



The Lookout

May-June 2026

Invitation: Looking Back With Thanksgiving, Looking Forward With Hope

In May, St. Mark's will bid farewell and Godspeed to Deacon Marcia after 12 blessed years of growth, heartache, and joy. Some of us have been here for every single one of those years, and some of us have been a part of this community for much less time than that, yet all of us have borne witness to her faithful work within the congregation and the community.

At the celebratory worship and luncheon honoring her on Sunday, May 3rd, I expect that there will be plenty of reminiscing as we gather to share both meal and memories together, with stories to tell, jokes to share, and remembrances to recollect in community. Knowing this congregation, I definitely expect a lot of laughter! But I also wouldn't be surprised if there were a few tears, too. Marcia's years here have held a lot: births of babies and their baptisms. Christmas Eves and Easter mornings. Confirmations and weddings. And deaths and funerals, too. Marcia's pastoral heart has held the congregation through it all.

Not all the memories are so momentous. Some are much more ordinary, but we still hold them in our minds: Lenten midweek services and Thursday Bible studies. mundane meetings, working side-by-side on Inasmuch Day, and weekly cups of coffee shared during fellowship hour.

As the congregation prepares to wish Marcia a heartfelt goodbye, we also prepare to welcome in someone new: a Transition Minister to do the work of God with and alongside us. These in-between times aren't always easy, but two of God's great gifts to us can help to smooth the transition: faith and grace. Let us have faith that God is preparing St. Mark's and a new minister for one another, for God has all our times in His loving hands (Psalm 31:15). And, let us show grace to one another when the waiting seems long and is hard to continue to be patient.

Finally, let us pray together. Let us rejoice with thankful hearts for all of St. Mark's past, and especially Marcia's ministry. And let us look to the days ahead with hope. God knows our future, and it is secure in God's divine love.

O Christ, the same, secure within whose keeping
Our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
Our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
For all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
We bring our thanks for all that is to be.

"O Christ the Same," by Timothy Dudley-Smith, ELW #760

Peace, Pastor Laura

St. Mark's Church

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

Welcome2stmarks@gmail.com

Worship Services

In Person and Live Streaming
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Administrative Assistant
Courtney Saffran

Contact Info

Pastor Laura Frost
st.marks.past@gmail.com
608-424-6728

Deb Gerner
Council President
msgerner@yahoo.com
262-352-3494

Lou Hernandez
Council Vice-President
stewlou@hotmail.com
262-719-6910

Lookout Editor

Rene Bjerke
stmarkslookout@gmail.com

Website

welcome2stmarks.com



FOOD Pantry
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY



May and June

"Rise and Shine, Give God the Glory"

Let's help Mom's feed their children healthy breakfasts. You **MAY** bring anything from cereal to breakfast bars. Pun intended.

June signals the end of the school year. Remember favorite lunch items...mac and cheese, SpaghettiOs, peanut butter and jelly. Let's help keep their energy up.



{ cup of comfort }
this is where the healing begins

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

If you are in need of support and comfort for what is happening in your life, join this group for a morning. We offer comfort, God's word, music, inspiration and sharing. YOU will be welcomed and encouraged.

Great cookies too!

We gather the second Thursday of each month in the upstairs lounge and would be happy to see you.

Our Next Gatherings are at 10:00 am

Thursday, May 14th
Thursday, June 11th

Anne Link 414-379-4619

ALL ARE WELCOME



Council update

On April 20th, Council met to review a "Rostered Minister Profile" (resume) of an ordained Deacon who is interested in our Transition Pastor position. The discussion culminated with a vote to extend an invitation to interview with the Council. Watch the bulletin for the latest information when it is available.

Deb Gerner, Council President



Ruth Circle

We will meet on May 20th at noon at The Machine Shed to enjoy lunch and each other. Please call Mavis and let her know you are coming. We take the summer off and will get back together in September. Consider joining us.

SENIOR + CONNECTION

Summer Coffee Time

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026

10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for coffee, treats and summer memories until we meet again in fall.

Bring your favorite summer memory to share.





Bible Study on Thursdays

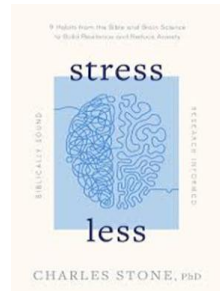
All are welcome! No Bible experience needed. We study the worship scriptures for the coming Sunday and apply it to our lives. Anna Miller, Jennine Szwalkiewicz, and Sue Cyr will lead the study using an adapted "Dwelling in the Word" format.

The study meets on Thursdays at 10:00-11:30am on Zoom AND In-Person in the fellowship hall. Zoom meeting ID number: 817 7030 6574. Contact Jennine Szwalkiewicz at: jhensleigh@att.net for the passcode.



A Conversation about Stress Less on Mondays, May 4th and June 1st

The Conversation about Stress Less will meet on May 4th and June 1st at 3:30-5:00pm on Zoom. Betty Groenewold and Barb Geiger will lead these conversations. The book discussion will be completed on June 1st. The group meets on Zoom: 817 7030 6574. Contact Betty Groenewold at: bjgroenewold@gmail.com for the passcode.

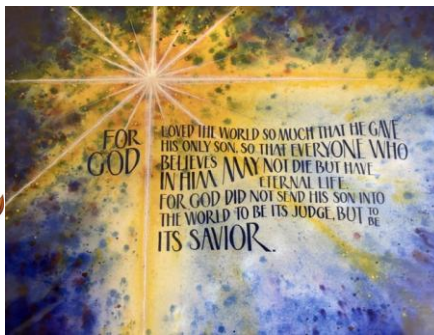


Interested in Becoming a Member of St. Mark's?

If you would like to join St. Mark's, please reach out to Pastor Laura. She will meet with you in the coming weeks for informal conversation about matters of faith, and you can join the congregation on **Sunday, May 24th** for the feast of Pentecost.

St. Marks Dartball 2025-2026 season

We had a wonderful year with good fellowship at our games. There were 9 teams in our Waukesha-Kettle Moraine league. We placed 5th this year with 23.5 wins and 24.5 losses. On March 17th, we had our banquet at The Loft at Cedar Ridge. We are looking to improve our standings next year. Captain Bob Johnson



St. Mark's Senior Connection has great chefs. There were 29 people who enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch. After lunch, artist Linda Gerard Dzik brought five of her original watercolor paintings of the books of the Bible. She also brought prints of the completed works and prints of her nature paintings. She shared her journey from her childhood church experiences, school and career choices, journaling and most of all, listening to God. She realizes that all the things put in her life were part of God's plan for her to become the artist that she is. She has learned to listen to God, although she questioned when he told her to do a painting of the Bible. (He has quite a sense of humor.) Then, she realized he was serious and meant a painting for each book of the Bible. This has become a project she calls "Root 66." She shared how that process came to be, descriptions of the paintings and her love of God. Paintings can be seen on her website: www.heavenearthcreations.com

Thank You St. Mark's!

Our "Water for Life" Lenten offering was truly amazing, exceptional, and special. So thankful and grateful for continued generous support. Our total is \$3830.00 with 34 households participating. Our heartfelt donation will create access to clean water for multiple families in need. What a positive impact. As our gift goes out, we are doing God's work through St. Mark's. Thank You.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know that participating in hobbies can lower your stress levels and promote a sense of relaxation? Consider joining the Prayer Shawl group. We can teach you if you don't knit or crochet! Our group gathers on the second Monday of each month at noon. If there are any questions, please contact Anna Miller at 262-544-5721 or Mary Jo Christensen at 414-405-4075 mjchristensen1958@wi.rr.com.



2026 Offering Envelopes

These envelopes (WITHOUT member numbers or dates) allow the church to save some money and help us keep our giving records more accurate. Pick up a few in the church lobby. **It's important that you write your name on the envelope if you want us to keep record of your giving.** If you would like envelopes mailed to you, contact the church office at: welcomed2stmarks@gmail.com. Thank you for investing in God's mission and ministry in and through St. Mark's.



Serving at the Hope Center

The Hope Center provides and prepares the meal. Our team serves, cleans up, and provides milk and cookies. It's a wonderful way to share our time and God's love to those in need in our community. Thank you to Craig and Carter Stearns for serving in March.

Contact Mary Ann Sindelar for further information.



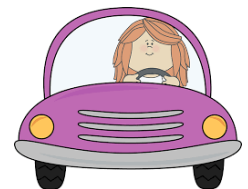
Our Little Library

Please place gently used books in our Little Library located near the sidewalk at the lower entrance. If the box is full, place the books in the coat rack area of the fellowship hall. Jennine Szwalkiewicz will keep the Little Library stocked. Children's books are preferred. Thanks for sharing God's love with our neighbors.



A Ride to Worship

Need a ride to Sunday Worship? Could you pick someone up and bring them to Worship? We recognize a growing need for transportation to Worship. Contact the church if you can help or have a need.



Property Team Update – April

EZ Window Cleaning did the annual pre-Easter window cleaning in the Sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall on March 31st.

Inspections were completed: The **elevator passed the annual state inspection** on Feb. 27th and the **quarterly Otis inspection** on March 31st. All **10 fire**

Extinguishers were checked by Ahern and passed inspection on February 27th.

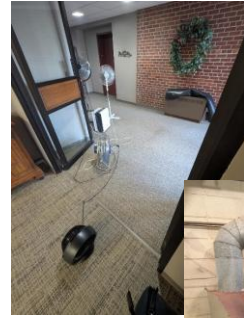
The **rain storms** during the week of April 13-19 caused flooding in the lower entry.

Water was vacuumed up and multiple fans were used to dry up the moisture by Sunday's service. Repairs to the door threshold and weatherstripping are planned, with the hope that this will prevent further water coming in.

Our **43-year-old boiler** has a leaking circulating pump. Repairs would cost close to \$8,000, so the cost to replace the entire boiler is being investigated.

Waukesha Lawn Service (our snow plowing company) has been hired to mow the lawns this summer.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to help keep our church building and grounds in excellent condition!



Respectfully submitted, Christine Fenner, Property Chair

Funerals

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

Janice Nimmo, mother of Dan Nimmo, passed away at the age of 91, on April 13th. Visitation will be held at Cesarz, Charapata & Zinnecker Funeral Home on Wednesday, April 29th 5:00-7:00 pm. Visitation and Funeral service will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 30th at 10 am, the service at 11:00 am, with a luncheon to follow.

Roger Bjerke, husband of Darlene and father of Julie Baumler and Jeff Bjerke, passed away peacefully at home on April 3rd at the age of 93. Visitation will be held at Cesarz Charapata & Zinnecker Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 4th from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

On Wednesday, May 5th at St. Mark's Church with visitation from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, then service at 11:30 am with a luncheon to follow.

April 19th



With special music by Heidi Barker



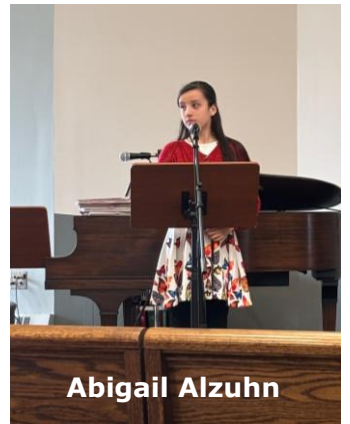
Marcia shared her last sermon and children's message with us.

Celebration of Marcia's retirement will be on Sunday, May 3rd with a potluck luncheon to follow.





PALM SUNDAY



Abigail Alzuhn



Easter SUNDAY



Kevin Wang

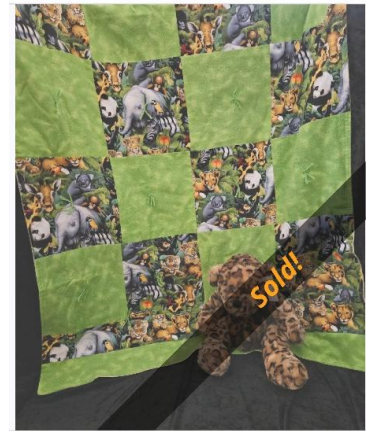


Quilters

The Quilters don't like to have a full closet, so we have been donating lots of quilts to many great organizations. Fifteen quilts were delivered to Whitestone Warriors, twenty quilts went to the shelters around the city of Waukesha, eighteen children's blankets went to Chosen to be used by families with foster children and twelve children's blankets went to the Community Smiles Dental Clinic. This is the season for fundraisers, so quilt baskets were donated to help raise funds for SOPHIA, Eras - Senior Volunteers of Waukesha County, and Community Smiles Dental Clinic. A special Disney embroidered quilt went to the Healing Hearts Auction. Several quilts have gone out to members and friends of members who needed comfort during a difficult time.

Drop by on Monday morning to see the quilting mission in action. If anyone knows of a need anywhere in the community, please let us know. We can make arrangements for a quilt pick up or delivery. Please contact the church office at 262-547-8213 and be sure to leave a message.

Vickie Friedeck and Cathy Hernandez



SOPHIA Breakfast Auction



Earth Day Celebration and Walk was on Sunday, April 19th

Although it was cold and the boardwalk was closed due to flooding, 14 people were able to join Jeremy Bjerke in learning about Earth Day through information and trivia. Raising awareness of environmental issues and promoting sustainability will help to protect our planet's natural resources. Join in helping to create a better community right where you are.



Get THE LOOKOUT via Email!

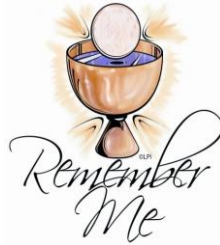
The Lookout is a bi-monthly newsletter.

You can receive the newsletter by email or pick up a black/white version at the welcome desk in church or in the Blessings/Little Library Boxes outside the church. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send your name and email address to: stmarkslookout@gmail.com. Thank you! If you have questions, contact Rene Bjerke at the above email address.



Communion At Home

Do you have difficulty coming in person to Sunday Worship? We have Home Communion Visitors who bring communion and conversation to members in their homes about once a month. One of our Visitors would love to connect with you. Contact Pastor Laura for more information.



Hospital Visits

If you find yourself in the hospital or a rehab facility for a few days or weeks and would like a visit from Pastor Laura, let us know! Sometimes people are in the hospital and we don't learn about it until the hospital stay is over. You can also request a visit over the phone instead, if you don't want Pastor Laura to see you in a hospital gown! If you know in advance that you will be in the hospital or your stay is an extended one, you can reach out to the church office to request a visit (262-547-8213). If it's urgent, you can call or text Pastor Laura directly (608-424-8738).



PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a Prayer Chain request? Others will pray for you! Please Contact **Lana DeCoto** at: lrdecoto@gmail.com.

Weekly Email Blast

Stay current with Happenings at St. Mark's by receiving the weekly email blast. Contact Courtney Saffran at welcome2stmarks@gmail.com to get signed up.



The Blessings Box

Please **NO Canned Goods or FRESH Foods** in the Blessings Box. Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors by placing dry goods in the Blessings Box located near the sidewalk at the main entrance. Please **DO NOT** place canned foods that might be damaged by heat in the summer and freezing temperatures in the winter. Please **DO NOT** place fresh foods in or near the Blessings Box. Fresh food spoils quickly and attracts critters. Thank you for helping the community.



Reducing Waste at Coffee Hour

The Council invites you to take a small step to reduce waste by bringing your own coffee cup with lid for filling at Coffee Hour each Sunday. Disposable cups will always be available. **Please do not bring coffee or tea into the sanctuary to keep the carpeting clean and stain-free.**



Devotional Booklets for April-June 2026 are available now



Looking for a way to connect with God daily? Try **The Word in Season** devotional booklets. They are a **FREE** quarterly resource that provides a brief Scripture reading, message and prayer for each day. Their small size makes it easy to place in a pocket or purse. They are available at the entry stations and in the Blessing Box and Little Library at the church.

Zoom Meeting Numbers

We will be using the church's Zoom account for online meetings and small group gatherings in the future. Here are the numbers:

Faith Formation Gatherings, including Bible Study

Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Password: 945456

Church Meetings

Zoom: 823 2326 4353 Password: 830997

