

The Lookout

December, 2017 — January, 2018



St. Mark's Church

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

Worship Services

Wednesday—7 p.m.
Sunday—9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday:
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Contact Info

Pastor Andy Fetters
262-337-3755

Marcia Marquardt,
Discipleship Coordinator
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HOUSE OR HOME? — 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17

"Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling." 2 Samuel 7:5-6

Almost two years ago, I accepted a position on the board of directors at Hebron House of Hospitality, our local homeless shelter and case work management for people experiencing homelessness. Year after year, Hebron House experiences an abundance of people—men especially—who in the throes of winter, need shelter. Year after year, our community abdicates this responsibility to this particular organization. To look at this scripture from that vantage point might serve us well.

As king, David has established himself and his family. He has a beautiful palace now and because of that, looks at the ark of the covenant and thinks God might deserve better housing than even he. The Hebrew word for dwelling, house, or home is *בַּיִת* or bayith. Translating *בַּיִת* could mean a house or it could mean a home. There is a big difference.

David finds his life to be comfortable. He then assumes that God wants to have the life that he has (been given). Truth is, God would rather be homeless. From the comfort of the palace, David sees God living in a tent (the place God has dwelled since the wilderness of the desert). David's best idea is to build God a house. And he's just the guy to do it. The problem is that God does not want a house. For God, the tent is enough. What God wants is to build a home in David's heart.

Five years ago, my wife, Becky, and I bought our first house. Two hours after signing the closing paperwork, I was pulling up carpet to expose the hardwood floors. It still took us months to paint, decorate, and hang pictures. I remember painting the living room and dining room walls. After hanging the first piece of art on the freshly-painted walls, I mentioned that it finally felt like a home. Of course, Becky asked the question that seemed ridiculous and obvious, "because you hang a picture on the wall it now feels like home?"

The difference between a house and a home is you can buy a house, but you have to make a home. This Advent season, God is calling us all to make room in our hearts so that God might dwell there. As church leaders and people of faith, we may also have to wrestle with what it means for God to prefer to be homeless than to reside in the houses we have built. Advent leads us to the journey of God coming to be among us, born in a manger instead of a palace, and we experience the Christ child without a house, but instead making a home among God's people.

Prayer: Lord, move us to open our hearts that you might make a home among us. Amen. — Pastor Andy



DECEMBER



When the Food Pantry and Salvation Army see our donations of BABY FOOD, they are overwhelmed. It is something they rarely receive. So, let us make our manger (next to the baskets) overflow with baby food and all other food items your caring hearts share. We do this in remembrance of the BABY JESUS.

JANUARY

In January when it's "oh so cold", what is better than a bowl of SOUP and some CRACKERS? And, as usual, any and all foods that you would like to donate are very appreciated.

In advance: **THANK YOU!**



RUTH CIRCLE

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, December 13** at Mavis McGrath's home. Please be there at **12:00 noon**.

We will again be buying things to give to the Hebron House, Women's Center and the Salvation Army. Disposable diapers (size 3 are the most popular), baby wipes, and children's clothes sizes 1 thru 5 are much appreciated. Baby food and formula are also welcomed. If you don't remember what you signed up to bring, please contact Mavis. See you then!

JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 10** at **1:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar!

Any questions, please contact **Carole Wolter** at **#262-542-8807**.



SANCTUARY NEEDS TEAM "RESTORE & RENEW" PROPOSAL APPROVED

The motion: "That the 'Restore & Renew' work in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship Hall be done according to estimates received, not to exceed \$250,000.00," was approved at the November 19, 2017 Annual Meeting with 86% of the congregation responding affirmatively.

The next step is to hold a one-time capital fund appeal to raise the money needed. The appeal will be made to members of St. Mark's and they will be asked for one-time gifts, and/or two-year pledges.

After that, the remainder of the funds needed for this project will be rolled into our existing mortgage. We will combine our existing mortgage of approximately \$45,000.00 together with an estimated additional \$230,000.00 for a monthly payment of \$1777.00 (assuming a 4.75% APR over a 20-year term). There is no pre-payment penalty if we pay it off before the 20-year maturity.

On Sunday, December 17, we will receive your special offerings of financial gifts as well as pledges that may be paid over a two-year period.

Thank you for your support of St. Mark's and for providing a place for ALL to worship and to do ministry.

The Congregation Council and the Sanctuary Needs Team



SENIOR + CONNECTION

ST. MARK'S SENIOR CONNECTION

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

It's time for our annual grilled cheese and tomato soup lunch! Program to follow. Watch the bulletin for details.



Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors.

Questions or need a ride? Contact Rockie Matson at #262-549-9192 or matsonret@att.net.



CUP OF COMFORT

Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.

IF YOU ARE: A caregiver, lonely, grieving, suffering a loss, or just need to feel God's loving comfort.

JOIN US: For God's word, prayer, fellowship, sharing, support, and a cup of coffee with cookies.

We meet in the upper level lounge and welcome all!

QUESTIONS: Call **Anne Link** at #262-542-6517.

"For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on all his afflicted ones." Isaiah 49

Funerals

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

- Vicky Russell in the death of her husband, Drew

Special Gifts

Special gifts were given this month to help support the ministries of St. Mark's by: Elks National Veterans Service, Men's Breakfast, Ruth Circle, Tom & Sue Beranek, and Mark & Michelle Stiles.

Memorials

In Memory of JoAnne Dobbeck (Hepp):

Stonebrook Church, Maxine Minch, Marian Bannantine, John & Joyce Bannantine, Jeff Hepp, Deloris Radtke, Carol Enders, Roger & Darlene Bjerke, Robert & Carol Lombardi, Barb Ruhe, John & Betty Thompson, Tim & Linda Moeller, Steve Olsen, Milene Wegner, Richard & Vickie Friedeck, Jerrold & Margaret Miller, Philip & Mary Hanson

In Memory of Donald Sheskey:

Connie Sheskey & David Pugh, Paul & Evelyn Vrakas, Roger & Darlene Bjerke, Chris & Mary Jo Christensen, Durward & Janice Nimmo, Charles & Mary Ann Sindelar, John & Betty Thompson, John Braun, James & Karen Gerard, Steven & Nancy Laabs, Gene & Darlene Marrazzo, James & Marilyn McCarthy, Timothy & Linda Moeller, Rex & Joan Stoecker

In Memory of Drew Russell:

Roger & Darlene Bjerke, Chris & Mary Jo Christensen, Eric & Lynn Delzer, Richard & Vickie Friedeck, Deb Gerner, Gene & Barb Geiger, Terry & Donna Inman, Al & Anne Link, Ken & Lana Matchett, Fred & Rockie Matson, David & Anna Miller

Lookout Mailing

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Mary Jo Christensen, Roger & Darlene Bjerke, Delores Grulke, and Barb Ruhe



OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Andy will host open office hours on **Wednesdays** from **9:00—11:30 a.m.** at Roots Café in downtown Waukesha, located at 363 West Main Street.

Please drop by to say hello, ask any pressing questions, have a cup of coffee, or simply check in.

PICS FROM REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2017



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday School children will help lead worship on **December 17** as we prepare for Jesus' birthday.

Practice for the program will be held on Saturday, **December 16** at **10:00-11:30 a.m.** All the Sunday School children are invited to participate.



PICS FROM DUTY & DELIGHT SUNDAY

November 12, 2017



MY GIFT TO JESUS

Dear Jesus,

This year for your birthday I plan to:

Please help me to:

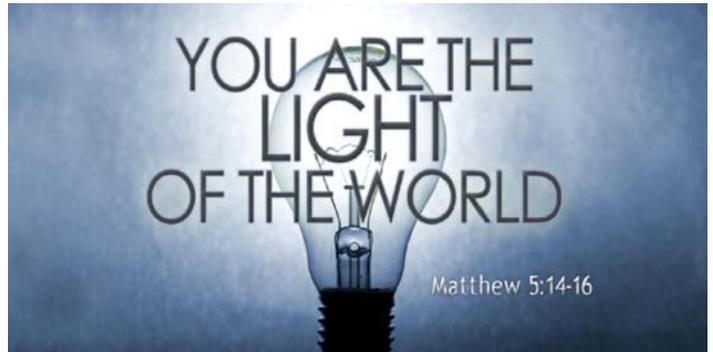
Happy Birthday Jesus!

20

1	1
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From Deacon Marcia Marquardt

Matthew 5: 14&16 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden...Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."



Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends,

How will you honor Jesus this Advent as we prepare for his birthday celebration?

Author Jill Hardie suggests a beautiful tradition that sparkles with the light of Jesus in her book, *The Sparkle Box*. Each year, Jill's family gathers to plan gifts for Jesus—just like they would discuss gifts for friends and family. Gifts for Jesus might be charitable gifts or acts of kindness for those in need. The family discusses how serving and giving to others are really presents for Jesus. Each gift for Jesus is recorded on paper and then placed in a sparkly, wrapped present. This present for Jesus is opened first on Christmas, before all the other gifts. It's a simple way to bring peace and joy to Advent and Christmas celebrations. It's a simple way to honor Jesus.

What will you give Jesus this Christmas? How will you help others to do the same?

Jesus, you love us with such great love. Help us to overflow with your love this Advent and Christmas season. Show us how to honor and love you with the people around us. Amen.

As always, I'd love to get to know you better. Stop me at church or contact me to sit down for a conversation.

In His Service,

Marcia



BLUE CHRISTMAS

A quiet, reflective service of remembrance, comfort and hope. A peaceful worship for the holy season.

TWO SERVICE TIMES:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

4:00 P.M. — Light supper to follow the service.

NEW DATE & TIME!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

11:30 A.M. — Lunch to follow the service.

Come. Sit. Be.

All are welcome. You do not need to be "blue" to participate in this special service.

Questions?

Call Anne Link at 262-542-6517.



TREASURER'S REPORT— THRU OCT 31

Total <u>Income</u> Year-to-Date	\$204,490
Total <u>Expense</u> Year-to-Date	<u>-234,075</u>
Net	\$(29,585)

THANK YOU!!! As of November 12, St. Mark's has received 84 pledges, with 73% of them being an increase from 2017.

For those who were not able to attend the Duty & Delight celebration, please give prayerful thought to your family's commitment to God's work here at St. Mark's, and turn your commitment card into the church office. Then we can finalize this year's stewardship giving summary.

I want to thank the congregation for the privilege to serve as your treasurer this past year. It has truly been an honor.

Tom Beranek,
Treasurer

Be strong in your faith and good stewards with what God has entrusted to you.



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 10** 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.



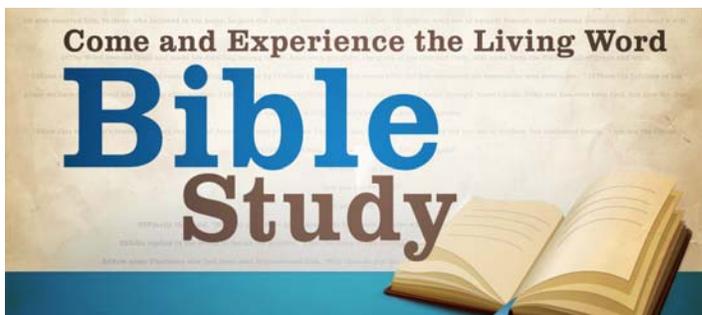
ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE!

Are you interested in the convenience of online giving for your church contributions? You are able to have your contributions taken directly from your bank account or credit card on an ongoing or individual basis.

Please contact our church administrator, **Nancy Mitchell**, 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.

For those that are **already online givers**, and would like to make a change to your amount withdrawn, please reach out to Nancy as well.

Nancy can be reached at ino@welcome2stmarks.com or via phone at **262-547-8213**.



BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Dig into the worship Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and apply principles to your life. There are TWO options:

- **Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. OR**
- **Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

⇒Please note that there is **NO** Bible Study on **Wed. Dec. 27 or Thur. Dec. 28.**

Each week Marcia Marquardt offers some background information to help the group understand what is happening in the text. She asks questions that lead into 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!



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th

- Advent Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25th

- Morning Worship at 9:30 a.m.



PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a Prayer Chain request? Others will pray for you! Contact Sharon Collins at 262-385-7401 or email at prayerchain@welcome2stmarks.com.

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

If you couldn't make the scheduled St. Mark's date, there are more opportunities to help ring bells for the Salvation Army. Shifts are available daily through December 23rd (excluding Sundays).



Simply go to

www.waukeshasalvationarmy.org and click on

"Volunteer" on the top left side of the page. Then, click "Sign-up online" to choose your own time and location.

There are over 50 locations to choose from!

The Be-YOU-tiful Women at the Women's Day Retreat

November 4, 2017



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

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SPECIAL MUSIC

- Dec 3** Flute Choir
- Dec 10** Dan and Chad
- Dec 17** Erin Colgrove
- Dec 24 (am)** Jen
- Dec 24 (pm)** St. Mark's Singers