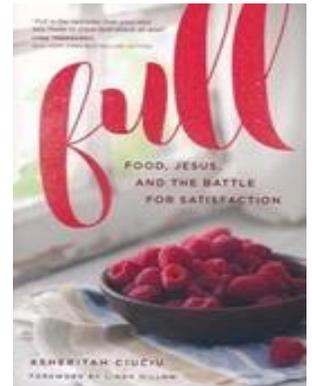
Reach Out and Say Hello

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.



Conversations about Weight Loss Monday, June 7th 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
July 12th, August 2nd,
September 13th and October 4th**

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



Increased Seating Capacity for 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 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.



The Covid data has led Council to expand in person seating which can now accommodate up to 80 people. At this time, distancing and mask wearing will continue. The seating chart for in-person worship services has been re-drawn and expanded to increase capacity for attendance at worship beginning with the Sunday, May 30th service. We are following guidelines from Wisconsin Council of Churches and the CDC.

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.

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

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Dear St Mark's Family and Friends,

I used to love getting S&H green stamps at the grocery store. They were small stamps, when licked and stored in special booklets, could be traded at the redemption center for wonderful things like lawn chairs and griddles. The stamps themselves seemed small and insignificant. But when they were redeemed, they became something wonderful.



I was thinking of those green stamps recently as I needed some trading for something wonderful. I had given some advice that turned out to NOT be helpful. As I was fussing and fretting at my foolishness and failure, I sensed God inviting me to make a trade. I could give him my mistake, and he would offer his forgiveness. And even more than that, he could take my mistake and transform it for good and his glory (Romans 8:28). I pictured myself handing Jesus my small, insignificant green stamp (my foolish mistake) and he offering me a treasure of hope, joy, and peace at his redemption center as I trusted in him to take care of me and this situation.

There's an old praise song written by Darrell Evans that says,
*I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.*

Are you ready for a trade today? You can offer whatever is troubling you today, and receive a treasure of joy, peace, and hope from God.

God, help us to trade our weakness for your hope, joy, and peace. 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!



Wedding

Congratulations to Mark Fugett and Julie Johnson on their marriage vows. The first wedding in the newly redone meditation gardens. Yay God!



Baptism

We welcomed Axel Knutson into the church, the body of Christ, by Baptism on Sunday May 23rd. Parents are Kyle and Aubrie Knutson

On June 6th, we will welcome Elora Frank into the church, the body of Christ, by Baptism. Parents are Aaron and Melissa Frank



Funeral

Memorial Service for Herbert and Delores Geiger was held on Tuesday, June 1st at St. Mark's Church and Live streamed.



WELCOME
new members

We welcomed Susan Cyr into our church family on May 30th

Happy 73rd birthday to St. Mark's! On May 2nd, St. Mark's turned 73! Yay God!



The Church is

* A 15-week summer series on **what it means to be CHURCH** rooted in the tenets of community, the way of Jesus, and our baptismal promises.

FIVE WEEKS ROOTED IN THE TENETS OF COMMUNITY		
May 30	Created for Community	Genesis 1 & 2
June 6	Broken	Genesis 4:1-16
June 13	About Love (Shema)	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
June 20	A Place of Acceptance	1 Peter 4:8-10
June 27	Blessed to be a Blessing	Genesis 12:1-3

FIVE WEEKS ROOTED IN THE WAY OF JESUS		
July 4	Constantly Dying & Rising	Mark 8:27-38
July 11	Set Apart/Servant Leadership	Matthew 20:20-28
July 18	Equipping	Ephesians 4:11-16
July 25	Sent	Matthew 28:16-20
August 1	On Fire	Luke 24:13-34

FIVE WEEKS ROOTED IN OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES		
August 8	Living Among God's Faithful People	Acts 16:11-15
August 15	Hearing God's Word, Sharing the Meal	Acts 2:42-49
August 22	Sharing the Good News in Word & Deed	Acts 1:1-8
August 29	Serving All People Like Jesus	John 13:1-17
Sept 5	Striving for Justice and Peace	Mark 11:15-19

Worship In-Person and on Facebook Live
 Welcome2stmarks.com
 262-547-8213

St Mark's Lutheran Church
 424 Hyde Park Avenue
 Waukesha, WI 53188

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Photo from our 65th anniversary



Quilt with the Quilt Ladies

The quilters create warm quilts as gifts of God's love to individuals and groups locally and around the world. Join us for an hour or two. We'd love to get to know you and teach you about our quilting process. We will be meeting 9:00 am-noon for fellowship and sewing on the following Mondays this summer:

**June 7th, June 21st, July 12th, July 26th,
August 2nd, August 16th, August 30th,
September 13th, September 27th**



We are following all church safety protocols.

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.

Fabric Needed:

The quilters need printed cotton fabric for the fronts of their quilts.

Thank you all for your support of our mission.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez



Property Team Update

HVAC –

Boiler Replacement

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to the 'Warming Hearts' campaign. Over \$4,000.00 has been raised to date, towards the \$10,355, needed for the new boiler. Additional donations will then go towards helping the Emergency Shelter in Waukesha, and then to other capital needs at St. Mark's.

Our new boiler will be installed by September and payment will be due upon completion.

Air Conditioning –

Merv-13 filters are being installed in the AC units and will be changed every month. These filters have a 95% effective rate in mitigating the transmission of Covid-19 aerosols. They will help 'clean' the air in the Sanctuary & Narthex. Two programmable thermostats for the AC units will also be installed to help with energy efficiency. (The heat thermostat is already programmable).

Many thanks to:

Volunteers who are helping the custodians by mowing the hill on the west side of church.

Larry S. for tuning up the lawnmower and gas blower.

Larry S. for removing the de-icing cables on all the gutters and checking the gutters & drains.

Property team members, M. Collins, B. Johnson, F. Remfrey and T. Badger, for putting the large wooden cross up for Easter and for taking it down prior to Pentecost.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Fenner

Property Chair



Friends of Luther Manor

Luther Manor shares God's love by enriching the lives of older adults. Making a small donation and becoming a "Friend of Luther Manor" supports projects and services for the residents. Contact Larry Nines 262-542-0830 or lnines@wi.rr.com) for more information.

Midweek Worship on Wednesdays Facebook Live

Refresh your spirit and focus on God with Midweek Worship on Wednesdays at 6:30pm on Facebook Live.



The Church is.....an invitation

On Sunday May 30th, we began our 15 week summer series "The Church is ____." Each week we look at a different aspect of what the church is. To kick off this campaign I took 4 second videos of the places I found the church at work, volunteers, members, guests, strangers, both inside the four walls of the church building and out and about in our community. You can see this video on the homepage of our website welcome2stmarks.com



So, here is my invitation: take a 4-8 second video of where you see the church at work and either send it to Pastor Andy via text or email gopastorgo@gmail.com or post it directly to the church facebook page [facebook.com/welcome2stmarks](https://www.facebook.com/welcome2stmarks). When you take the video simply use the phrase "this is the church." We look forward to seeing how diverse and how far these examples invite us to see the church at work in the world.

Upcoming Summer Events



Keep up with some upcoming summer events through our weekly email blast. Somethings to look forward to:

**The Tower Hill area picnic July 24 at Horeb Springs park,
The Roaring Lions blessing of the Bikers and inaugural ride,
Faith Fermenters brew and bible study,
dinner church opportunities, and more.**

Email welcome2stmarks@gmail.com to be included in the weekly email information.



Annual "Plant the Madison Street Planters"

**Sunday, June 6th at 1:00-2:00 pm
Meet at Blair House/Future Spring.
434 Madison Street**

**Bring - work gloves, trowel if you have one
It is fun, goes quickly, you get to see or meet your neighbors.
Email towerhillneighbors@gmail.com if you can help.**



Warming Hearts Campaign--\$4100 Received So Far!

- As many of you are aware, several months ago one of the boilers at St. Mark's was taken offline and the building was heated by the remaining two boilers. This remedy worked satisfactorily and got us through the heating season, but our Property Team has made it clear that we must replace the offline boiler before the temperatures begin falling again. After considerable effort to secure multiple bids, the Property Team and the Council have approved the bid from First Choice Heating for approximately \$10,000.
- We would like to expand this giving campaign to include a meaningful donation to the Emergency Shelter here in Waukesha. We hope to provide heat this winter to the worshippers of St. Mark's and to those struggling with homelessness in our community. This giving campaign will enable us to fulfill our mission this winter of warmly "gathering together" so that we can "grow" and "go out" offering warmth and comfort to members of our community as well as the members of St. Mark's.
- We are calling this effort to raise funds for our capital needs and the Emergency Shelter the "Warming Hearts" campaign. We are mindful of Luke 24 when the resurrected Jesus meets with the men on the road who later asked "Didn't our hearts burn within us?" after they had visited with Jesus. Accordingly, we will reference this giving campaign as "Warming Hearts."
- We will appreciate your participation in the Warming Hearts campaign to support our capital and maintenance budget as well as supporting members of our community. Please consider giving any amount that you can manage, even though we realize that this may have been a difficult year for you financially. Contributions can be mailed to the church office or dropped off in person at future services. The gift should be labeled "Warming Hearts," "Capital Campaign" or "Heating System" so that we can direct the funds to the appropriate location.
- You may click on the link below to contribute electronically on the church's website. After you click on giving link, use the arrow to select "Warming Hearts" from the drop down menu as the recipient of your donation. If you need help, contact Pastor Andy.

Mutual Ministry

Mutual Ministry exists to listen to St. Mark's members regarding the needs, concerns, and desires of the congregation and of the pastor. We meet regularly to take a pulse on the health of the congregation and help address issues of concern and celebration. The term of the present Mutual Ministry team (known as M&M-4) has come to an end. We, the team members, feel blessed to have been this integral part of St. Mark's ministry for the past two years. Thank you, Pastor Andy and St. Mark's Church family members, for entrusting us with this responsibility. We welcome the following to the new Mutual Ministry team (M&M-5): Karen Handford, Mary Martinson, Betty Thompson, Bill Wagner.

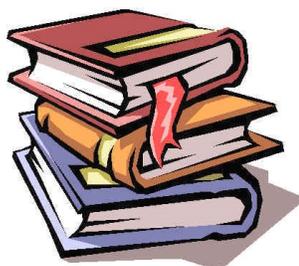
Blessings to you, M&M-5, as you begin this ministry.

Tammi Boehm, Gene Geiger, Laurie Duranceau, Mary Ann Sindelar

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.



Our Church Library

The church library in Fellowship Hall will be operating on an honor system – no need to sign out the books. Read, Share and Return the books when you are finished so that others might enjoy them.

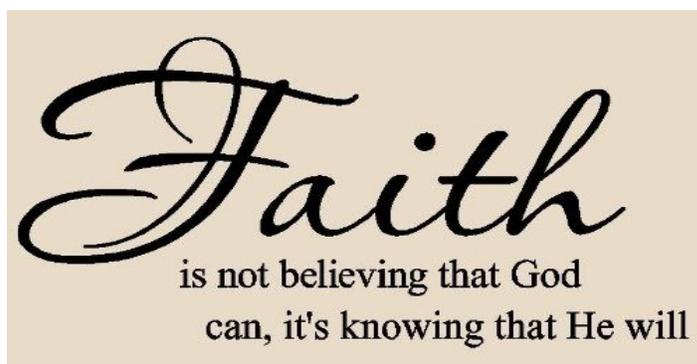


SAVE THE DATE FOR 2021!

The 2021 Ride Run Walk will take place on **Saturday, September 25th, 2021**
Online registration opens on July 15th!
Check back soon for more information

All ages & experience are welcome.

<https://outreachforhope.org/ride-run-walk/>



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.

Volunteer Office Help Needed

We are grateful for those who help make welcoming others into worship possible. If you have an hour during the week and would like to help out,

please contact Pastor Andy.

Help Wanted

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are busy making Prayer Shawls. If you are in need of yarn, please call me and I can meet you at church for curbside pick up. There will be no events at church until it is safe. We will just have to be patient and keep knitting and crocheting at home. **Thanks for all you are doing!**



If there are any questions, please contact Mary Jo Christensen at 414-405-4075
mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com.

Frank Remfrey, church council president:

Today's Word of the Day: Liminality

St. Mark's has a number of members who are trivia buffs who attended trivia competitions at local eateries and bars during pre-COVID times. I would like to mention a word I learned recently that may help trivia participants in future competitions: Liminality.



A recent article from the WI Council of Churches highlighted this term and provided some background in an article about "liminal space." This term may have its origins with the cultural anthropologist Victor Turner. Turner's phrase became better known when Richard Rohr wrote an article about liminal space a few months after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

Liminal space, according to Rohr, is derived from the Latin word for threshold: *Limina*. Rohr defines the term this way: "When you are in between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer. It is no fun. Think of Israel in the desert, Joseph in the pit, Jonah in the belly, the three Marys tending the tomb."

Sound familiar? As we enter the summer months, thanks to vaccinations and a drop in COVID statistics, we are at the threshold of a period when we can eventually return to fewer COVID restrictions. However, there is still uncertainty about the dynamics that will be at play during our next stage. Accordingly, we are in a unique liminal space at the present time but we should embrace it. In fact, Rohr mentioned after 9/11 that "We are tipping on the balance, and usually God is an opportunist in such situations- waiting at the bottom of the slide."

As we enter this next "liminal" stage as a congregation, I wish all of you strength and peace as we navigate the future and work our way "down the slide." Also, this would be a good time for me to express my appreciation to you, the congregation, as well as my fellow Council members and the St. Mark's staff for the patience and agility we have witnessed during the past year.



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.



Thoughts on Giving by Rev Matthew Short, Greater Milwaukee Synod

When I think about what it means to give, I think it really means to recognize the connection with someone or something else. When you get a gift for someone at Christmas or for a birthday you get really excited for them to open it, because you know they are going to love it. It's never really about the actual thing you gave it's about your connection with that person, the relationship. So, when you are giving think about the relationship and recognize the connection.

That is part of why I'm passionate about my work for the Greater Milwaukee Synod. The synod is a group of congregations banding together and recognizing their mutual relationship and interconnectedness. So, when I give the gifts I have to share, and you give the gifts that you have to share, then there is sufficiency for all of us.

God, you have gifted each one of us, and bound us together for the sake of the world. Help us to offer what we have to give and honor what others have to give, trusting together with you, we are enough. Amen



Share our Summer Beauty

Beautiful flowers abound and we would love to see them in our Sanctuary! They can be from your garden, Farmer's Market or a flower shop. Please notify Barb Helling (414-378-8435) so that she can update our Sanctuary Flower Chart.



Calling all musicians!

We are looking for in-person musicians and pre-recorded videos of singers and instrumentalists to play during worship services. If you are interested in providing special music for worship services, please contact Jennifer at pianogirl_22@yahoo.com.

Worship Bags for Young Families

We have added some new items to the Worship Bags: "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.



Ruth Circle

We hope to begin meeting again this fall. Listen for announcements later this summer for our fall schedule. We miss our gatherings and pray for you all to remain healthy and safe. Call Karen Handford at 262-565-3770 or Mavis McGrath at 262-968-3160 if you have any questions or concerns.



Men's Breakfast



The St. Marks men's breakfast group **will not meet this summer**. Listen for announcements later this summer for our fall schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Tim

Nekich, nekich@att.net or Larry Nines, nines@wi.rr.com.

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.