



The Messenger

June 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ [Jesus] said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:36-39)

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The commandment to love God and neighbor is the very core of Jesus' message to his followers. To extend love, through our words and service to others is at the heart of our Christian DNA; it is who we are.

On a church sign near where I live, it says, "Our worship is over, our service begins." This is written on the back of the sign, so you are only able to read it as you are leaving the parking lot. It is a very fitting message of how we are to live out our faith in love through service to our neighbor.

Unfortunately, our beloved practice of in-person gathering to worship God, grow in faith, and build-up and encourage one another for a life of service has been curtailed. Still, our mission remains the same. It has not changed: we are to continue to *grow in faith to love and serve*.

Recently President Trump has said that "houses of worship, churches, synagogues and mosques" are "essential places that provide essential services." Therefore, governors must allow churches to reopen.

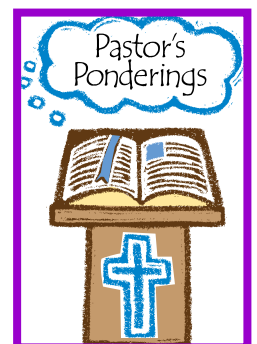
The truth is that, although many church buildings have been closed to the public, led by the Holy Spirit, the Church has never closed. The Church is alive and active in the world fulfilling the mission **of God through love and service. At St. Mark's, except for taking a week off to reorganize, our food pantry has remained open. We have figured out new ways to gather in worship, share the Good News, and to bless and encourage one another, all while using best practices to keep ourselves and others safe.**

At the last church council meeting, the council agreed to continue our current practice of limiting the use of our building and worshipping online until we are confident that we can keep everyone safe and provide a worship experience that is satisfying to our membership. As we seek to fulfill our mission of loving and serving our neighbor, for now, the best witness to that love is an empty church building.

What follows is a message from Bishop Gerald Mansholt of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and other area church leaders. Please take a moment and read their rationale about waiting for the appropriate time to gather in worship and fellowship.

God bless you on your journey and continue to *love and serve one another*,

Pastor Bob



An ecumenical letter to the Church:

Thank you for the love and care you have shown one another over these past two months. You honored the “Safer at Home” order and helped reduce illness, suffering, and loss of life. You made difficult and necessary sacrifices to help protect our communities by practicing physical distancing, masking when in public shared spaces, and paying attention to necessary hygiene practices during this pandemic. Your efforts, alongside the heroic efforts of our medical professionals, first responders and front-line essential workers helped save numerous lives. This has been an extraordinary coming together of community for the health and well-being of all of us. Thank you!

We are mindful that because of the recent decision by our state supreme court, there is a temptation to relax these efforts and practices which have been life-giving to us, our family, friends, and neighbors. Our public health officials tell us, based on the science of this pandemic, it is not time to relax best health guidelines or practices. Many of our city and county governments still have “Safer at Home” orders in place. The Badger Bounce Back Plan is still in effect. We urge you to continue to pay attention to your local health departments, the CDC and the World Health Organization guidelines. We show our love of God by loving our neighbor and doing what is in the best interest of the common good, even when it comes at great personal cost to us as individuals, families, communities and businesses. We recognize the strong desire to move toward living in less isolation and hardship.

Thank you for continuing to make these sacrifices, including not gathering in church buildings until it is safe to do so. Thank you for reaching out to love and support one another at safe distances. Thank you for continuing to be mindful of how your life impacts the life and well-being of others and for doing what is necessary to maintain communal health. Thank you for thinking about how we can do our part to be life-giving in a time this virus is life-taking, as many of you know this loss first-hand. We urge you to press on toward the high calling of God to love yourself, your family, friends and neighbors by continuing your efforts to be the Church by living by the guidelines that keep us all well and safe.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jane B. Anderson
Associate Conference Minister
Wisconsin Conference - United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes
General Presbytery
Winnebago Presbytery - Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rev. Gerald Mansholt
Bishop
East Central Synod of Wisconsin – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A. Gunter
Bishop
The Diocese of Fond du Lac Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kate Croskery Jones
District Superintendent
North East District Wisconsin - Annual Conference United Methodist Church





Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

This is the time of year for graduations, but this year we aren't able to dedicate a Sunday to honor them in church. We are very proud of all our young people and want to share in honoring them.

- **GAVIN JAMES BLOSHENKO** is graduating from Neenah High School. He is working at Little Caesar's.
- **SIERRA LEFEBER** is graduating from I Forward online school with honors and has been in a work/study program. She is working at Woodman's grocery store.
- **TRAVIS CRUZ MAYO** is graduating from Neenah High School. He plans to go to Fox Valley Technical School to study autobody work.
- **ETHAN MICHAEL NEWBY** is graduating from Neenah High School and is planning to go to Fox Valley Technical School to study in the EMT program.
- **TYLER THOMAS NELSON** is graduating from Ripon College, but will have to do his student-teaching in the fall. He will be teaching biology to 6th to 12th graders. He played baseball at Ripon all four years.
- **TANNER JAMES VANESKY** is a graduate of UW-Madison with a psychology degree. His plans are up in the air at this time.

Congratulations to each and every one of you! These are hard times to try to make plans for your futures, but hopefully things settle down soon and things will fall into place. We are very proud of all of you and we wish you all God's blessings and all the very best!

We're so proud of you!



Mission of the Month Spotlight



Mark “Missions” on your giving envelope and mail them to St. Mark’s at 140 S. Green Bay Rd to donate to Fox Valley Community Table.



Fox Valley Community Table



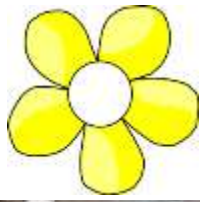
Fox Valley Community Table (FVCT) is a free meal site located in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah. They serve lunch every Tuesday and Saturday from 11:30 -12:30. There are no income or residency requirements. For more information, visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Foxvalleycommunitytable>.



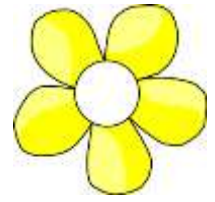
Facebook Video Services



- www.facebook.com/stmarksneenah
 - Every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Every Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. “Kids Message”**
 - Every Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 A.M. Devotional
- **DVD’s are available** if you do not have Internet in your home. Please call the church office at 920-725-2828 to request copies.



THANKYOU!



Thank you to those who helped redecorate the lounge and to those who helped coordinate the installation of the new Fellowship Hall carpeting. A special thank you to Kimberly-Clark Corporation for donating the carpeting!



A big "thank you" to our church family for all the prayers and cards I received during my recent illness. It is a warm feeling knowing God's love comes through each of you! Also, a special thanks to Sharyn and everyone who sent us cards and best wishes for our 48th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful surprise!

God's blessings and love to all,
Pat & Tom Wenzel

MOSES MESSAGE

A Sunday School Update

Hi everyone! I hope everyone is doing well and is happy that schoolwork is almost done. It has been a very trying time for everyone and we just want things to be normal again, if it can be. I hope everyone enjoyed the special treat I send you all in May. Congratulations on a great Sunday School year, even though it was cut a little short. **Hope you enjoyed your Dairy Queen treats and that you all have a good summer and enjoy the nice weather. Take care and God bless!**



BIRTHDAYS

Morgan Lefeber 6/16

Hunter Brill 6/28

Happy Birthday to All!!!

Remember God is with you all the time!!!

With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne, Sunday School Superintendent



HELP NEEDED! We are in looking for interim Assisting Ministers and/or Readers for our online services during this time. Readers and Assisting Ministers need to record themselves reading the prayers or readings and send them to the church to be integrated into our online worship services. For more information, talk to Pastor Bob or call the church office at 725-2828.



Food Pantry Update ~ Karen Jordan

St. Marks Food Pantry is still open every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. We are practicing "Social Distancing" and doing our best to keep everyone healthy. We've been having about 12 or 13 families with about 35 people getting help. It looks like we aren't open, because the people drive up and tell us their preferences and when their order has been filled, they drive away. We usually have only one or two cars by the door at one time. We very much appreciate all your help with the generous donations. We have had some people offering us their home-canned jams, jellies and pickles, but the state laws prevent us from using those items, even though they may be better than commercial products. We need

spam, tuna, juice, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta meals, and especially paper products, dish and laundry detergent, which are always in great demand. Donations can be brought to our church during the week. Please call the church office in advance to ensure that the front doors will be open for you. Thank very much. **We are making a difference in our community!**



ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 16th, 2020



Meeting was called to order at 6:35 P. M. by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

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

Members Excused: Jeff Tharp.

Members Unexcused: None

Guest: None

In keeping with the COVID 19 social distancing guidelines, Eric Blank, Bruce Grundman, Mary Jane Hartley, Donna Joachim, Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson, Nancy Rose and Pastor Bob met online through the Zoom app. Sharyn Gawlick, Judy Hellman and Phyllis Ziemke joined us through a phone conference call.

Devotions: Judy Hellman led us in devotions with a prayer. Sharyn Gawlick volunteered for devotions next month.

The May Calendar **was not** passed around for any changes/additions due to the building being closed.

Approval of Minutes for the March 19th, 2020 meeting. **MSC by Judy Hellman/Nancy Rose.**

Approval of Minutes for the special meeting of April 2nd. **MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Judy Hellman.**

Thank You Cards – A special Thank You to everyone that has been working so hard to get our church service up on Facebook, DVD's, etc. Anyone wishing to receive a DVD of the Sunday online services should contact the church office to receive one through the mail.

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$31,960.23
2. Building Improvement is \$3,924.82
3. March's giving was \$11,401.35 – Spending was \$12,610.73
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Judy Hellman/Phyllis Ziemke.

Pastor's Report

1. All home and hospital visits have been suspended due to the COVID-19.
2. I attended a digital workshop seminar using Zoom online technology.
3. I led Lenten Worship Service using Facebook Live.
4. I attended several Synod meetings, regarding best worship practices during the pandemic, using Zoom online technology.
5. I attended a Family First Webcast, where they discussed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act using Zoom online technology.
6. I attended a St. Mark's Social Ministry meeting regarding best practices for keeping our Food Pantry open to the public.
7. I began recording 10:00 A.M. Tuesday and Thursday morning Facebook Live devotions on St. Mark's Facebook page.
8. I began recording 11:00 A.M. Wednesday morning Facebook Live children's messages on St. Mark's Facebook page.



9. I worked with pastors from Christ the King, Combined Locks; Zion Lutheran Church, Appleton; and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Neenah on a collaborative Maundy Thursday Worship Service.
10. I participated in St. Mark's first ever online council meeting using Zoom online technology.
11. I worked with Delores Jacobson to video record music for Palm Sunday and Easter worship services.
12. I worked many hours with Laurie Olson, Laurie Wilkinson and Pennie Linna, filming Facebook Live worship services, and creating worship videos to be uploaded to Facebook.

MSC Phyllis Ziemke/Mary Jane Hartley.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education:

The teachers discussed by phone that due to the COVID 19 guidelines, the earliest we would possibly be able to resume as a class would be the first part of May. That would leave us 2 weeks before we would be done for the summer. After this length of time we would not restart for two Sundays. We will restart in September.

Connection: No Meeting.

Endowment: No Meeting.

Finance/Stewardship:

1. A \$700 check was received from Crossways for their Annual Meeting. \$344 was paid to cover the cost of food purchased; the balance of \$356 was put in the general fund to help cover the cost of cleaning.
2. Giving continues to be sent in through the mail and has been very good.

Memorial: No Meeting.

Partnership: No Meeting.

Property: No Meeting.

Social Ministry:

1. Discussed how to keep our Food Pantry open and continue to serve our families in need, while still keeping everyone safe.

Worship and Music: No Meeting.

Youth: No Meeting

Committee Reports MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Judy Hellman

Unfinished Business:

1. The website – ran into some problems with e-mail. Working on correcting this.
2. Money Market – closed out account and moved the money over to Thrivent.
3. Council Retreat is on hold until the Fall.
4. The Basket Raffle is rescheduled for November.



5. Fellowship Hall carpet is presently on hold.

New Business:

1. Payroll Protection Plan {PPP} is a program from the government to help cover the cost for small businesses to keep operating during this pandemic. As a church we are eligible for this. This can be used to pay staff wages, utilities {gas, electric, internet, water}. Interest is 0.5%. This is also a forgivable loan if unable to repay. **MSC by Pastor Bob/Bruce Grundman for Laurie Olson and Mary Jane Hartley to proceed forward with Payroll Protection Plan Application.**



2. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic the following decisions have been put in place for the paid staff and St. Mark's church:

* Olivia, our office administrator's hours to remain Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 A.M. until noon. **MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Sharyn Gawlick.**

* Judy, Delores and LuAnn, our organists, will continue to be paid through the end of May. **MSC by Nancy Rose/Phyllis Ziemke. {Judy Hellman Abstaining.}**

* Rich, our janitor, will continue to be paid through the end of May. **MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Nancy Rose.**

* All outside groups that meet at St. Mark's remain canceled till further notice.

* Regular church services for St. Marks will be available on Facebook Live.

* Church office at the present will remain open in the morning.

All of the above decisions will continue to be monitored on a regular basis as we continue to work our way through this health crisis facing our country.

MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Sharyn Gawlick to adjourn at 7:49 P.M.

Pastor closed with a Prayer.

Next meeting is May 21st, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by Donna Joachim



*The Lord
bless you, and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine
upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up
His countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

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

Marilyn MacDonald

Doris & Victor Gilbert

Jane Hartley

Pat Wenzel

Judy Koerner

Tracy Feldman

Leah Hildebrandt



Giving through the GivePlus Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to St. Mark's. It only takes a moment to set up an account:

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by ZIP code {54956} or by searching "St. Mark's".
3. Donate!

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah

ST. MARK'S GIVING OPTIONS:

1. Mail in your giving envelopes to St. Mark's: 140 S. Green Bay Rd Neenah, WI 54956
2. Electronic Simply Giving/Vanco forms on our website or in church office. Call the office at 920-725-2828 to have this form mailed to you if you prefer not to leave your house.
3. Download the free GivePlus App from the App Store or Google Play. Find our church by zip code (54956) or by searching "St. Mark's."

God bless you and thank you for your faithful and generous support during these trying times.

FILTHY FUN KIDS RUN



{Kids Mud Run}

DATE CHANGE

St. Mark's is the *volunteer sponsor* of this event!

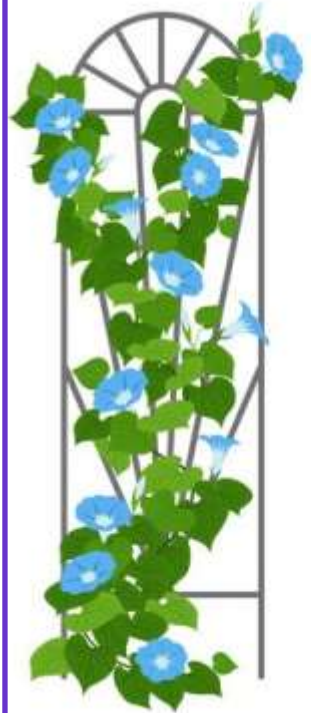
St. Mark's logo appears on event publicity materials, including the back of the 850+ participant t-shirts. A St. Mark's info sheet will also be included in participant bags.

**Held on Saturday, August 29 at
O'Hauser Park, Neenah
7:00 am - Noon**

25 Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for registration, parking, obstacle course stations, etc. All volunteers receive a t-shirt.

Sign Up by contacting the church office or
Laurie Olson 920-209-9446 or email: parksandrecreation10@gmail.com



Visit the East-Central Wisconsin Synod's Website at: <https://ecsw.org/> and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/East-Central-Synod-of-Wisconsin-ELCA-139767989400097/





ALL
Things

WORK TOGETHER

for
Good

for those who
Love

GOD

ROMANS 8:28

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

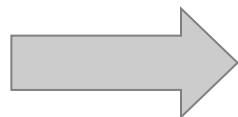
140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956



Visit Our New Website!

www.stmarksneenah.org



Monthly Newsletter

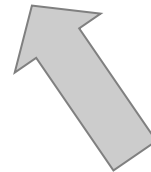
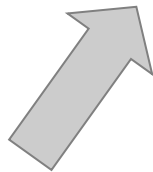
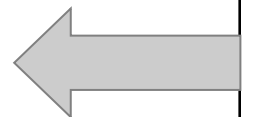
New! Google Calendar of Events

Worship Assistant Schedule

Church Forms

Pictures

Event Information



Do we have your
email address?

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



St. Mark's Office & Leadership Email Addresses

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