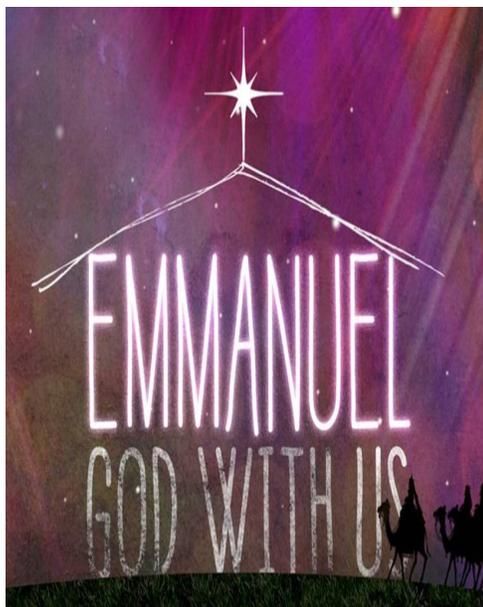


The Lookout

December, 2019 — January, 2020



The Invitation

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you Oh Israel.

Throughout Advent and Christmas seasons, we sing the invitation for Emmanuel to come into our lives. Emmanuel, God with us, is invited to come among us as flesh and blood. Do we really know what we are inviting? After all, this Emmanuel will turn the world right side up. He will preach the Beatitudes and name the blest as those we have no time for; the weak and lowly, the poor, the mourning, the humble, the merciful, the pure at heart, the justice workers, and the persecuted. Do we really realize that inviting this Emmanuel to come means that the very life we have come to know will need to change because of him. Do we get that following this Christ child, Emmanuel, will bring about sacrifices on our part? We will need to change the way we live, spend money, purchase goods, invest our time. Nothing will be the same. Do we know who we are inviting?

For as long as I have lived on this earth, I have sung this invitation many times. I know the scripture verses from Isaiah and the prophets, the gospel writers that helped form the lyrics. I really never understood what it means to invite Emmanuel to come. We invite Emmanuel to come and ransom us from captivity, to free us from Satan's tyranny, to rescue us from exile, close the path to misery, restore the broken, and refresh the hearts that long for you. We are inviting God to do an awful lot, just in one song.

We sing this song because we are in need, in need of a God who would come down and give us these gifts of healing, rescue, presence, to save us from the suffering of this world and to see the world right side up. A new church year allows us to recapture this invitation and reclaim who we are inviting to come into our lives, Jesus, the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us. So church, I invite you to ponder with me what this invitation means for our lives, both individually and communally. What does life look like if we invite Emmanuel to come and move into our neighborhood? Our calendar? Our smartphones?

The bearers of this song, the faithful of so many generations, not only sang this song of liberation and freedom but they told its story about what God continues to do in the lives of God's faithful servants. That is the other invitation I extend to you church. Who will you tell what God is up to? What lyrics might you use to continue this love song?

In great Advent anticipation,

— 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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December

Our thoughts are on Baby Jesus and our thoughts can be on feeding our babies: let's donate **BABY FOODS** and fill our baskets for the Food Pantry and Salvation Army. The recipients will be very grateful.



January

A bowl of soup is comforting on a cold winter night. **SOUP and CRACKERS** will be greatly appreciated by the Food Pantry and Salvation Army - let's try to fill our baskets to overflowing.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with our neighbors.



Ruth Circle

December

You Are Invited! On December 18th, we are meeting at noon for a potluck luncheon at Mavis McGrath's home. We are bringing gifts for Hebron House and The Women's Center.

January

We are meeting on January 15th at 1:00 at church. We will be reading pages 151-160 from our book, *Moments of Grace For a Women's Heart*. Tammi Bohem and Karen Handford are the hostesses. Please let them know if you are coming or not. We will hear from Marcia Marquardt and Mary Martinson about an opportunity to have our February meeting at Linden Heights doing devotions, singing songs, and having ice cream sundaes while visiting with the residents.

All women are welcome. Please call Karen Handford at 262-547-2070 or Mavis McGrath at 262-968-3160 with any questions.

SENIOR + CONNECTION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER

There will be no Senior Connection

January 14, 2020

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

Chili Luncheon

On a Wisconsin Winter Day

Followed by a presentation by
Bruce Gay Director
of the Waukesha Public Library



BRING A FRIEND

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Rockie Matson
262-549-9192



There will be no Cup of Comfort in the month of December.

Please plan to join us for the Blue Christmas Service
and luncheon on December 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

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, January 9th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

Questions? Call: Anne Link
414-379-4619



From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7



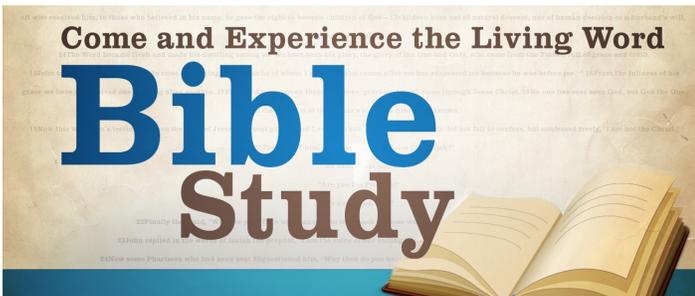
Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

What makes you anxious? Are you worried today? Sometimes I'm worried about details that need to be accomplished and how things will turn out. Sometimes I'm anxious about uncertainties in the future and the decisions along the way. For some of us, it's easy to worry. But God invites us into peaceful living. I love the Philippians passage printed above. It's become a favorite of mine. In a simple statement, God challenges us to pray about **EVERYTHING**, rather than worry about **ANYTHING**.

Author and pastor, Max Lucado writes, "**Our primary call to action in the fight against anxiety is prayer.** The power of prayer is not in chanting the right formula or quoting some secret code, but in the heart of the one praying. As God's children, we honor him when we tell him exactly what we need." Prayer in our time of need helps us draw close to God—turning our focus from our anxiety to the love and power of God.

Would you appreciate exploring more about God's peace? Pastor Andy and I will host another session of **Finding Calm in the Chaos Retreat on Saturday, January 11th** at 9:00 am- Noon at St. Mark's. This session will focus on prayer as a tool against anxiety. We'll watch a video presentation from Max Lucado, gather in small groups for discussion, and create quiet space to connect with God. This session will be different from the November retreat. Everyone is welcome—men, women, teens, friends, and family. Invite someone to come. It's FREE. You can sign up in the church lobby at the welcome center. Save the Date: We'll view and discuss the final two sessions of Max Lucado's teaching on March 14th.

In His Service,
Marcia



Wednesdays and Thursdays

Having trouble understanding the Bible? Come to Bible Study to understand and apply principles from God's Word for your life on Wednesdays at 3:45-5:15 pm (please note the new time) and Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am.

December 4, 5, 11 & 12

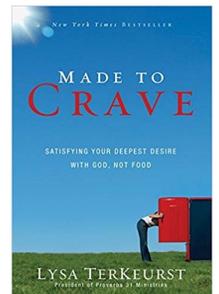
January 7, 8, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30

Each week Marcia Marquardt offers some background information to help the group understand what is happening in the text. She asks questions that lead a discussion to discover and apply principles for living. No Bible experience necessary! Some people are quiet and some discuss. Some come every week and some come when they can. All are welcome!

Conversations about Weight Loss

Monday, December 2nd & January 6th at 1:00 pm

Prepare your heart for the Holidays! Come for a Conversation about Weight Loss on Monday, December 2nd and January 6th at 1:00-2:30 pm in the upstairs lounge. 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. While supplies last, copies are available free of charge.



Marcia Marquardt and Jennine Szwalkiewicz will lead the conversation. Mark your calendar for more Conversations on February 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th, and May 4th at 1:00 pm.



Lookout Mailing

Thank you to the following volunteers: Mary Jo Christensen, Roger and Darlene Bjerke, Julie Baumler, and Barb Ruhe



Special Gifts

Elks National Veterans Service for quilters, Ruth Circle, Coffee Hour, Faith Fermenters, Senior Connection, Men's Breakfast

Restore & Renew Giving Campaign

Bob Solberg, David & Anna Miller, Elwyn & Sandra Bischmann, Hannah & Rodney Brandenburg, Nancy Rather, Roger & Darlene Bjerke

Baptism: Brielle Fabus on October 27th daughter of Nicole and Brian Fabus

Funerals: Trudy Hollub on October 13th, daughter of Earline Hollub
Owen Olson on October 27th, father of Brad Olson
Rory Snyder, brother of Sue Synder
Stacey Payne on November 30th, daughter of JoAnne Payne,

Memorials

In Memory of Thomas Handford: Deb Gerner, Roger Heilert, Frank & Sue Remfrey
In Memory of Kathy Staude: Gene & Barb Geiger



A Quiet, Reflective Service of Remembrance, Comfort and Hope Peaceful Worship for The Advent Season

Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00 am Luncheon to follow

COME-SIT-BE

(You do not need to be "blue" to participate in this special service)

If you are unable to attend this service at St. Mark's, Pastor Becky Fetters will be leading a Blue Christmas Service on December 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Christ the Victor Lutheran Church
15700 W Coffee Rd,
New Berlin. All are welcome!

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@cmhllaw.com or 262-510-8849 with any questions or concerns.



The Christmas Program rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 14th at 9:30 am. Sunday School will be the host of Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 15th. **If each family could bring 2 dozen cookies/bars, it would greatly appreciated.**



Children's Christmas Program

Join us for the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15th during the service

GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Greening of the Church

Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 am
We will be decorating both the Sanctuary and the lower level. Meet in the Sanctuary.
All are welcome to help.....from young to old.
Any questions, please contact Barb Helling at 262-544-6006.

Wednesday Advent Services

For the three Wednesdays of December we prepare our hearts for God's incarnation in Jesus using Holden Evening Prayer. Join us on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18 at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary.



Services will include Holden liturgy, special Advent Scriptures, and prayers. **All are welcome!**

Mark Your 2020 Calendar!

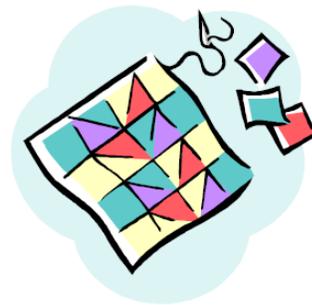
Women's Retreat "Blessed Beyond Measure" on April 17-19, 2020 at Camp Timber-lee



St. Mark's Quilters

Quilters need your help! No sewing or quilting experience is needed. Join us in creating quilts to give to various charities, shelters and individuals in our area. There are many different tasks to try: designing, cutting, sewing and tying. And of course, the fellowship is priceless! Come when you can and leave when you must. We meet every Monday at 8:30 am from October to Memorial Day. All are welcome to come, and attendance every week is not required.

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.



Quilt Sunday

During the past year, St. Mark's Quilters completed 441 twin-sized quilts and 200 small quilts for children and rehab center residents, for a total of 641. In addition to meeting on Mondays, several quilters spent many hours at home cutting fabric and sewing squares together for tops.



Quilts have been donated to Lutheran Social Services, Salvation Army, Christmas Clearing Council, Women's Center, Hebron House shelters, Hope Center, Nehemiah House, Joy House, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Meta House, Unchained (prison ministry), Parent's Place, LSS Traumatic Infant Intervention, Lutheran World Relief, Waukesha Fire and Police Department, Hawthorne School K-4, Street Angels, Family Promise, Chosen, St. Joseph's Medical Clinic, Heartland Hospice Center in Steven's Point (Mystery Mission Tour), and a local rehab facility.

Here at St. Mark's, quilts were given for graduations, baptisms, the neighborhood party, and to friends and family of our members needing comfort. Each service veteran in

attendance at the Elks' annual Veterans Day Dinner received a quilt. Quilts were donated for fundraising activities at Hope Center, HAWS, Blessings in a Backpack, St. Joseph's Medical Clinic, Zonta, Blair Flair, Lifestriders, ERA's Senior Network, Waukesha Service Club, Waukesha Community Club and others. On August 10th, our quilts raised \$550 for Lutherdale Bible Camp at their 33rd annual quilt auction.

Each quilt has a sticker attached with St. Mark's address and a quote from Matthew 19:26, "With God all things are possible". The goal of St. Mark's Quilters is to continue this mission of service that began with a small group of women in 1978, giving warmth and hope to our community and beyond.



Finding the Calm in the Chaos Retreat on January 11th and March 14th

Does the uncertainty and chaos of life weigh you down? Come for a retreat for men, women, and teens at St. Mark's to explore God's plan to help us find peace! **This session will focus on prayer as a tool against anxiety.** Through video presentations, discussions, and quiet time with God, we will discover a life of calm and develop tools for combating anxiety. Invite friends and family to participate. Pastor Andy and Deacon Marcia will lead the retreat. Sign up at the welcome center in the church lobby.

Be still
and know that
I am
GOD
Psalm 46:10





OPERATION CHRISTMAS:

Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council

Opening gifts at Christmas time is something we all take for granted. Unfortunately, there are many who live in this county who may not have this experience. Help brighten the season by bringing unwrapped toys, mittens, hats and scarves to

St. Mark's on or before **Sunday, December 8th** for distribution by the Christmas Clearing Council.

Let your children become part of this giving by helping a child less fortunate. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you love to knit or crochet, or would you like to learn?

Come join the prayer shawl ministry group on **Monday, December 2nd and January 6th.**

We usually meet on the 1st Monday of the month in fellowship hall at 6:30 pm. If there are any questions, please contact Mary Jo Christensen at mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com or Anna Miller.



Blessings Box

Winter has arrived early! It's time for us to place gloves, hats, scarves, and school supplies in the box. Please do not put canned foods in the box during the winter. Food products should be only items that can handle the changing temperatures.

Please place item donations directly into the Blessings Box located near the sidewalk at the courtyard entrance to

help others. Thank you!



Men's Breakfast

There will be a men's breakfast on **Saturday December 14th and Saturday, January 11th.** 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.



OIKOS is beginning a new year. This is a faith formation process to help dive deeper into affirming baptismal promises and growing in relationship with God and one another. If you are interested in participating or helping pastor Andy with the faith formation opportunity, please contact pastor Andy.

Affirmation of Baptism



On Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate the gift and promise of Baptism in worship. We invite you to come remember the promises given to you that we might continue to die to sin and be raised up in Jesus Christ, remember that we are a child of God, and continue to work at being brothers and sisters in Christ.



Currating Curiosity

Starting in 2020, the first Sunday of every month we will host a continuing conversation on curiosity. This is a time for more questions than answers, a time for conversation about the direction of the church, a time for reflecting on changing cultural norms, a time to be curious. As we begin this new exercise, I invite you to send in one sentence conversation starters; "I'm curious about _____." We can use these as spring boards to keep the curiosity going.

Faith Fermenters at the Charitable Hops home-brew competition





Prayer Workshop

Would you like to grow in confidence in praying? Come to the Prayer Workshop on Sunday, February 23rd at 11:00 am-Noon in the upstairs lounge. We will use a video teaching and conversation to explore how to pray. We will also review the

prayer chain and partner ministries. All are welcome! Deacon Marcia Marquardt will lead the workshop.

Fetters' Epiphany Open House



The Fetters' family invites you to share a new year and the promise of the wise men on Sunday, January 5th 2020, from 2:00-5:00 pm at the **Pleasant Life 808 Pleasant Street Waukesha WI 53186**

Articulating our values and ministries: Our church retreat in October examined our ministry at St. Mark's through the lens of filling in the blanks of one sentence; We do _____ because we value _____. It was a simple and rewarding exercise. Here are some of the results we came up with.

We do	because	We value
Funeral meals		Comforting families as they grieve
Visitation Ministry		Value people who cannot come to church
Music		Inspires
worship		community
Sunday School		young people
Faith Formation		life long learning about God
cup of comfort		God's healing power and grace
Coffee Hour		Building relationships
Bible Study		God's word growing disciples
Block party		love neighbors
mission trips		service to others/building relationships
college connection		Maintaining relationships
Faith fermenters		co-creating with our creator
blessings in a backpack		needs of our neighbors
Quilting		need for comfort
card ministry		sending God's love
retreats		growing relationship with God and one another
In as Much Day		service/relationship with our community
Baptism/communion		God's promises
Blood Drive		compassion
Share peace		Reconciliation
Prayer Ministry		God's caring for people



WOW! What might you include?

All In-Stewardship Appeal Update

Thank you for your investment in God's work through the ministries at and through St. Mark's. As of November 12, 2019, we have received 110 pledges that represent a total of \$221,259 for 2020. Last year we received 103 pledges for a total of \$204,507. We celebrate God's movement of growing generosity in his people at St Mark's. **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**



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

Dec 1: St. Mark's Flute Choir

Dec 8: St. Mark's Singers

Dec 15: Barb Geiger and Tim Milo

Dec 22: Megan Buschkopf and Marie Warren