



The Messenger

December 2019

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11, NRSV)

Dear friends in Christ,

The anticipation of the birth of a child and all the preparation that comes with it is an exciting time for a family. Finally, when the birth announcement comes, it truly is "good news of great joy."

For centuries, the Jewish people had anticipated the coming of the Messiah, "the anointed One," who would liberate the nation and restore the fortunes of Israel. So, when the shepherds learned from the heavenly messengers that the day had arrived, they were amazed; the waiting was over, the prophecy was being fulfilled.

The church season of Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, as we wait expectantly to once again celebrate the coming of the Christ child. Likewise, we also wait and prepare our hearts for Christ to return and make all things new.

It seems to me that there are two ways in which we wait. Whether we are waiting for the doctor to see us, or waiting expectantly for a visit from a friend, we have a choice. We can choose to wait impatiently and **grow frustrated that our desire isn't being met fast enough** or **we can prepare and wait with anticipation** knowing we are about to be satisfied.

As Christians we declare that Christ has come, and Christ will come again. Still, we realize that we live in the in-between time. Therefore, we go about the work of Christ and joyously prepare for Christ to return. We prepare through biblical study, prayer and worship, as we strengthen our faith. And we prepare as we grow more Christ like, and share the *Good News* and serve our neighbor in love.

As we prepare our hearts and wait with joyful anticipation, we shouldn't forget the promise that Jesus made to his disciples after his death and resurrection. On a hilltop in Galilee, before Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave them, and us, this command and promise: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 19-20, NRSV)

So, you see as we joyfully wait, we still have a commission to fulfill. Not as our **work, but as our joy, in sharing the Good News.** For *"to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord,"* and **he remains with you always to the end of the age.**

Advent blessings to all,

Pastor Bob



Mission of the Month Spotlight

Mark "Missions" on your giving envelope and place in the offering to donate to the BUNK BEDS FOR GUATEMALA fund.



MOSES MESSAGE

A Sunday School Update

The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 8th at the 10:00 A.M. service. Please come join us for a celebration of Christ's birth. We will be filling Christmas bags again this year and if you would like to donate to them, we are looking for small items, chips and candy. Bring these to the church office or the superintendent's office by Friday, December 6th. There will be NO Sunday School on December 22nd or 29th but class will resume on January 5th, 2020. There will be Sunday School on December 15th. It will be a fun day! The Next Christian Education meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 P.M.

December Birthdays

Lily Anderson, 12/27

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne, Superintendent**





Social Ministry Committee

The next Social Ministry Meeting will be Monday, December 9th at 6:30 P.M. **in the library at St. Mark's.**



As part of St. Mark's offering on Sunday, November 24th, hats and other clothing items were donated to help keep our neighbors warm during these cold winter months. They will be going to the Christmas Giving program at the Brigade. Some will be given with the Christmas gifts to families and any items left after Christmas will be given to the schools to be given to students as needed.



The Social Ministry Committee will be packing tins of cookies to be given to our shut ins. We need your donations of cookies and also some help with deliveries. If you can help, please bring your cookies to the church by Friday, December 13th with packing to be on December 15th. Your help is always greatly appreciated! ~ Karen Jordan



Items Needed For Food Pantry, Collected 1st Sunday of the Month:

Soup	Paper towels
Pasta	Dish Soap
Tuna	Spam
Toilet Paper*	Canned Chili
Kleenex	Laundry detergent
Bottled juice	Baked beans



The Fox Valley Chorus
of Sweet Adelines, International
presents



**“Dear SANTA,
I CAN EXPLAIN...”**

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
7 PM

First Presbyterian Church
200 Church St
Neenah WI

Use Fellowship Hall Entrance
(Door #2) on Doty Ave



**Adults \$15 Seniors &
Children 12
and under \$12**
Call 920-982-5639
or jsuszkol@att.net for
tickets!

**Cookies
& Cocoa
after the
show!**





Community Outreach Christmas Dinner ~ Saturday, December 14th

St. Mark's and other area churches have come together for the past ten years to put on a meal held at St. Paul's for community residents. It's a chance to not only brighten someone's day but share a hot meal and give the gift of companionship. Each person who attends this outreach is given a gift bag containing donated daily need items.

DONATIONS NEEDED FROM ST. MARK'S:

- **120 Pairs of Adult Socks**

There will be a container put in the Narthex for sock donations.

- **20 Dozen Cookies**

A sign-up sheet will be posted outside the church office.

- **9 Fruit/Pumpkin Pies**

A sign-up sheet will be posted outside the church office.

- **Volunteers are needed for the day of the event on Saturday, December 14th.**


Openings:

- 1 opening @ 9:00 A.M.
- 2 openings @ 10:00 A.M.
- 4 openings @ 10:45 A.M.
- 2 openings @ 11:00 A.M.
- 1 opening @ 12:30 P.M.

Other volunteers are needed to deliver meals to St. Mark's homebound parishioners. Pickup times will be determined closer to the day of the event.

Let's show our neighbors the practical love of Jesus Christ through this community outreach event by joining the team of volunteers, bakers, donators, and event runners! No donation of time and talents is ever too small.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9



“Timeless Treasures”

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 2019

8 A.M. ~ 1:00 P.M.

Peace Lutheran Church

1228 S. Park Ave. Neenah, WI

Phone: 725-0510

Handmade Crafts & Gifts

Festive Cookies By-the-Pound

Candy, Homemade preserves,

Whole Pies & Other Baked Goods

Kids Only Shopping Room!

Beverages & Sweets

Served all day!

Lunch served until 1:00 P.M.

Spanish Hamburgers, Chili & Hot Dogs,

Desserts . . . and all the Trimmings



The Youth Bible Campers are having a Basket Raffle to earn money for the youth group and South Africa Partnership. If you would like to donate a basket for this raffle, please bring it to the church office Tue/Thu/Fri between 8:30—noon. Raffle tickets are on sale now with the drawing held on Sunday,

December 15th following worship. *See Donna Joachim for more details.*

Sunday School is asking for donations for the goodie bags for the Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 8th**. We are asking for small items such as small toys, chips, and candy to fill the bags. Please bring to church by **Friday, December 6th**. You can leave the donations in the office or the superintendent's office. Thank you for your support. ~ Gwen H.



Join the St. Mark's Singers!



St. Mark's Singers, St. Mark's adult choir, will meet weekly at 6:30 P.M. on Mondays in the choir room. Membership is open to all adults and youth from 6th grade and up. No prior choral experience or training is required or expected, only a love of singing and a willingness to offer your time and attention at rehearsals. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 17, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 P. M. by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Jane Arps, Eric Blank, Sharyn Gawlick, Judy Hellman, Laurie Olson, Bruce Grundman, Mary Jane Hartley, Donna Joachim, Pennie Linna, Phyllis Ziemke and Pastor Bob,

Members Excused: Linda Rose, Nancy Rose.

Members Unexcused: None

Guest: None

Devotions: Laurie Olson led us in devotions with a reading from Living Lutheran - Led by the Spirit. Pastor Bob will lead devotions next month.

November Calendar was passed around for any changes/additions.

Approval of Minutes for the September 19th, 2019 meeting.

MSC by Bruce Grundman/Phyllis Ziemke.

Thank You Cards – There were none this month.

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$16,801.60
2. Building Improvement is \$1,184.82
3. September's giving was \$14,558.73 – Spending was \$12,318.09
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Judy Hellman/Jeff Tharp.

Pastor's Report

1. Made home visits and hospital visits as needed.
2. Continue to meet monthly with St. Mark's committees as needed.
3. Met with Crystal Hoover in preparation for the Odekirk/Hoover wedding on October 25th.
4. Helped out with the Stewardship video.
5. Helped with the planning of the Partnership Committee's presentation for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation presentation.
6. Met with the family in preparation and presided at the funeral of Bill Olson.
7. Attended Community Table at St. Paul Lutheran Church.
8. Attended a Power and Boundaries Workshop at Prince of Peace Church in Appleton.
9. Met with Ethan Newby and Brianna Daubert to plan for the baptism of their daughter, Elizabeth Diana-Quin Newby.



10. Held a 2-hour Wednesday evening confirmation class on 10/16/19
11. Attended the October Appleton Conference meeting held at Christ the King Lutheran church in Combined Locks.
12. Pastor on vacation 11/11 – 11/17.

MSC Phyllis Ziemke/Jeff Tharp.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education:

1. Rotation on Creation is going well. We have split the classes with Donna Joachim teaching the Preschoolers thru Kindergarten. Gwen Hoehne/Jenny case will co-teaching First thru the Fifth.
2. Next rotation is the “Pharisees and Tax Collector”. This is a one day class. Donna will be teach something else with her class because this might be a little hard for the younger to understand.
3. Birthday Celebrations – We are looking into what to do for their birthdays. Will contact Dairy Queen about their gift cards.
4. We will order a program for Advent and also a pop-card. We will color cards for the members of the church that Donna sends out. Will start in November.
5. Christmas Program – We are looking at a couple of different programs. A lot depends on one that will work with the few students we have.
6. Pastor Bob talked a little about Confirmation and how that is going. They will be meeting on Wednesday Night just to see how that goes.

Connections:

1. Sept. 1- Church in the Park. A beautiful day in the park and many attended. We prayed and sang and joined together with food and fellowship. Thank You to all who helped with tables, cleaning and food. Thank You to Jeff Lee for the music that day.
2. Sept. 8th- God’s Work, Our Hands. St. Mark’s members moved mulch and did raking, at Wilderness Park, in Neenah. Other members stayed at church to make greeting cards for Service Members and those we do not see often. Discussed having another card making day in November.
3. Cozy Mountain Lodge. Discussed the success of our Women’s Retreat and what we could do to improve it. Betty will review future retreat programs and present that information at our next meeting. Fifteen ladies attended.
4. Oct. 26th – St. Mark’s Craft Fair. Have received responses from 30 vendors. Will need help marking off a 10x10 space for each vendor before the event. Will ask property to help move the tables back after the event for our Sunday Service. Ellen and Jane will help with the bake sale. The campers will be selling wrapped sub sandwiches, chips, soda, water, coffee and cinnamon rolls. We have a raffle also where the vendors will give an item to raffle off. Two quilts will be in the raffle that day. Thanks to all for their hard work.
5. It was suggested we look into attending a performance of “The Phantom of the Opera” for our Women’s Group. Ellen will check into this.

Endowment:

1. Have received no new request. There is money still available.

Finance/Stewardship:

1. September's giving was \$14,558.73 Spending was \$12,318.09. Spending was under \$2,240.64.
2. Discussed the financial reports. At this time the computer program we are utilizing has items under designated that are nor designated for a specific reason. At this time, in order to track funds such as memorial money, it is placed under the designated funds even though that specific money is not being set aside for a specific project.
3. Discussed Stewardship Sunday on October 20th Pennie will give a brief summary of the video that was created. Pastor Bob will be sharing our stewardship activities outside of the church. We will have celebratory Fish Fry in honor of Stewardship Sunday.
4. Laurie Olson had the committee review a building usage contract that she has developed for Head Start. When they utilize the building for more than 30 or more people, they would be charged \$40 for up to four hours and \$100 for four or more hours. **{More under New Business}**.
5. Discussed situations in which we collect money to be sent to another organization or event should go in the "in and out account" under a memo rather than opening an account under that event name as it is not directly being given to St. Mark's.
6. It is time for Pastor's health insurance package to be chosen for the 2020 year. He currently is receiving the Gold package from Portico. Pastor will review the packages and chose the one that matches his needs. The Finance Committee will then review his choice and review the cost and come to an agreement that matches his needs and stays within our budget.

Memorial: No Report.

Property:

1. Discussed stump grinding.
2. Discussed cleaning the Fellowship Hall carpet, Stanley Steamer to do it Nov. 7th.
3. Discussed shingling the garage in the spring due to the weather.
4. Discussed possible funding for tile in the Fellowship Hall in the future.
5. Discussed Building Use Contracts. **{More under New Business}**

Social Ministry:

1. Karen will get scrip for Thanksgiving giving.
2. Karen has hats that will be given to Christmas Giving at the Brigade.
3. Discussed a little about the Food Pantry and the number receiving food.

Worship and Music: No Report.

Youth: No Report.

Partnership Committee:

1. The Partnership shared a PowerPoint reflecting about their Pine Ridge experience on Sunday, Oct. 6th. The worship service contained content/prayers. Which were used in our concluding worship service on the reservation. Following worship we served Indian Tacos. The meal was a free will offering. The free will offering along with a \$100 from the funeral fund to be sent to the Pine Ridge Retreat Center. We had a display table with our artwork/jewelry

purchased, along with pieces of literature gathered throughout our stay.

2. Some of the Partnership Committee members will be attending a South African 2020 visitor planning meeting on Nov. 2 at the Synod.

3. Partnership will again be selling Poinsettias, with the proceeds going to the 2020 South African visitor expense needs.

Committee Reports MSC by Jane Arps/Pennie Linna.

Unfinished Business:

1. Have NOT met with Associated Bank on ways to improve/secure our financial picture.
2. Would like to get some ideas for long term investment from 3 area Financial Institutions. Presently looking at Associated Bank, Thrivent, and ELCA Missions.
3. Website update- they have been working on this as time allows.
4. Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall ongoing process.
5. Constitution – process in the works.

New Business:

1. St. Mark's has received an anonymous \$10,000 donation. God Bless you for this generous gift.
2. **From Finance & Stewardship Report # 4. Head Start Large Building Use Agreement. When they utilize the building for 30 or more people, they will be charged \$40 for up to four {4} hours and \$100 for four or more hours. After discussing MSC by Sharyn Gawlick/Jeff Tharp.**

3. A \$100 donation was sent to Marilyn Jacobson Memorial from the Council Discretionary Fund. In the future we will hold off making a memorial decision until council had had a chance to discuss this as a group at our meeting.
4. Rev. Jean Devoll-Donaldson from the Synod has been invited to meet with St. Mark's Congregation on Sunday, Nov. 24th following worship. She will explain what some of our option can be moving forward. The congregation needs to realistically look at how to better meet our financial needs. Council was asked if we would like to host Fellowship that Sunday. We decided on the following menu-

Soup – Jeff {veg. beef}, Laurie {chili}, Pastor {not sure??}

Sliders – Pennie

Breads – Donna

Desserts – Phyllis, Judy, Jane, Bruce

5. **From Property #5 – Building use Guidelines – The following changes or wording has been suggested:**

- Leave the building in the condition it was when you came.
- Increase cost to clean the tablecloths from \$10 to \$30.
- Leave plastic on the tables in the fellowship hall or put back in place.
- Doors are programmed to open 15 min. before meetings and closed 15 minutes after the start of the meeting, unless requested otherwise.

- DO NOT prop the back door open!
- If need to cancel, contact the church as soon as possible.

6. Campers are again hosting the Basket Raffle. Tickets to go on sale Nov. 24th. This is open to all committees and the congregation to contribute a basket if they would like to. Campers have not decided who they will divide the proceeds with. Council has decided to go with the basket theme "A Night on the Town". Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

MSC by Eric Blank/Jeff Tharp to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is November 21st, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by Donna Joachim

Annual Poinsettia Sale

Sponsored by the Partnership Committee

Orders & Payment due by Sunday, December 1

4.5" Pot - \$8 | 6.5" Pot - \$12

Colors: White, Pink, Marble, & Red

Purchase for yourself, family members,
friends, or for the church altar.

Forms available on the EVENTS TABLE or during
fellowship throughout November.



*Please keep the following
people in your thoughts
and prayers this month:*

Jan Bagley, Pat Wenzel,

Victor Gilbert, Kathy (friend of Sherri

Denney's), Jane Hartley and Doris

Gilbertson.

Community Table

December 10th

Tuesday at 11:30 A.M.

Community Table is held at St. Paul Lutheran Church each Tuesday and Saturday at 11:30 A.M. St. Mark's Church provides the meal every second Tuesday of the month. If you would like to help at Community Table, see Phyllis Ziemke for more information.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
140 South Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956

920-725-2828

Church Email: office@stmarksneenah.org
Pastor's Email: pastorbob@stmarksneenah.org
Church Website: www.stmarksneenah.org



God's work. Our hands.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship/ Communion Food Pantry Donations Collected	2 8:30 L.S.S. 6:00 Esther 6:00 Book Study 6:00 OA 6:30 12-Step 6:30 Property Meeting 6:30 Choir	3 9:30 WR Guild (All Day) 1:00 L.S.S. 7:00 AA 7:00 12-Step	4 9:00 Quilting Group 9:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Christian Ed	5 11:30 Head Start (2 Meetings) 7:00 AA	6 11:30 Head Start (2 Meetings) 7:00 AA	7 1:30—3:30 Sr. Citizens Christmas Party
8 Sunday School/ Christmas Program 10:00 Worship Scrip Orders Due	9 12:00 Head Start 6:00 Book Study 6:00 OA 6:30 12-Step 6:30 Social Ministry 6:30 Choir	10 8:30 Head Start 11:30 Community Table 7:00 AA 7:00 12-Step	11 9:00 Quilting Group 9:00 Food Pantry	12 9:00 Quilting Group 9:00 Food Pantry	13 7:00 AA	14 7:00 AA
15 10:00 Worship/ Communion Scrip Orders Delivered 6:30 Neenah Baseball	16 6:00 Book Study 6:00 OA 6:30 12-Step 6:30 Choir	17 6:30 Finance & Steward- ship Meeting 7:00 AA 7:00 12-Step	18 8:30 Head Start 9:00 Quilting Group 9:00 Food Pantry	19 11:00 Head Start 1:30 Lydia Circle 2:30 Head Start 6:30 Council Meeting	20 7:00 AA	21 7:00 AA
22 10:00 Worship	23 1:00 Connections 6:00 Book Study 6:00 OA 6:30 12-Step 6:30 Choir	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 AA 7:00 12-Step	25 Christmas Day 10:00 A.M. Christmas Day Worship Service	26 6:30 Council Meeting	27 7:00 AA	28 7:00 AA
29 10:00 Worship	30 6:00 Book Study 6:00 OA 6:30 12-Step	31 7:00 AA 7:00 12-Step	1 New Year's Day	2 7:00 AA	3 7:00 AA	4 7:00 AA

Mission of the Month: Bunk Beds for Guatemala

December 2019—VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Mission of the Month: Bunk Beds for Guatemala

December 1, 2019

Assisting Minister: Bruce Grundman

Reader: Tara Dieck

Music Leader: Delores Jaconson

Acolyte: TBD

Greeters: Joe & Nancy Rose

Jr. Greeters: Dylan Steeber, Mason Beise

Ushers: Ginny Schieck, Rose Cermak, Judith Fowler, Sherri Denney

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne, Arlene Sebestead

Communion Assistants (Rail): Phyllis Ziemke, Tom Wenzel

Counters: Jeff Tharp, Wilma Lieber, Susan Antonneau, Kim Wallmuller

December 8, 2019

Assisting Minister: Jeff Tharp

Reader: Gwen Hoehne

Music Leader: Judy Hellman

Acolyte: Braeden Ross

Greeters: Doug & Renie Sebestead

Ushers: Joe & Nancy Rose, John & Laurie Olson

Counters: Jane Arps, Ellen LaMarche, Emil Leppiaho

December 15, 2019

Assisting Minister: Tom Wenzel

Reader: Betty Linna

Music Leader: Delores Jacobson

Acolyte: Jensen Rodriguez

Greeters: Nancy Bricco + 1 more needed

Jr. Greeters: Lexi Hayes, Kaylee Hayes

Ushers: Chuck Baumgartner, Lois Kemp Joy Case, Jenny Case

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne, Arlene Sebestead

Communion Assistants (Intinction): Gwen Hoehne, Bruce Grundman

Counters: Gwen Hoehne, Doug & Arlene Sebestead

December 22, 2019

Assisting Minister: Sherri Denney

Reader: Kami Kersten

Music Leader: LuAnn Stenburg

Acolyte: MyKayla Tharp

Greeters: Joe & Sandy Deckers

Ushers: Doug Hesser, Mary Jane Hartley, Pennie Linna

Counters: Bruce Grundman, Lois Kemp, Judy Olson

See other side —>

December 2019—VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Mission of the Month: Bunk Beds for Guatemala

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service (Tuesday)

Assisting Minister: Judy Hellman

Reader: Judy Hellman

Music Leader: Judy Hellman

Acolyte: Raya Kersten

Greeters: Karen Jordan, Phyllis Ziemke

Ushers: Tom Wenzel, Jeff Tharp, Dawn Jones

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne, Arlene Sebstead

Communion Assistants (Intinction): Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson

December 29, 2019

Assisting Minister: Jeff Tharp

Reader: Pennie Linna

Music Leader: TBD

Acolyte: Dakota Lemmers

Greeters: John & Laurie Olson

Ushers: Chuck Baumgartner, Lois Kemp, Joy Case, Jenny Case

Counters: Dawn Jones + counters needed

December 25, 2019 ~ Christmas Day Service (Wednesday)

Assisting Minister: Bruce Grundman

Reader: Tom Wenzel

Music Leader: Judy Hellman

Greeters: Joy Case, Jenny Case

Ushers: Emil Leppiaho, Phyllis Ziemke, Otto & LaVerne Arndt

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne, Arlene Sebstead

Communion Assistants (Intinction): Phyllis Ziemke, Tom Wenzel

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah WI 54956



2019

A big thank you to Judy Griswold-Fowler for editing and proofreading this month's "Messenger" newsletter!



God's work. Our hands.

Do we have your email address?

Please send an e-mail to office@stmarksneenah.org so we can update our church records.



The Messenger

is a monthly publication provided free to members and friends of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
140 S. Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956-2247
Phone: 920-725-2828
Website: www.stmarksneenah.org
office@stmarksneenah.org
pastorbob@stmarksneenah.org

St. Mark's Lutheran is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

St. Mark's Office & Leadership Email Addresses

Please begin using this e-mail address for all your correspondence to St. Mark's office: office@stmarksneenah.org
Pastor Bob's e-mail is still: pastorbob@stmarksneenah.org
Mary Jane Hartley's e-mail is now: treasurer@stmarksneenah.org